

“Prayer Does It Change Anything?” Discussion Guide

1. Open the session with prayer. Ask if there is someone who would like to volunteer to pray with the group. If not, be prepared to pray.
2. Ask the group, “What do you remember about the sermon on the call of Moses?”
 - a. In both the testimony by Ty and the sermon the question was asked, “Does prayer change anything?” The answer given is that prayer changes us. Can you recall a time prayer changed you?
3. In Matthew 6.9-10 Jesus prayed about the will of his Father being done on earth. Although we may tend to think in terms of us doing the praying and God miraculously doing the work, God has a long history of accomplishing his will through people. (And God often calls on the people who have done the praying to do the work!) Read Exodus 3.1-2, 7-10; Judges 4.1-7, 14-16; 6.1-6, 11-16; and Nehemiah 1.1-4; 2.1-6; 6.15-16 to discover how God often works.
 - How did God’s will get carried out in each circumstance?
 - What possibilities do these examples raise in regard to your prayers and how God might want to work in partnership with you?
4. When Jesus was teaching his disciples, he left no doubt as to whom God would rely on to carry out the work of his kingdom (see Luke 10.2-3). How well do you think we Christians understand and respond to the balance of prayer and action that the Bible mandates for accomplishing God’s will? Explain.
5. Throughout the Bible, God clearly demonstrates concern for the poor and needy and desires us to join the stream of love and comfort to meet their needs. Read the following passages and note how the early Christians went about accomplishing God’s will in this regard.
 - Acts 2.45; 4.34-35
 - Romans 12.13
 - James 2.15-17
 - 1 John 3.17-18
6. Discuss the role Christians today have in partnership with God to care for the poor and needy. What is the proper relationship between our prayers and actions, and what might accomplishing God’s will look like in our world?
7. Which metaphor is often used in the New Testament to show that God has chosen to use people who embody Christ to dispense grace and love to a needy world? (See 1 Corinthians 12.27; Ephesians 4.11-12).