

How To Receive Answered Prayer

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SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Based on the message by Pastor Mirek Hufton

1. SERMON RECAP

Pastor Mirek Hufton taught that receiving answered prayer depends far more on us than we often realize, anchoring his message in John 15:7 and its repeated emphasis on "you." He walked the group through three essential steps: knowing specifically what you want from God, asking in genuine faith while believing you receive before the answer manifests, and guarding every thought and mental picture so that nothing undermines what you are standing for in faith. He challenged us to understand that the lack of answered prayer is not a God problem -- it is a word-in-the-heart problem, and the solution is consistent, persistent meditation on God's promises.

2. KEY SCRIPTURE

John 15:7 (NKJV)

"If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

3. ICE BREAKER

Think of a time when being specific about what you wanted -- whether asking a person or making a plan -- made all the difference in the outcome. What happened when you got specific?

4. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Getting Specific With God

Pastor Mirek was direct: you have to know what you want before you can ask for it with any real faith. He shared how vague praying kept him from receiving, and how clarity changed everything. What makes it difficult to get truly specific with God in prayer? Is there something holding people back from naming exactly what they are believing Him for?

2. The Word Getting Into the Heart

Pastor Mirek drew a clear line between reading scripture casually and letting it truly abide in you -- speaking it, thinking on it, returning to it day after day until it moves from your head into your heart. What is the difference, in your experience, between knowing a scripture in your mind and actually having it settled in your heart? How does a person know when they have crossed that line?

3. Believing You Receive Before You See It

He described this as the place where faith is most severely tested -- believing you have received something before any physical evidence appears. He referenced Abraham, who believed God's promise long before it was visible. Why does this feel so unnatural? What helps a person hold onto that kind of faith when circumstances say the opposite?

4. Guarding the Mind

Pastor Mirek was straightforward about the danger of allowing negative thoughts, discouraging words from others, or fear-based mental pictures to take root. He even described stepping away from certain friendships during a critical season of standing in faith for his health. How does a group or community help protect each other's faith in these seasons? Where is the balance between healthy relationships and guarding what is in your heart?

5. Corresponding Action

He pointed out that faith always has two expressions: your voice and your actions. He used the example of Dodie Osteen getting dressed and going to work for hours each day even when she was gravely ill, simply because she was determined to act on what she believed. What does "acting healed" or "acting on your faith" look like practically in an area where you are currently trusting God? What would that corresponding action be for you this week?

6. Persistence Over Time

Pastor Mirek shared that he spoke healing scriptures over his body for two years before the word felt, in his words, "electrified" -- burning in him rather than sitting in his head. He compared the process to a whack-a-mole: new challenges keep rising, but faith gets stronger with every round. How does a person sustain that kind of long-term, consistent faith without burning out or becoming discouraged? What has helped you stay steady in a long season of waiting?

5. APPLICATION CHALLENGE

This week, identify one specific thing you are believing God for -- just one. Write it down in a single, clear sentence. Then find two or three scriptures that speak directly to that need, write them on a card or in your phone, and speak them out loud to God every morning for the next seven days. At your next group meeting, be ready to share what shifted in your heart, even if the answer has not yet arrived.

6. PRAYER POINTS

- Pray that each group member would gain genuine clarity about what they are specifically asking God for,

and that the Holy Spirit would lead them to the exact scriptures they need to build their faith in that area.

- Pray for protection over every person's thought life this week -- that discouraging words, fear, and negative mental pictures would be recognized and resisted quickly, and that the peace of God described in Philippians 4 would guard their hearts and minds.

- Pray for anyone in the group who is in a long season of waiting, that they would not grow weary or interpret the delay as God's absence, but would experience a fresh burning of the word in their heart just as Pastor Mirek described.

7. MEMORY VERSE

1 John 5:14 (NKJV)

"Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us."