

**October 19 & 20, 2019 | Espresso Shot – Prayer
Group Discussion Questions**

GROUP PREP

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's Weekend Services message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

INTRODUCTION

Prayer. You know it's important. We see in Scripture that Jesus prioritized prayer and we're supposed to be becoming more like Him, so why do we have so much trouble maintaining a consistent prayer life? Unanswered prayers could be one of the reasons. They can cause a great deal of doubt, which leads to lackadaisical communication with God. How do we overcome this debilitating hurdle to growing our faith?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is prayer and why should we pray?

On a scale of 1-10, rate your prayer life this past week. Describe why you gave yourself that rating. If low, what hurdles keep you from maintaining a meaningful prayer life? If high, how do you maintain a healthy prayer life?

2. What is something you've been praying for that you feel God has not yet answered?

Read [John 15:7](#). All of us desire this type of prayer life – full of trust and confidence in God. The caveat is that we must “abide” in Jesus’ will for our lives. Below is Scripture that leads us to believe our prayers could potentially be hindered.

- Read [Mark 11:24-25](#) and [1 Peter 3:7](#). These verses seem to indicate the condition of our relationships with others can affect our prayers. What do you think the connection here might be? Has your ability to pray ever been affected by a relationship?
- Read [James 4:3](#). Describe how someone could be praying for something but their motive may be less than pure.
- Read [James 1:6-7](#). How would you rate the faith you have in God's ability to answer prayers? High, low or somewhere in between? Why?
- Read [1 John 5:14-15](#). How do we know whether or not our prayers are in God's will?

3. Building a strong faith takes persistent and specific prayer. Why do these two habits strengthen our faith? In what ways have you seen God work in the lives of other persistent and specific prayer warriors to build confidence and trust in Him? Have you experienced that in your own life? How so?

ACTION STEP

4. Make a list of the prayers you have that you feel have not been answered. With your group, pray for those requests that may have left you feeling confused, uncertain or even unheard. Be open and honest with God. He can handle it. Ask Him to help you examine your heart, your motives and your faith. Ask Him for a willingness to hear whatever His answer, whatever it may be, and to trust in His goodness and His wisdom.

This coming week, how will you begin to alter your personal prayer life?

OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION

BE THE CHANGE. Emmanuel's Student Small Groups will be holding many different fundraising opportunities this October for their annual fundraising event "Be the Change." This year, they are partnering with Shepherd Community to raise the money necessary to provide two meals a day over Christmas break to children who rely on their school system's free and reduced meal program. Find ways to participate in this project by visiting the [Emmanuel Church Outreach Facebook page](#).

COLLECTING FOR THE COLD: Emmanuel is collecting hats, gloves, coats, socks, and other cold weather apparel for our local nonprofit partners to pass out to families in need this winter. Ask your small group, coworkers, friends and family members to donate any items in their closets they aren't using and drop off the collected items in the bins found in the lobbies of the e-café. We'll be collecting the entire month of October!

To find out more details about these projects or other ways your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at bschafer@eclife.org

FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.

My action step is _____.

This coming week, I will encourage _____ to complete their action step.

Their action step is _____.

My memory verse is _____.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____