



A

ctivity

Relate to the group a time when God answered your prayers or the prayers of someone you know.

B

iblical Insight

How important is it to pray according to God's will? Extremely! Too many believers claim all of God's promises for answered prayer, but overlook this condition. Jesus, God's own Son, demonstrated the need to surrender to God in prayer (Luke 22:39-44). Jesus was praying about the "cup" (experience of suffering) that He was soon to endure. This cup was more than just the agony of suffering the pain of the Cross; it was also the most horrible of all pains, separation from the Father. During those dark three hours when the world shook, the sky was darkened, and the anger of the world was cast upon Him, Christ's own Father turned away from Him while He (Christ) became sin for us. This was the greatest pain to be suffered by anyone, greater than an eternity spent in hell. Christ asked that if possible this cup, this separation, would not happen, yet He knew He must endure it so that we could have eternal life.

Don't go to the next section yet. Before continuing, think about what Jesus did for us on the Cross.

C

omposition

According to John 16:24, what is one reason Christians don't receive from God? According to 1 John 5:14,15, what is the confidence believers have?

Although God has promised to always answer our prayers, He doesn't promise to answer them exactly as we expect or desire. Nonetheless, we can be sure He is working in circumstances for our good. Read the following passages. Write the names of the people, what they asked God for, and God's answer.

	NAME	REQUEST	ANSWER
Numbers 11:4-6,31-33	_____	_____	_____
Deuteronomy 3:23-27	_____	_____	_____
John 11:41-44	_____	_____	_____
2 Corinthians 12:7-10	_____	_____	_____

E

valuation

Think of a time when God answered your prayer.

D

iscussion

Read Romans 8:26,27. How can a Christian pray according to God's will?

Lesson 25

A: Answers will vary.

C: Because we don't ask. If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. If He hears us, we know that we have what we asked for.

Reference	Name	Request	Answer
Numbers 11:4–6, 31–33	Israelites	Longed for food from Egypt	God sent quail but in anger He also sent a plague.
Deuteronomy 3:23–27	Moses	Wished to enter the Promised Land	No. But God let him see the land before he died.
John 11:41–44	Mary/Martha	Wanted Jesus to heal their brother	Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead.
2 Corinthians 12:7–10	Paul	Prayed God would remove his thorn in the flesh	God granted him the grace to endure it.

D: We cannot always know what to pray for, but the Spirit can pray through us and intercede with groans that words cannot express.

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