

Group Discussion Guide

BONUS SESSION: Why Doesn't God Always Answer the First Time I Pray?

VIDEO LESSON

Luke 11:9

Luke 11:10

Colossians 4:2

Why does God want me to be persistent in prayer?

- **Praying persistently** _____.

Psalm 25:15

Psalm 105:4

- **Praying persistently** _____.

Psalm 25:15

Psalm 105:4

While you are working on your prayer, God is working on you.

Zechariah 13:9

- **God will** _____ **me before he** _____ **me.**

- **Praying persistently** _____.

Matthew 6:33

Psalm 37:4

- **Praying persistently** _____.

- _____ **is a mark of maturity.**

2 Chronicles 32:31

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The first question you have to ask yourself is, “Am I willing to let God change me instead of changing the circumstance?”

Romans 6:13

- Praying persistently _____.

Ultimately, the real question you have to answer is: Do I trust my feelings, or do I trust my Father? Will I trust him even if his answer isn't what I had in mind?

- When _____, God says _____.
- When _____, God says _____.
- When _____, God says _____.

Habakkuk 2:3

- When _____ are all lined up, God says _____.

1 Thessalonians 5:17

Galatians 6:9

DISCOVERY QUESTIONS

Choose the questions that are right for your group and take time to let God work in your lives.

1. Praying persistently teaches us about ourselves. What do you think God is trying to teach you as you wait for him to answer your prayer?
2. Praying persistently tests our faith. Using the model of “no, grow, slow, and go,” in what ways has your faith been tested as you persist in prayer?

3. What has been your greatest highlight or takeaway for you during 40 Days of Prayer?

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

In Your Group: Pray & Give Thanks

The Bible says, “As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord by ending my prayers for you,” (1 Samuel 12:23). So let’s not end our prayers for one another! Let’s put this biblical truth into practice. Make a commitment to check in with each other this week regarding the prayer requests within your group. Spend time praying as a group, giving thanks to God for his goodness over the last 40 days.

In Your Life: The Hand Prayer

Could you use some help organizing your thoughts in prayer? Pray through The Hand Prayer model. Practice this prayer model throughout the week. We hope you will make lifelong commitment to deepening your prayer life. It’s the best way to strengthen your friendship with God.

- **Thumb:** Pray about your heart – is there anything creating a barrier between you and God?
- **Index Finger:** Use this as a reminder to ask God about your priorities and schedule. What is most important?
- **Middle (Tallest) Finger:** Pray about your influence and your example to others
- **Ring Finger:** Pray for the relationships in your life – at work, at school, in your small group, at church, people you serve along side
- **Small Finger:** Pray for material blessings – the needs that you have.