

# DISCUSSION GUIDE

## HOW TO HANDLE UNANSWERED PRAYER

Mark — Week 34

**ICEBREAKER:** If you were a master sculptor for a day, what would you sculpt?

**OVERVIEW:** Prayer can be discouraging. On the one hand the Bible emphasizes the need for prayer, but on the other hand it often seems like our prayers go unanswered. This makes it easy to give up on prayer. In this discussion we will go deeper with the sermon with the goal of becoming more effective at prayer.

1. Read Mark 7:24-30. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Luke 18:1-8.
  - What are the key lessons to learn from this story?
  - What does this story teach about persistent prayer?
3. How have you benefitted from prayer?
4. Have you ever been discouraged with prayer? Explain.

5. Two reasons were mentioned for why prayer is essential. What were they, and can you think of other reasons prayer is essential?
6. Why doesn't God answer our prayers?
7. What is it about persistent prayer that honors God?
8. Is there anything that you have stopped praying for that you need to persist?
9. Describe your prayer life? (For example, when and how often do you pray, what do you usually pray for, and how do you feel about your prayer life?)
10. What do you need to do to grow in prayer?

**The Last Word:** When your faith needs testing, God says *Show*. God says, "Show me your faith. Show me if you have the faith to handle unanswered prayer."