

SMALL GROUPS

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. Prayer is the difference between the best I can do and the best God can do

- We all face situations where our efforts simply aren't enough
- Prayer connects us to God's unlimited power and wisdom

2. Three Truths About Prayer:

- Prayer puts my unknown future in the hands of an all-knowing God
- Prayer puts my hopeless situation in the hands of an all-powerful God
- Prayer puts my broken life in the hands of an all-forgiving God

3. Three Keys to Faith-Filled Prayer:

- Faith begins with a word (from God's Word)
- Faith builds when we determine not to give up
- Faith breaks through the natural into the supernatural

Discussion Questions

Understanding Prayer

1. James mentions prayer five times in just a few verses (James 5:13-16). Why do you think he emphasizes prayer so strongly? What does this tell us about its importance?
2. The sermon stated that "prayer is available 24-7, yet many of us do not know how to use it." Why do you think we struggle to pray consistently, even though we know it's important?

Building Faith Through God's Word

3. Read Romans 10:17 together. The sermon emphasized that "faith comes by hearing the Word of God." How regularly are you reading or listening to Scripture? What obstacles keep you from spending time in God's Word?
4. Share a specific Bible verse or promise that has become a "word" for you during a difficult season. How did that verse strengthen your faith?
5. Pastor Mack mentioned several promises from Scripture (Joshua 24:15, Psalm 91:2-3, Philippians 4:19). Which of these resonates most with a situation you're currently facing?

Perseverance in Prayer

6. In the story of Elijah, he sent his servant to look for rain seven times before seeing even a small cloud. What does this teach us about persistence in prayer? Have you ever given up too quickly on something you were praying for?
7. Read Hebrews 10:36. What does it mean to "persevere" in prayer? How can we encourage each other not to give up?

Experiencing the Supernatural

8. The sermon said, "Faith breaks through the natural into the supernatural." Elijah literally outran a chariot—something humanly impossible. Have you ever experienced God doing something that seemed impossible? Share your story.

9. What "impossible situation" are you currently facing that needs supernatural intervention? How can this group pray with you in faith?

Praying for Others

10. James ends his teaching by emphasizing turning sinners back to God. Why is praying for the lost just as important as praying for our personal needs?
11. Who are three people in your life who don't know Jesus? How can you commit to praying for them this week?

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Daily:

- Spend 10-15 minutes each day using the Lord's Prayer as an outline (refer to last week's sermon if needed)
- Read or listen to Scripture daily—consider using a Bible app with audio
- Write down one "word" (promise) from Scripture that applies to your current situation

Weekly:

- Identify one "impossible situation" and commit to praying about it daily without giving up
- Share your prayer request with at least one other person from the group for accountability
- Pray specifically for three people who don't know Jesus

Group Commitment:

- Exchange prayer requests via text/email this week
- Check in with at least one group member mid-week to encourage them in prayer

Structured Prayer Exercise:

1. Pray for the Lost (5 minutes)
 - Have each person silently name 2-3 people who don't know Jesus
 - Pray together for God's Spirit to draw them to salvation
 - Pray for opportunities to share the gospel
2. Pray for Impossible Situations (5-7 minutes)
 - Invite members to briefly share their "impossible situation" (one sentence)
 - Have 2-3 people pray specifically for these needs
 - Stand in agreement that God can do the impossible
3. Pray for Faith to Build (5 minutes)
 - Ask God to help each person get into His Word consistently
 - Pray for perseverance not to give up in prayer
 - Ask for supernatural breakthrough in the natural circumstances
4. Close with Worship (3 minutes)
 - End by thanking God for who He is
 - Praise Him for being all-knowing, all-powerful, and all-forgiving

Memory Verse for the Week

James 5:16b (NIV) "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

Closing Thoughts

Remember: You become righteous not by your own efforts, but through Christ. When you're in Christ, God has made you right, and your prayers are powerful and effective. Don't give up—keep praying, keep believing, and watch God work!

Additional Resources

- Download a Bible app (YouVersion, Bible Gateway) with audio features
- Consider starting a prayer journal to track prayers and answers
- Review last week's sermon on "How to Pray" for the foundational prayer outline