

Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step. If you're leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- If you could ask God for anything, what would it be? Why would you ask for this?

**With your Bible or YouVersion, read Mark 11:24-25, 1 Peter 3:7, James 4:3, and Proverbs 16:2.**

These verses tell us that broken relationships and having the wrong motives can cause unanswered prayers.

- Describe a time when God didn't answer a prayer of yours. What did you learn from your unanswered prayer?
- What are you praying about that God has yet to answer? How have you reacted to your unanswered prayer?
- What broken relationships may be hindering your prayers? What steps will you take to restore them?
- What wrong motives may be hindering your prayers? What will you do to change these motives?

**Read Mark 9:22-23, James 1:6-7, and 1 John 5:14-15.**

These verses tell us that our prayers are sometimes not answered because we don't believe God will do it and because God may have something different planned for us.

- What things are hindering your faith in God that He will answer your prayers?
- How does knowing that sometimes you might not understand the way God answers prayers make you feel?
- How have you seen God work in your life through unanswered prayers?
- What changes in your thinking do you need to make so you can better understand unanswered prayer?

## NEXT STEPS

Here are some specific things you can do this week to help you better understand why God doesn't always answer prayer.

Learn more about prayer by watching the Prayer message series at [http://www.lifechurch.tv/watch/prayer\\_2008/](http://www.lifechurch.tv/watch/prayer_2008/). In this series, Craig offers an in-depth look at what prayer is and how we can get to know God through prayer. This series also examines why God doesn't always answer prayer and looks at the Lord's Prayer as a model of prayer for us to use in our daily lives.

Spend time in God's Word this week reading the following passages about the power of prayer and why sometimes God doesn't answer prayer: John 14:5-14, Mark 11:12-26, 1 Peter 3:1-7, James 4:1-12, Proverbs 16:2, Mark 9:14-50, James 1:2-18, and 1 John 5:14-15.

### 5-Day Micro Devotional:

- Thank God for the prayers He has answered in your life. Take time to praise Him for all He has done.
- Ask God to help you restore those broken relationships that may be hindering your prayers.
- Ask God to help you check your motives to ensure they are the right ones when you pray.
- Ask God to help open your mind so you can have a better understanding of why He doesn't always answer prayer.
- Ask God to help you strengthen your faith in Him.