

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

### PRAYER

#### 3 Reasons Why God Answers Prayer

September 4, 2011



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Please be prayerful and diligent in rising up new leaders to provide Pervasive Hope throughout the county. There are plenty of ways to do this without losing that solid group dynamic we all bring so well every week. Your Area Leader would love to connect with you and develop a plan to help make this possible.
2. Don't forget to check your email for the Monthly Report. Last day to fill out the report for August is September 5<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!
3. If you have not yet set up your new InFellowship One account for the new Groups 2.0 directory, please do so soon. Even if your group is closed on the directory, we ask that you do this anyway. See the weekly email for the links to set this up.

## MEMORY VERSES

"So that by two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us." (Heb. 6:18 ESV)

"Whatever you ask in my name, this I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it." (John 14:13-14 ESV)

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS – PRAYER (3 REASONS WHY GOD ANSWERS PRAYER)

### Getting Started

1. Review the 6 points of "AWCIPA Prayer Model" as listed in the lesson plan:
  1. Answered prayer **glorifies** God. *1 Kings 18:37-40*
    - Answered prayer accomplishes God's goals.
    - "And whatever you ask in my name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it." John 14:13-14
    - "So He said to them, 'This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting.'" Mark 9:29

2. Answered prayer **nurtures** non-believers' faith in God. *1 Kings 18:37-40*
  - "Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that you always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." John 11:41-42
3. Answered prayer **improves** faithfulness in believers. *1 Kings 18:37-38*
  - "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my supplications. Because He has inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live." Psalm 116:1-2

2. Have you begun this prayer model in your personal prayer life yet? If so, how has it helped in your intimacy with the Lord?

### **Digging Deeper**

What a great sermon series on prayer and the necessity of it in the daily life of the believer. The study this week will dig deeper into the practicality of prayer. Below are a list of "8 Qualifications" and "9 Hindrances" for and to prayer. You may not have time to look at every example, so at minimum review the lists and discuss the ones that stand out the most to you and your group. At the end of the lists are a few questions that will assist in conversation about the overall response of the lists.

#### **8 Qualifications for Prayer**

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|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Prayer should be humble.                    | Ps. 10:17; Luke 18:13-14 |
| 2. Prayer should be bold.                      | 1 John 5:13-15           |
| 3. Prayer should be in faith.                  | Heb. 11:6                |
| 4. Prayer should be sincere.                   | Ps. 145:18               |
| 5. Prayer should be simple.                    | Matt. 6:7                |
| 6. Prayer should be persistent.                | Luke 18:7; Col. 4:2      |
| 7. Prayer should be definite.                  | Ps. 27:4; Acts 12:5      |
| 8. Prayer should be in accord with God's will. | 1 John 5:14              |

#### **9 Hindrances to Prayer**

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|---|---|
| 1. Unconfessed sin                          | Ps. 66:18                               |
| 2. Insincerity                              | Matt. 6:5                               |
| 3. Carnal motives                           | James 4:3                               |
| 4. Unbelief                                 | James 1:5-6                             |
| 5. Domestic problems                        | 1 Pet. 3:7                              |
| 6. Pride                                    | Luke 18:10-14                           |
| 7. Refusing to submit to biblical teaching. | Prov. 1:24-28, 28:9; Zech. 7:11-14      |
| 8. Refusing to forgive or to be forgiven.   | Matt. 5:23-24, 12, 14                   |
| 9. Refusing to help the needy.              | Prov. 21:3; 1 John 3:16-17 <sup>1</sup> |

1. Of the "8 Qualifications" listed above, which one did you NOT realize was a qualifier for prayer?
2. In #8, it states we should be praying "in accordance with God's will". What do you suppose is God's will for prayer?

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<sup>1</sup> H.L. Willmington, *Willmington's Book of Bible Lists* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1987), 252.

3. Of the “9 Hindrances” listed above, which one do you feel may be hindering your prayers? Explain why.
4. Most people do not realize the importance of confessing their sin to the Lord on a regular basis. Do you have a hard time with the confession if sin? If so, why do you feel that is the case?