

Study Hints for Thinking Further

International Bible Lessons

Matthew 6:25-34

Sunday, November 27, 2011

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Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all of the **Five Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The *Study Hints for Thinking Further* below are not actually intended to be answers to the discussion questions, but hints a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class.

1. What are some events and practices that can influence us to worry?

If we lose a job or a portion of our investments, savings, or retirement income. If we have been out of work for a long time and in spite of searching cannot find a job. Losing our home or not being able to provide food or clothing for our children.

We can spend too much time reading about, listening to, and watching the news. Listening to people with a negative or worried outlook and allowing ourselves to adopt their viewpoint. Failing to study the Bible, failing to fellowship and worship with devout, Bible-believing Christians who trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. What are some means that we can use to defeat the temptations to worry?

We can avoid spending too much time keeping up with current events and news reports designed to spread distrust and fear. We can try to discern if people purporting to tell us the truth about current events are really only lying to manipulate us. We can avoid listening to some people's ceaseless worries or help them come to understand what the Bible teaches about worry. We can pray for God to give us assurance and help and show us the solution to the problems that tempt us to worry.

3. What does Jesus say about a person who worries?

Jesus says they have little faith. Therefore, we need to do what will help us acquire great faith in God. What Jesus did and said as recorded in the Bible should build up our faith.

4. What are some of the actions that Jesus tells us to take so we do not worry?

Jesus tells us to remember that our heavenly Father knows our needs before we come to Him in prayer so we need to pray for Him to meet our needs. Jesus tells us to compare ourselves as people created in the image of God and as children of God to the birds of the air. Just as God cares for the birds of the air, He will care for us even more so, because we are His children. Jesus tells us to seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and everything we need will be given to us.

5. What are some of the things we know about God that will help us not worry?

God is our heavenly Father and He cares for us. He sent His only Son, Jesus, to remind us of these truths and die in our behalf to save us from our sins. God, our Creator, can do for us whatever we need done for us.

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