

Discussion Starter: If you could have one wish granted today, what would it be?

## Prayer

### Discussion Questions:

In as few words as possible, define “prayer.” After hearing these shorter answers from group members, construct a more thorough definition as a group.

In our opening question, we discussed having a wish granted. Describe how our prayer life could easily make someone think that we view God as a “genie in a bottle” (someone who exists to grant our wishes). How do we balance our praying to help avoid this trap of only talking to God about what we want right now (*see the Lord’s Prayer in Matthew 6:9-13 if your group gets stuck for ideas*)?

During his sermon, Pastor Ramel mentioned that God answers every prayer – we just miss the answer sometimes because we are not aware of His 3 possible answers to prayer. Do you know what 3 ways God answers prayers (*yes, no, wait*)? Is this line of thought new to you? Does it (or did it when you first considered it) change your perspective on a prayer in the past that you thought God had ignored?

Give an example of a time when you have prayed for the same thing for an extended period of time (months & years – not days and weeks). What helped motivate you to continue praying, even without seeing any tangible results?

According to **Philippians 3:19** and **Psalms 23:1**, what should our fundamental mindset be when approaching God with prayer concerns? What are the biggest stumbling blocks for you for consistently praying from this perspective?

Describe a time that you prayed for God to do something, and He did not grant your request – but looking back on the situation, you are grateful that God did not give you what you asked for.

Read **Romans 8:26**. Has there been a time in your life when you realized that this was the only way you could pray at the moment? Describe it.

Suppose that one of your children or grandchildren comes up to you and asks why she needs to pray if God already knows everything anyway and if God already wants to give us what is best for us. How do you answer her (*some possible answers: prayer changes us as we admit our need for and dependence on God; prayer is obedience because God has told us to do it; prayer is honest conversation with the God who loves us*)?