

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

Luke 12:22-31 (NIV)

Worry

I have allowed my life to be filled with worry. **What has filled your life with worry?** I have worried about security. I have worried about my job. I have worried about money. I have worried about my health. I have worried about my family. I have worried about what is going on in the world. You name it, I have worried about it. Now, it seems like the whole world is in a state of worry together. These are very unsettling times. **Yes, you are living in unsettling times. Is that a bad thing?** It seems so to me. Who wants to live in unsettling times? **Think a little more about the subject. What has happened to you when you have had no need, and everything has seemed to be going your way? Have you become complacent in your faith? Have you allowed yourself to become a little more distant from me? Have you become more self-reliant, self-sufficient and maybe even self-indulgent?** None of those are good things. **No, they are not.** You know the answers to the questions you have asked me. **Yes, I do, but do you know the answers to the questions I have asked you?** Yes, I do. **Let me hear your answer.** My faith is much more living and active when I have been living in unsettling times. Worry has actually helped draw me back to you. **How so?** You have helped me to turn my worries into prayers to you. When I have been worried and unsettled and filled with fear, I have drawn near to you. **What have I done?** You have drawn near to me. **What else?** You have calmed my worries and fears. You have given me your peace. You have reminded me of the fact that you are with me to help me. You love and care for me. **Yes, I do. What else have I done for you as you have drawn near to me?** You have refocused my heart and mind and life. **On what?** You have focused my heart and mind and life on you and your Kingdom. You have reminded me of how you want me to live, where you want me to go and what you want me to do. You have helped me to take my eyes off of the things of this life so I can focus on living the Kingdom focused life you have called me to live. **That is very good.** Yes, it is. **Keep on drawing near to me in these unsettling times.** Yes Lord, I will. **That will be very good.**

Lord, so much of my life has been focused on the things of earth. I have spent a great deal of time and energy worrying about the things of life that are out of my control. No more. Now, I will focus my heart and mind and life on your Kingdom as I seek you. Amen

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Worry*

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

NIV Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Not To Worry*

Then, turning to his disciples, Jesus said, "That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food to eat or enough clothes to wear. For life is more than food, and your body more than clothing. Look at the ravens. They don't plant or harvest or store food in barns, for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! Can all your worries add a single moment to your life? And if worry can't accomplish a little thing like that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? "Look at the lilies and how they grow. They don't work or make their clothing, yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. And if God cares so wonderfully for flowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith? "And don't be concerned about what to eat and what to drink. Don't worry about such things. These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers all over the world, but your Father already knows your needs. Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and he will give you everything you need.

NLT Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Worry*

He said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? If then you are not able to do so small a thing as that, why do you worry about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! And do not keep striving for what you are to eat and what you are to drink, and do not keep worrying. For it is the nations of the world that strive after all these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

NRSV Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Be Anxious*

And [Jesus] said to His disciples, Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious *and* troubled [with cares] about your life, as to what you will [have to] eat; or about your body, as to what you will [have to] wear. For life is more than food, and the body [more] than clothes. Observe *and* consider the ravens; for they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storeroom nor barn; and [yet] God feeds them. Of how much more worth are you than the birds! And which of you by being overly anxious *and* troubled with cares can add a cubit to his stature *or* a moment [unit] of time to his age [the length of his life]? If then you are not able to do such a little thing as that, why are you anxious *and* troubled with cares about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow. They neither [wearily] toil nor spin *nor* weave; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory [his splendor and magnificence] was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today, and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more will He clothe you, O you [people] of little faith? And you, do not seek [by meditating and reasoning to inquire into] what you are to eat and what you are to drink; nor be of anxious [troubled] mind [unsettled, excited, and in suspense]; For all the pagan world is [greedily] seeking these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Only aim at *and* strive for *and* seek His kingdom, and all these things shall be supplied to you also.

AMP Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Worry*

And He said to His disciples, "For this reason I say to you, do not worry about *your* life, as to what you will eat; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. "For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. "Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap; they have no storeroom nor barn, and yet God feeds them; how much more valuable you are than the birds! "And which of you by worrying can add a *single* hour to his life's span? "If then you cannot do even a very little thing, why do you worry about other matters? "Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; but I tell you, not even Solomon in all his glory clothed himself like one of these. "But if God so clothes the grass in the field, which is *alive* today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, how much more *will He clothe* you? You men of little faith! "And do not seek what you will eat and what you will drink, and do not keep worrying. "For all these things the nations of the world eagerly seek; but your Father knows that you need these things. "But seek His kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

NASB Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Be Anxious*

And he said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom, and these things will be added to you.

ESV Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Worry*

Then He said to His disciples, "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; nor about the body, what you will put on. Life is more than food, and the body is *more* than clothing. Consider the ravens, for they neither sow nor reap, which have neither storehouse nor barn; and God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds? And which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? If you then are not able to do *the* least, why are you anxious for the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. If then God so clothes the grass, which today is in the field and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more *will He clothe* you, O you of little faith? And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind. For all these things the nations of the world seek after, and your Father knows that you need these things. But seek the kingdom of God, and all these things shall be added to you.

NKJV Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Do Not Fuss*

He continued this subject with his disciples. "Don't fuss about what's on the table at mealtimes or if the clothes in your closet are in fashion. There is far more to your inner life than the food you put in your stomach, more to your outer appearance than the clothes you hang on your body. Look at the ravens, free and unfettered, not tied down to a job description, carefree in the care of God. And you count far more. "Has anyone by fussing before the mirror ever gotten taller by so much as an inch? If fussing can't even do that, why fuss at all? Walk into the fields and look at the wildflowers. They don't fuss with their appearance—but have you ever seen color and design quite like it? The ten best-dressed men and women in the country look shabby alongside them. If God gives such attention to the wildflowers, most of them never even seen, don't you think he'll attend to you, take pride in you, do his best for you? "What I'm trying to do here is get you to relax, not be so preoccupied with getting so you can respond to God's giving. People who don't know God and the way he works fuss over these things, but you know both God and how he works. Steep yourself in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met.

MSG Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Don't Worry*

Then turning to his disciples he said, "Don't worry about whether you have enough food to eat or clothes to wear. For life consists of far more than food and clothes. Look at the ravens—they don't plant or harvest or have barns to store away their food, and yet they get along all right—for God feeds them. And you are far more valuable to him than any birds! "And besides, what's the use of worrying? What good does it do? Will it add a single day to your life? Of course not! And if worry can't even do such little things as that, what's the use of worrying over bigger things? "Look at the lilies! They don't toil and spin, and yet Solomon in all his glory was not robed as well as they are. And if God provides clothing for the flowers that are here today and gone tomorrow, don't you suppose that he will provide clothing for you, you doubters? And don't worry about food—what to eat and drink; don't worry at all that God will provide it for you. All mankind scratches for its daily bread, but your heavenly Father knows your needs. He will always give you all you need from day to day if you will make the Kingdom of God your primary concern.

TLB Luke 12:22-31

Becoming Like Christ *Don't Worry*

Jesus said to his followers, "So I tell you, don't worry about the food you need to live, or about the clothes you need for your body. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes. Look at the birds. They don't plant or harvest, they don't have storerooms or barns, but God feeds them. And you are worth much more than birds. You cannot add any time to your life by worrying about it. If you cannot do even the little things, then why worry about the big things? Consider how the lilies grow; they don't work or make clothes for themselves. But I tell you that even Solomon with his riches was not dressed as beautifully as one of these flowers. God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today but tomorrow is thrown into the fire. So how much more will God clothe you? Don't have so little faith! Don't always think about what you will eat or what you will drink, and don't keep worrying. All the people in the world are trying to get these things, and your Father knows you need them. But seek God's kingdom, and all the other things you need will be given to you.

NCV Luke 12:22-31

Do Not Worry

Year _____ Week _____ Day _____ Date _____

Becoming Like Christ – Luke 12:22-31

In Context: *Read Luke 22*

Begin With Prayer:

Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.

Meditating On God's Word: ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

Then Jesus said to his disciples: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. Luke 12:22-31 (NIV)

Considering The Words: ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

Then Jesus said to his disciples: | "Therefore I tell you, | do not worry about your life, | what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. | Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. | Consider the ravens: | They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; | yet God feeds them. | And how much more valuable you are than birds! | Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? | Since you cannot do this very little thing, | why do you worry about the rest? | "Consider how the lilies grow. | They do not labor or spin. | Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. | If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, | which is here today, a| nd tomorrow is thrown into the fire, | how much more will he clothe you, | O you of little faith! | And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; | do not worry about it. | For the pagan world runs after all such things, | and your Father knows that you need them. | But seek his kingdom, and these things | will be given to you as well. Luke 12:22-31 (NIV)

Praying The Scripture: ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, so much of my life has been focused on the things of earth. I have spent a great deal of time and energy worrying about the things of life that are out of my control. No more. Now, I will focus my heart and mind and life on your Kingdom as I seek you. Amen

What It Means: ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

When has worrying about something caused it to grow larger and more threatening than reality would indicate?

When have you spent a great deal of time and energy worrying about a problem that never materialized?

Why is worrying unlikely to bring a solution to a potential problem and be counterproductive in your life?

How has the Lord taken care of you and brought you through worrisome situations in life?

How are taking steps to focus your life on the Kingdom of God rather on the things of this life?

How has seeking the Kingdom of God helped you to live a life that is good and right and pleasing to God?

What are you doing because your life is focused on the Kingdom of God rather than the things of earth?

Living It Out: ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Focus your heart and mind and life on the Kingdom of God rather than on the things of earth.

Seeing It Happen: ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that the Lord will take care of you as you focus your life on His Kingdom.

Get Ready To Share: ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group how your life is now focused on the Kingdom of God.

Close With Prayer:

Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

Pause And Offer Prayers Of...

With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You

Adoration... _____

Thanksgiving... _____

Confession... _____

Intercession... _____

Petition... _____

Journal

As You Quiet Yourself Before The Lord

What Do You Want To Say To Me Lord?

What Prayers Are You Praying Today?

Prayer Of Blessing

(What Prayer Of Blessing Can You Pray For Another?)

May you not worry, but rather seek God's kingdom as He takes care of you.

Prayer To Carry

(What Prayer Would You Like To Carry Throughout Your Day?)

Lord, instead of worrying, I will seek your Kingdom, as you take care of me.

What Do You Want To Remember About Today?

A Question To Ask God

(What Would You Like To Ask God?)

Lord, how can I not worry but rather seek your kingdom instead?
