

## Session 5:

# Unanswered Prayer

## Small Group Study Guide

### 1. Introduce the session

5 minutes

#### Key verse

“Your will be done” – Matthew 6:10

- In this session we’ll be tackling the challenges and realities when our prayers aren’t answered.
  - Begin the session by opening in prayer.
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### 2. Watch the Video

25 minutes

#### Bible passages

Mark 14:32-36, Daniel 3, Romans 5:3-5

#### Summary points

- The Bible is honest about unanswered prayer – we are part of a faith that is all about wrestling.
  - God’s world, God’s war, God’s will.
  - God’s silence is not the same as his absence.
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### 3. Discussion Questions

20 minutes

- Q. What did you find most helpful or most challenging in the video?
- Q. How has the reality of unanswered prayer affected your relationship with God?
- Q. Have you ever felt God's silence/absence in seasons of your life and faith? How did you respond?

Pete says, **“We are part of a faith that is all about wrestling”**.

- Q. How do you think we can get better, as communities, at dealing with the realities and challenges of unanswered prayer?
- Q. How can we encourage one another in “faithfulness” as well as “faith”?

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### 4. Do it

10 minutes

Pete says that, **“Even when we don't understand, we can still trust”**. Take time to stop, pause and recommit to trusting God together as a group. You might like to play some worship music and spend time sitting and reflecting.

#### Leader's note

If this is a difficult step for members of your group, you might like to pray specifically into their situation, or you might like to read a Psalm of Lament together (see the Toolshed for instructions and directions on this).

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## Toolshed resources: Unanswered Prayer

These can be found at [prayercourse.org/toolshed](https://prayercourse.org/toolshed)

- The Prayer of Relinquishment
- How to Lament