

<b>Lesson Aim</b>	<p>To understand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. That God is the fountain of all good</li><li>2. That the fourth petition is a prayer for the reception of just what we need</li><li>3. That the fourth petition is a prayer that we would wisely use what we have</li></ol>
<b>Steps to Learning</b>	<p>Read the <a href="#">Heidelberg Catechism Lord's Day 50</a> and <a href="#">Psalm 146</a>. Also discuss the sermon and the particulars of the lesson below. It may be best to work through the material over several days or sessions.</p>
<b>Discuss</b>	<p><b>What is Psalm 146 about?</b></p> <p>It is about God as the fountain of all good. The Psalm exalts God for being the Provider. We are just humble beggars who receive good gifts from God and have no right to demand anything from God. Therefore, the Psalmist commits to praising God despite the difficulties of life. The Psalm also speaks of the very human inclination to trust in princes (rulers or power brokers). This is wrong and foolish because they will die like any other person and on that day, their plans perish. Rather than trusting in princes, we need to trust in God the Provider and our Redeemer.</p> <p><b>How do we interpret the petition, "Give us this day our daily bread?"</b></p> <p>It is a prayer for the reception of just what we need. A good summary of this is found in Proverbs 30:8-9: "give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, <sup>9</sup> lest I be full and deny you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God." We should not want too much or too little. Practically, we need to store up treasure in heaven (<a href="#">Matt. 6:19-21</a>) and to be content with what we have (<a href="#">1 Tim. 6:7ff</a>).</p> <p><b>How else can we interpret this petition?</b></p> <p>It is a prayer for the wise use of what we do have or will have in the future. We can either be stingy or extravagant with our resources. We are to strive to use our resources righteously or generously. Using resources in this way is the "golden mean" or the striving for moderation. If we do receive an excess of resources, the Scriptures command us to be generous to give to others. We can and should, however, gather more than we need each day (e.g. amount of income from our jobs) so that we have resources in times of emergencies and for money to draw from in retirement.</p>
<b>Bible Reading</b>	<p><a href="#">2 Corinthians 5-11</a> (Reading through the New Testament)</p>