

Steps To Having Prayers Answered

Steps To Having Prayers Answered

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the teaching by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

In this message, I walked us through the practical steps to seeing our prayers answered, starting with the foundation that God's Word is not a religious decoration -- it's a living truth we can actually work in our daily lives. I challenged us to get serious about three critical steps: deciding specifically what we want from God and finding scripture to back it up, asking God in faith while genuinely believing we receive when we pray, and guarding our minds fiercely against the doubt, fear, and negative voices that clog up the pipeline between our prayers and our answers. The bottom line is this -- unanswered prayer is rarely a God problem; it's most often a Word problem, and the more of God's Word we get inside us, the more effective our prayer life becomes.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think back to a time when you really wanted something and had to wait for it -- maybe a job, a trip, or even a table at a busy restaurant. How did the waiting feel, and what kept you from giving up?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting Honest About Step One

I talked about how you have to decide what you want from God before anything else can happen -- and that you shouldn't pray for what you don't really want. Is it ever hard for you to get specific with God about what you're asking for? What makes it difficult to plant that flag in the ground and say, "This is what I'm believing for"?

2. The Word as Fuel

I shared how spending years slowly working through the New Testament on my own -- just me and Jesus, no one else's preconceived ideas -- changed everything about how I understood faith and prayer. Jesus says in John 15:7 that if His words abide in you, you'll ask what you will and it will be done. How much of your prayer life is currently anchored in specific scriptures? What's one practical thing that might help you connect what you're praying for to what God's Word actually says about it?

3. Believe That You Receive -- Right Now

Mark 11:24 says to believe you receive when you pray -- not after you see results, not after symptoms disappear, not after the bank account changes. That goes completely against how our natural minds work. Can you describe a time when you genuinely believed before you saw? What made that possible? What makes it hard?

4. The Battle for Your Mind

I made a strong point that doubt and fear don't just appear out of nowhere -- they often come through other people, through what we read, through what we allow ourselves to think about. Second Corinthians 10:5 tells us to cast down imaginations and bring every thought into captivity. What are the most common sources of doubt that come against your faith? How do you currently handle them, and is it working?

5. Words and Faith Are Connected

I pointed us to 1 Peter 3:10, which says that whoever wants to "love life and see good days" must refrain their tongue from evil. I made the case that speaking contrary to what God says about you -- giving voice to doubt and defeat -- is itself a form of evil that works against your prayers. Does that challenge you or encourage you? How does what you say out loud about your situation reflect what you actually believe?

6. James 1:22 -- Doers, Not Just Hearers

James tells us that if we hear the Word but don't act on it, we're deceiving ourselves. I was pretty direct in saying that a lot of Christians hope for answers rather than applying the steps to receive them. Without pointing fingers at anyone else, where do you personally find the gap between what you believe in your head and what you're actively putting into practice in your faith life?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, pick one specific thing you have been praying about -- something real and personal to you. Then do these three things before your group meets again:

- Write it down in one clear sentence: "I am believing God for _____."
- Find at least one scripture that speaks directly to what you're asking for and write it next to your request.
- Speak that scripture out loud once every day this week -- morning or evening, wherever works for you -- and when doubt or a negative thought tries to come in, say out loud: "No, I reject that. I believe I receive, in Jesus' name."

Come back ready to share how it felt, what came against you, and what surprised you.

6. PRAYER POINTS

1. For the Word to take root -- Pray that each person in the group would develop a genuine, personal hunger for God's Word, not just religious information, so that their prayers are anchored in eternal truth rather than wishful thinking.
 2. For breakthrough in specific situations -- Take a moment to let anyone who wants to share briefly what they are standing in faith for, then pray specifically and boldly over those needs together, agreeing according to Mark 11:24.
 3. For strong, disciplined minds -- Pray that God would help every person in the group to recognize doubt and fear when they come, to resist them quickly, and to replace every negative thought with the truth of what God has already said in His Word.
-

7. MEMORY VERSE

Mark 11:24 (NKJV)

"Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."

Leader's Note: Don't feel pressure to get through every question. Read the room, follow the conversation where the Holy Spirit takes it, and give people space to be honest. The goal isn't covering content -- it's genuine life change. You've got this!