



WEEK OF: 10/23/16

THEME: Unanswered Prayers!

MEMORY VERSE: “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 4:3 (NLT)

******Remember to listen to this week’s sermon, review the Sermon Notes Sheet and complete the discussion questions before attending your Connection Group.***

INTRODUCTION:

Nothing is more demotivating than suffering through a string of unanswered prayers. You call heaven, and no one seems to be home. Why would a caring God deny valid requests from faithful believers?

The reasons for unanswered prayers can be summarized as follows: If the request is wrong, God says, "No." If the timing is wrong, God says, "Slow." If you are wrong, God says, "Grow." But if the request is right, the timing is right and you are right, God says, "Go!"

This week’s sermon and Connexion Group Lesson we will explore the hurt of unanswered prayer.

OPENING DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Describe a time when you felt God didn’t answer an important prayer request.

Looking back on the prayer request, have your views changed about the request, about yourself, or about God’s response?

GROUP LESSON DISCUSSION

1. What was most helpful, encouraging, or challenging from this week’s sermon?

2. Is there a particular prayer request that you have now before God that he hasn't answered yet? Explain.

Let's look at some biblical passages that tell us why God might not be answering our prayers. They will serve as warning to us, no matter what phase of life we are in.

3. Read Isaiah 59:1-2. According to these verses what hinders our prayers?

Why do you think this keeps God from listening to our prayers?

4. Read Psalm 66:18-20. What is meant by "sin in my heart?" When you become aware of sin or malice in your heart, what is the appropriate response?

Are unanswered prayers a sign that God doesn't love us?

5. Read 1 John 5:14-15. According to these verses, what else hinders prayer and why is this important?

Read James 1:67-8 and list what hinders prayer and why this is important.

next steps

This week as you take time to pray and confess any areas in your life that may be hindering your prayers, read the following verse:

Day 1: Isaiah 59:1-2

Day 2: Psalm 66:18-20

Day 3: 1 John 5:14-15

Day 4: James 1:67-8

Day 5: James 4:1-3

Day 6: John 15:5-17

Day 7: Matthew 7:7-11