

The Power of God's Promises “The Mystery of Answered Prayer”

INTRODUCTION

The Bible is full of examples of the prayers of men and women desperate for God and of His faithful response to their prayers. Jesus, who is fully man and God lived a life of prayer and should be our example. But we often question why it is that some prayers seem to be answered and others not. Let's take a look at some of the multi-faceted aspects of prayer and how God responds to it.

Ice Breaker Question - Optional (8 min):

Share about the first time that you remember praying aloud in a group.

STUDY QUESTIONS (45 MIN)

1. Why Does God Hear Us? - Read Isaiah 30:18-19

Q1. What is it that God wants to show us, and why do you think God answers our prayers?

2. How Do We Pray? - Read Matthew 6:5-15 (“Lord’s Model Prayer”), 1 Thessalonians 5:17, Romans 12:2, Philippians 4:-6-7

Q2. Prayer is not so much a technique but about our relationship with God? How and about what are we to approach God in prayer? In what ways do your prayers tend to follow Jesus’ instruction on prayer and in what ways do they differ?

3. When Does God Answer and Not Answer? – Read Ps 66:17-19, Matthew 6:10 and James 4:2b-4

Q3. When will God choose not to answer us?

Read Luke 11:5-13, James 5:16, and Matthew 7:7-11

Q4. Considering both these passages and the Isaiah passage in Q.1, what stands out most to you about God’s part and your part in prayer?

Q5. How do each of the verbs in Luke 11:9 (ask, seek, knock) require something different of us?

4. Who Do We Pray With and For? - Read Acts 2:42; James 5:16

Q6. As the priesthood of believers, we are to pray (intercede) for one another (also note the “our” references in the Lord’s model prayer). What can you do to make sure that you are praying daily for others?

Read John 17:15-17 and Ephesians 4:12-15

Q7: If you are unsure how to pray for others, how do these verses help you?

5. Where is the Power in Prayer? - Read Eph. 6:12,18 and Romans 8:26-27

Q8. Who is crucial in prayer? How can we affect situations that we otherwise have no control over? How would you like your prayer life to be changed as a result of this study? What first steps will you take?

WRAP-UP

God loves to hear from his children. He longs to extend his compassion to us. There is a power that is greater than any in the world and we know that as we pray in His Spirit, God will act. Some aspects of how, why, and when God answers prayer will remain a mystery as we are not God. But we know there is prayer and should not be surprised at His response, even miraculous response.

Memory Verse: James 5:16b “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective”.

PRAYER (20 MIN)

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: _____

Pray for your group members’ needs (use other side also):

Challenge: Commit to a daily time of prayer this week using elements of the Lord’s model prayer.