
UNANSWERED PRAYERS

Week 1: When Prayers Go Unheard...



What's your unanswered prayer? Everyone has had an unanswered prayer at some point in their life. Whether it's a need for healing, a situation to change, a relationship to be mended, or a blessing that we believe we need, unanswered prayers happen. Unanswered prayers can be tough. What do we do when our prayers go unanswered? What can we learn?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you think there has ever been a time when God has refused to hear a prayer, or decided not to answer a prayer because of the people (or their motives) who are asking or seeking him?
Discuss this as a group.

2. **Read Jeremiah 14:1-12.**

What examples of prayer do you find throughout the passage? What is God's response to these prayers? What reasons are located within the passage concerning God's unwillingness to hear or respond to the requests made in prayer?

3. **Re-read Jeremiah 14:10-12.**

Is God's response to Jeremiah difficult to hear? Why or why not? Discuss as a group. What do these words say to us about God? What do they say about the people? What might these words say to us about ourselves, our motives, and the state of our lives as it relates to prayer?

4. Take extra time as a group to process this question: does our culture today treat prayer as a wish list with the expectation it will be fulfilled regardless of the state of our relationship with God?
5. Considering this passage is part of our heritage as Christians, how are we to understand it today? In what ways will it shape you concerning your own life and prayers before God?
6. Take time and care to use the Examen Exercise for a closing prayer tonight: (1) be aware of God's presence, (2) review the day with gratitude, (3) consider your emotions, (4) pray about one part of your day, (5) pray for future events to unfold tomorrow.

BE THE REVOLUTION

Prayer is the outflow of a healthy and vitalized relationship with God.

RENOVATING THE HEART

Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not leave us (Jeremiah 14:9).