

1. Out of Tune Prayers

"Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure."

James 4:2b-3 (NLT)

- _____ **prayers**
- _____ **prayers**
- _____ **prayers**

2. Outside of our understanding answers

"So he went to pray a third time, saying the same things again . . . 'Abba, Father,' he cried out, 'everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.'"

Matthew 26:44, Mark 14:36 (NLT)

- _____ **answers**
- _____ **us**

Small Groups Questions – Does Prayer Matter? Week 4

1. Describe a time when God clearly answered one of your prayers. How did you feel?
2. Describe a time when you did not get the answer you wanted. How did you react?
3. Do unanswered prayers pose a threat to your faith in God? Why or why not?
4. What general principles about how God views prayer can you draw from the following verses? I Peter 5:7, Matthew 7:9-11, Ephesians 3:20 and Isaiah 55:9.
5. How is God's perspective different from ours? Does this help you at all with unanswered prayer?
6. Garth Brooks sings, "Just because he doesn't answer doesn't mean he don't care. Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers." Do you believe this is true? Have you ever seen it in action?
7. Have someone read Psalm 27:14 and Isaiah 30:18. Has God's answer to your prayer ever been to wait? How difficult is it for you to wait for God's timing?
8. What do you have in your life that encourages you to trust in God when prayers seem to go unanswered?
9. Paul struggles with an unanswered prayer in the book of Romans. He concludes his thoughts about this issue with a prayer of his own in Romans 11:33-36. As you read this prayer, what grabs your attention?
10. How is it possible for us to have this attitude when prayer seems to go unanswered?
11. Spend some time praying together, using Romans 11:33-36 as a model.