

Ever Wonder Why? Why Didn't God Answer My Prayer?

TALK IT OVER

Key Scriptures

"And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it." John 14:13-14 NIV

"Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."
Mark 11:24-25 NIV

"Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift." Matthew 5:23-24 NIV

Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.
1 Peter 3:7 NIV

"It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us."
"If you can?" said Jesus. *"Everything is possible for one who believes."* Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, *"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"*
Mark 9:22-24 NIV

... "Your faith has healed you." ...
Matthew 9:22 NIV

... "Your faith has saved you ..."
Luke 7:50 NIV

... "According to your faith let it be done to you"; and their sight was restored. ...
Matthew 9:29-30 NIV

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us—whatever we ask—we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15 NIV

Start talking. Find a conversation starter for your group.

- What initial thoughts do you have when you think about prayer?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- Which part of this message was most impactful for you and why?
- Read **Mark 11:24-25**. Talk about a time when you learned how your relationships with others can impact your relationship with God. Why do you think God cares about our relationships with others?
- On a scale of 1-10, where would you rate your faith in the power of prayer? Why did you give yourself that rating? How can you move your answer closer to 10?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Share about a time when God didn't answer a prayer the way you thought He should. What did you learn through that experience?
- What does it look like to pray so that you can know God better? How will you pray with that purpose in mind this week?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

Father, thank You for the gift of prayer. Please search our hearts and make us aware of any relationships we need to mend, motives we need to fix, or areas where we need more faith. We pray because we want to know You more, so even if we don't understand, we will still believe in Your goodness. In Jesus' name, amen.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week.

- [Do you want to learn more about prayer? Listen to How Prayer Saved One Couple's Marriage, Plus Other Reasons We Pray from the You've Heard It Said podcast: www.go2.lc/whypray](#)
- Start the *Ever Wonder Why?* Bible Plan using Plans With Friends: [www.go2.lc/everwonderwhy](#)
- Consider how you could love others by serving on the weekend or with a Local Mission Partner.