

UNSHAKEABLE: UNANSWERED PRAYER

SMALL GROUP NOTES - 15/7/18

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SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 55:6-9

OVERVIEW

We all have stories about times we've prayed and not seen anything happen. The pain and disappointment of unanswered prayers can be really difficult to live with, particularly in relation to the salvation or healing of loved ones. Unanswered prayers can easily become obstacles to praying, worship and mission. Yet the teaching of scripture is that God does hear our prayers and does respond. Therefore we need to bridge the gap between our theology and our reality.

Sometimes we have to accept the mystery around unanswered prayer. Isaiah tells us that God's thoughts and ways are higher than ours. We shouldn't always expect to understand how he works but can be confident that He is always good. The bible is also full of other examples where God doesn't answer prayer and there is a clear reason for it.

FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why do we think God doesn't answer prayer sometimes?
2. Share a time when you have prayed for something and God did not answer. What impact did that have on you?
3. How can we become comfortable with mystery?
4. How can we avoid discouragement when we are praying and God is not answering?

GO DEEPER

Read 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. What does this tell us about God's purpose in unanswered prayer?