

# SERMON on the mount



**ICEBREAKER:** How many days could you last in solitary confinement? How would you do it?

**OVERVIEW:** Unanswered prayer is a reality that all of us will have to face. And the reason it's so important is because if you are not equipped to face it with a Biblical perspective, then you will respond by giving up on prayer, or by giving up on God altogether. In this discussion we will go deeper with "The Answer To Unanswered Prayer."

1. **Read Matthew 7:7-11.** 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 2 Corinthians 12:1-10.
  - What did God give to Paul to keep him humble?
  - What was this "thorn"?
  - How did the thorn affect Paul?
  - What did Paul do about the thorn?
  - What did God do about the thorn?
  - What does this passage teach about prayer? Unanswered prayer?
3. One reason for unanswered prayer is that God blesses persistence. What does it mean to pray with persistence, and why might God want you to persist in prayer?
4. Is there something that you have been praying for with persistence? Why don't you give up?
5. A second reason for unanswered prayer is that God isn't on your schedule; patiently wait for God's timing. Why might God's answer be to wait?
6. A third reason for unanswered prayer is that God only gives good gifts; pray for good things. When is a request bad?
7. How can you make sure that you pray for the right things?
8. In the sermon Andy made the point that sometimes God's greatest blessings are unanswered prayers. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
9. How can you know for sure whether an unanswered prayer is a blessing OR that it is a sign that God doesn't care about you and prayer is pointless?
10. What does it look like to trust God with unanswered prayer? What does it look like when you lack trust?

## Home Group D-Guide

*The Answer to Unanswered Prayer*

**The Last Word:** God will always answer your prayers and do what's best for you, even though sometimes God's best comes in the form of unanswered prayers. So keep praying. Keep seeking. Keep knocking. And when God says "No", be thankful.