

MAKE UP WORK

From: Give Us This Day (October 28, 2009)

Skit: Rat Race

Read the following skit, then answer these questions:

Where does Karl think his “daily food” comes from?

Where does Trina believe her “daily food” comes from?

Who do you believe their food comes from?

CHARACTERS: two rats, Trina and Karl; A whistle blows. TRINA and KARL enter. KARL's mouth is stuffed full of something.

TRINA: Phew. What a day.

KARL: *(rubbing his feet)* Oh, man. My dogs are barking.

TRINA: *(panics)* What?! *(looks at KARL's feet.)* Oh. *(embarrassed laugh)* Right.

KARL: You have to admit it, Trina, I'm really good at running through the maze and hitting that button.

TRINA: Yeah, you're pretty good.

KARL: Pretty good? I'm amazing. I must have eaten, like, 15 pellets today. I've got a ton more hidden but I'm not going to tell you where they are.

TRINA: Are they stuffed in your cheeks?

KARL: *(obviously lying)* No. *(TRINA looks at him knowingly. He slowly chews the pellets in his mouth and swallows.)* Still, I really know how to hit that button.

TRINA: Yeah, but...that's what lab rats do.

KARL: Sure. But I'm awesome. Look out pellets! Here comes Karl! Pushing the button! Look out!

TRINA: You realize you're not creating food by hitting that button. Right?

KARL: Huh?

TRINA: I mean, when you hit that button, the door opens and the food the scientist gives us comes out.

KARL: Oh, I see. You're jealous.

TRINA: What!

KARL: Yeah. I'm really good at making the food nubbies and it drives you crazy knowing you'll never be as good as I am.

TRINA: You're nuts, Karl! Can't you see the big arm come down with the food when you hit the button?

KARL: I'm too busy making food to be looking around, Trina. Maybe if you'd work a little harder, you wouldn't have time to stare at the sky. Think about it.

TRINA: Oh, look! Here come the scientists now! That means the whistle will blow soon!

KARL: You don't know when the whistle blows. We never know when the whistle is going to... *(whistle blows)* Oh! The whistle! Gotta go, Trina. I've got a reputation to uphold! *runs offstage.*

TRINA: *(Sighs.) (Talks to the sky...)* Thanks. Some of us can see what you do for us. *(Shakes head and walks offstage.)*

Multiple Choice: (Circle the correct answer.)

1. The term "daily bread" in the Lord's Prayer refers to the following item:
 - a. Your allowance
 - b. Your best friend
 - c. Your parents
 - d. Toast
 - e. All of the above

2. You earn your daily bread by doing which of the following:
 - a. Praying for it every day
 - b. Doing nice things around the house
 - c. Going to church every week
 - d. Getting a job and bringing home the bacon
 - e. It's a trick question. You can't earn your daily bread because daily bread is a free gift of God's grace!

3. Praying for your daily bread does which of the following things:
 - a. Triggers God's pity response
 - b. Shows God you're a good person and deserve good things
 - c. Makes you a pious and religious person
 - d. Reminds you to stop by the store on the way home
 - e. Reminds you that God provides you with everything you need from day to day

4. God only provides daily bread to the following people:
 - a. Baptized and confirmed Lutherans
 - b. Adults
 - c. People who pray for it
 - d. Saints
 - e. It's a trick question. God provides daily bread to everyone every day, no matter what kind of person they are!

5. Receiving your daily bread with thanks includes the following:
 - a. Acknowledging God as the source of all daily bread
 - b. Praying a prayer of thanks at mealtimes
 - c. Showing gratitude to your family and friends for their presence in your life
 - d. Sharing your daily bread with other people
 - e. All of the above

6. Praying for your daily bread requires you to be:
 - a. A baker
 - b. In a bakery
 - c. In the bread aisle at the grocery store
 - d. Allergic to highly processed wheat flour
 - e. It simply requires an "attitude of gratitude" for the gifts in your life and the people and things God gives to you

Handbook Connection

Look in the *The Lutheran Handbook* to "Three Essential Personal Spiritual Rituals" (pages 98-100).

What are the 3 rituals? Place a check by the ones you have practiced.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Read the Fourth Petition in the Small Catechism (*The Lutheran Handbook*, page 210).

What does it say about God that God provides enough daily bread for all people to have enough?

What does it say about humans that some people do not have enough? (Twenty percent of the people possess eighty percent of the earth's resources.)

Read what "daily bread" is according to Luther. What about the list surprises you?

What would you add to the list?

Do you know of people who do not have what God intends?

Bible Connection

Read Exodus 16:13-15 in your bible.

When the Israelites grow hungry, what do they do?

How does God respond to their need for food?

What do you think God might be trying to teach the Israelites?

Key Words

Give a definition for each word.

ABUNDANCE

HUNGER

CONTENTMENT

GRACE

Closing Prayer

Lord God, you open your hand and provide for the need of every living thing. Every day through your grace you give us so much daily bread that we often forget to say thank you. Remind us daily of our abundance. Remind us also of the needs of others, so our abundance can be shared out of gratitude to you and so become the daily bread that fills your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

(When finished, return this to your small group leader. Thanks!)