



Conversation With God Kit includes:

- 8 copies of the book, *Conversation With God*
- The Spirit-Empowered Faith Set:
 - The list of 40 Indicators of what a Spirit-Empowered disciple of Christ might look like.
 - A self-assessment tool to help measure these 40 outcomes in your own life. This assessment helps you see how you are doing at embodying these 40 biblical principles.
 - Teaching notes in the form of sermon notes. These notes are broken down into 12 sections and could be used as small group leader notes, 12-part sermon series, or simply continued study and growth.

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The more we call him “Father,” the more we come to understand that prayer is the way in which we develop a familial, intimate relationship with God.

In prayer, we surrender our will, rights, and ambitions. We yield ourselves totally to the Father and join in His kingdom work.



I. Introduction

A. Our Father

“And He said to them, “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Give us each day our daily bread” (Luke 11:2-3 NAS).

When we read the words of Jesus as he expounds on how to pray, we might assume he was talking about a manner of praying or a system of prayer. We may imagine that Jesus was about to reveal a formula for all our prayers to be assuredly answered. “Do this in prayer, and God will do this. Say this in prayer, and God will do that.” But this is not what Jesus shared. In fact, the manner of prayer that Jesus taught was not a simple formula, but a lifestyle of communion—a way of daily, hourly, and even minute-by-minute communing with God our Father.

“Approach him as your Father,” Jesus said. To us, that’s just another way we see God. We call him Lord; we call him King of kings; we call him Jehovah. We call him the Great I Am. But Jesus said, “Call him Father.” Loving the Lord with “all our heart” begins with embracing him as Father (Matthew 22:37–40).

The parameters of the Father’s kingdom are drawn so that the unlovable are loved, the unforgivable are forgiven, and the last are first. I enter the work of this kingdom through prayer. Here, in prayer, I surrender my will, my rights, and my ambitions. I yield myself totally to the Father and join in his kingdom work.

B. Our Daily Bread (Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread)

Then Jesus teaches that communion with the Father is about much more than what is said. The request, “Give us this day our daily bread,” speaks of more than just words. It is a lifestyle of trust we enter with our heavenly Father. We trust him to provide for us. How futile it would be as his children to take on the responsibility of securing for ourselves our daily provision. We ask him to give us our daily bread, our daily sustenance.

The principle Jesus speaks to us as he says, “Our Father in heaven . . . Give us today our daily bread,” is a principle we must believe and live each day. If we doubt God’s ability to provide for us, we offend him. So we must trust him to supply every need.

This is not a lifestyle of laziness on our part; it is not that we don’t care. It is not a lifestyle that says, “I won’t do my part.” Rather, it is a lifestyle that says, “God, I trust you to do your part. I trust that you will provide.” In this manner, I honestly pray, “Give us today our daily bread.”

As we say those words, we are learning to trust God. We are learning dependence and submission. We are learning to trust his perfect will for us. The will of God is bound together with the kingdom of God. We cannot say, “God, let your will be done in my life,” without saying, “Let your kingdom come in my life.” Oftentimes, it is helpful in deepening our trust-filled walk to pause quietly and consider Jesus.

C. Our Thoughts (Fix Your Thoughts)



L-9 Faithful stewardship and exercise of the gifts of the Spirit for empowered living and service

Colossians 3:16 Moment: “Let the Word of Christ dwell deeply in you”

Pastor/Teacher:
Vulnerably share your response.

I’m especially grateful for how God has met my needs by _____.

Walking in the Light of God’s People . . . Through Faithful Engagement in Fellowship (John 12:35; Matthew 5:14).

To fix our thoughts and hearts on Jesus is to relate intimately and lovingly to him. It means focusing our spiritual eyes and the emotions of our heart on the person of Jesus, not just his position. Fixing our thoughts on Jesus will look like yielding and submitting to him; it will mean moving beyond our rational beliefs about the historical Jesus. Fixing our thoughts on Jesus means seeing him and all that he is as a contemporary and present Savior. He can be trusted! “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*” (Hebrews 13:8 NASB).

Fix your eyes on Jesus today. Imagine the Savior sitting on the throne of heaven at the right hand of God. He is the King of kings, and the earth is his footstool. The Psalmist tells us that he is “robed with honor and majesty” (Psalm 104:1 KJV). Let the eyes of your heart see the beautiful throne room, his majestic robes, and his royal stature. You see Christ’s position, and your thoughts align with the beliefs about the Savior, but that’s not the same as fixing your thoughts on the person of Jesus.

Pause now and fix the eyes of your heart on the character and person of Jesus. Imagine Christ saying these words just to you: “I am the one who sits on heaven’s throne, but I love to call you my friend (see John 15:15). My name is Most High, the King of all the earth, but you can come to me anytime you desire. I am ready to listen to what you have to say. In fact, I lean in to hear your prayers” (see Psalm 47:2; 17:6).

Take the next few moments with your partner or small group to thank our Father for being your ultimate provider. Share your gratitude for how he has met your needs according to his riches in glory (see Philippians 4:19). Yield yourself to a life of bold and believing prayer. Trust him with your present and future.

Heavenly Father, thank you for being my ultimate provider of _____.
I’m grateful for how you have met my needs by _____.
Because you are faithful, I trust you today to _____.

I trust you to do your part, and I yield to you to do mine. Might your Spirit live through me as you desire. Because you are faithful, I trust you for _____ in the future.

II. Trusting Our Father Requires “Death” to Self

“Give to anyone who asks from you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back” (Luke 6:30).

A. Our Giving (*Give and It Will Be Given*)

Jesus says we have no rights. The kingdom of God is founded on the principle that his people have no rights. Jesus gave up his rights that he might serve and love. Philippians says it clearly: He took off the robe of royalty; he took off the robe of grandeur to walk among us. He clothed himself in humility. He emptied himself of his rights for our sakes (see Philippians 2:5–9).

What does Christ’s kingdom look like then? It is a place where Christ alone is King and a place where his subjects trust his provision completely. It is a place where people are made one in him, regardless of family history or lineage, regardless of material wealth or poverty, regardless of education or the lack thereof. In this kingdom, Christ makes free those who were bound and uses his subjects to reach the “least of these” with his love and provision.

In his kingdom, there are no subjects more important than others, and he uses those who are blessed with more to reach those who have less. If bringing God’s kingdom into our neighborhoods is our responsibility, it will certainly require us to trust God in a way that is not initially comfortable and that may even seem “unnatural” in our materialistic culture.

How can we give away to someone else what we have if we fear that this is all we have or will have? We won’t! However, when we learn to truly trust God for our daily provision, we become free to do his will and to share all that we have with others who are in need.

As a Christ follower, times will come when you will be called to step out in faith in response to the leading of the Holy Spirit and to do something for God that is beyond your human capacity or means. When God calls us to become “conduits he can flow through” rather than just “reservoirs he fills,” we will have to trust his provision.

Prayer that is communion with God is what will lead us into this kind of deep, unwavering trust. When our prayer life is communal rather than just petitionary, we can stand assured that God will supply our needs, and we can take that “leap of faith” without hesitation.

B. His Searching

Walking in the Light of God’s Word . . . Through Frequent Experiences of Scripture (John 12:35; Psalm 119:105).

“Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me and know my anxious thoughts; And see if there be any hurtful way in me, And lead me in the everlasting way” (Psalm 139: 23–24 NASB).

When God calls us to become “conduits he can flow through” rather than just “reservoirs he fills,” we will have to trust his provision.



L-5 Living with a passionate longing for purity and to please Him in all things

Be still before the Lord and offer the same type of prayers that David prayed as he repented of his sin. For us to be *free* to trust Him, His Spirit must be called upon to “Set Us Free” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

*Search me, O Lord, for **sins that hinder me** from trusting you. Free me from all moral filth, evil, malice, deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander. Free me to have a cleansed heart and mind. Speak now, Lord, for I am listening.*

*Search me, O Lord, for **unresolved emotions** that keep me from trusting you. Free me from any guilt or condemnation, any anger or bitterness, any fear or anxiety. Free me to live each moment in the present with you.*

*Search me, O Lord, for **childish things** that distract me from trusting you. Free me from rationalizing my behavior and blaming others. Free me to practice personal responsibility before you and others.*

*Search me, O Lord, for **areas of self-focus** that prevent me from trusting you. Free me from my thoughts, my ways, my ideas, and my goals. May I instead embrace your thoughts, your ways, your ideas, and your goals. Speak now, Lord, for I am listening.*

Wait before the Lord. Listen as His Spirit reveals what needs to be put away from your life.

Lord, I sense the need to put away _____ from my life. I ask your forgiveness for holding onto this. Free me that I might have deepened freedom to trust you.

III. Trusting Our Father Prompts Generosity

A. Freely Receiving

“They said to Him, ‘We have here only five loaves and two fish.’ And He said, ‘Bring them here to Me’” (Matthew 14:17–18 NASB).

In Matthew 14:13–21, we find the story of a boy who trusted God and participated in the work of the kingdom of God:

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.

As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a remote place, and it’s already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food.”

Jesus replied, “They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat.”

“We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish,” they answered.

“Bring them here to me,” he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Colossians 3:16 Moment: “Let the Word of Christ dwell deeply in you”

Pastor/Teacher:

Vulnerably share both your need and your prompting by His Spirit to freely give.

Jesus, as I look at the circumstances and challenges of my life, I need to receive more of your _____.



L-3 Experiencing God as he really is through deepened intimacy with him

B. Freely Giving

When “Give us today our daily bread” is our prayer, and we link that together with the kingdom of God, we become like this little boy who was generous with what he had.

When you give God everything, he will always give you back more. Will you give everything to Jesus today? Will you participate in his kingdom, that kingdom which looks so different from the world? Will you trust him to provide your daily bread? Will you be broken for the world? Learning to live a life of conversation with God and loving the Lord will enable us to trust him completely along the way.

Much like taking a walk with a person, as we walk close to God, we can always lean over to God and ask, “Is everything going to be alright?” And we can trust that he will always answer, “I love you, and I will take care of your needs.” What a joy to have such a relationship with the Creator that we can share conversation with him and trust his provision for us.

C. Open Hands

Walk in the light of God’s Son . . . Through Fresh Encounters with Jesus

“Freely you have received; freely give” (Matthew 10:8).

There is no better illustration of freely receiving and freely giving of God’s provision than Christ’s miracle of feeding thousands. Pause quietly to picture this image of Jesus. His eyes are focused toward heaven as he recognizes the source of all provision. His hands are open, to both give and to receive. With one hand, he receives what is available—five loaves and two fish from a young boy; with the other hand, he gives freely and abundantly to the needs of others.

The Savior asks the same of us today. At times, his calling is to freely receive what he gives to you. At other times, he calls you to freely give to meet the needs of others. But remember that his inheritance toward you never runs out; his provision is without limits.

Now quietly consider what encouragement, care, support, or affirmation you might need in the midst of your struggles? Yield to the Holy Spirit within you. Open your heart to receive these gifts from Christ, the one who provides.

Could you speak to me about how you want to provide? With one hand, I am looking to you for _____.

Finally, what acceptance, compassion, appreciation, resource, or respect might you freely give to someone this week? Could you take the time to think of a specific name and then yield to the Spirit’s prompting? As you share his life and love, others will find hope in the Jesus who provides.

Jesus, as I look at the people who are in my life today, I know I am called to give. Who needs to receive from me? With my other hand, I’m asking you to empower me to give to _____, so he/she can experience hope in you.