

## Small Group Guide: Unanswered Prayer

### Key Takeaways:

1. Unanswered prayer is not necessarily a bad thing; God works all things for good.
2. The purpose of prayer is to align ourselves to receive more of God, not just to get what we want.
3. We need to pray expectantly and persistently, making space in our lives to hear God's voice.
4. God's "no" or "wait" are still answers and have a purpose, even if we don't understand it.
5. Our relationship with God is more important than getting the specific answer we want.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Share a time when you felt God didn't answer your prayer. How did you respond?
2. The speaker mentioned praying "in Jesus' name" is about praying in His nature, not just adding a tagline. How can we align our prayers more closely with Jesus' nature?
3. Discuss the statement: "If God said yes to all of your prayers in the last week, would the world be a different place?" How does this challenge your current prayer life?
4. How can we cultivate patience in waiting for God's answers, especially in our fast-paced society?
5. Reflect on the story of Logan Boulet. How does this example show that God's "no" can lead to a greater purpose?
6. The sermon mentioned having an "even if" mindset instead of a "what if" mindset. What would this look like in your life?
7. Discuss some of the reasons for unanswered prayer mentioned in Pete Grey's book "God on Mute". Which ones resonate with you the most and why?

### Practical Applications:

1. Keep a prayer journal this week, noting both your requests and how God answers (yes, no, or wait).
2. Practice "expectant prayer" by setting aside time each day to be still and listen for God's voice.
3. Identify an area where you've been impatient with God's timing. Commit to persevering in prayer for this situation.
4. Reflect on answered prayers in your life. Write a letter of gratitude to God for these blessings.
5. Choose one "unanswered" prayer and consider how God might be using this situation to draw you closer to Him.
6. Examine your prayer life for any "idols" that you turn to when you feel God isn't answering quickly enough. Make a plan to address these.
7. Memorize and meditate on the lyric: "If he never did another thing for me, he is all I'll ever need." How can this truth transform your approach to prayer?

