



# Life Groups 2018

NLC Life Group Through the Bible Study

Week of September 23, 2018

Sermon: Church Signs |

God Answers Knee Mail

# Life Group Schedule

**15 MIN** Eat, Meet & Greet

**15 MIN** Ice Breaker Game: **Name That Person.** Divide into two teams. Give each person a blank card and ask each person to write five little known facts about themselves on their card. Include all leaders in this game too. Ex: I have a pet iguana, I was born in Iceland, my favorite food is Spam, my grandmother is called Doris and my favorite color is red. Collect the cards into two team piles. Draw one card from the opposing team pile. Each team tries to name the person in as few clues as possible. Five points if they get it on the first clue, then 4, 3, 2, 1, 0. The team with the most points wins.

**Note:** Share from your own experiences. Your authenticity will bring a level of safety and trust that your members may have never experienced before.

## **OPENING PRAYER**

**45–60 MIN** Church Signs | God Answers Knee Mail

## **TALK IT OUT**

**JOB 30:20 (NIV)** “I cry out to you, God, but you do not answer.”

## **MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT UNANSWERED PRAYER**

- “You Don’t Have Enough Faith,” “You aren’t worthy.” “You’re in sin.”
  - › Be careful not to project this on people. It’s shameful, condescending, and condemning.
- None of these lead to LIFE. These feelings lead to shame and guilt, and they demotivate to believe in God’s goodness.

## **READ LUKE 11:5-10**

- The reason many prayers go unanswered is because people stop knocking. They stop praying.

**Q1.** Have you ever prayed about something—maybe even right now!—and felt like God wasn’t answering?

## **GOD ANSWERS KNOCKED DOORS**

- Sometimes the answer is “Yes,” and sometimes “Yes, but not now.” Sometimes it’s “Yes, but not like that,” and sometimes “No.”

## **BENEFITS OF UNANSWERED PRAYER**

1. Unanswered Prayer Deepens Our Relationship With God.
  - Prayer is less about what we want and more about someone we need. **ALWAYS** walk with God, not just when we need something.

**REF: JOHN 15:5**

2. Unanswered Prayer Purifies Our Hearts.

**REF: JAMES 4:2-3**

3. Unanswered Prayer Tests Our Faith.

**REF: LUKE 18:1-8 (NIV)**

- Widows back then were powerless, poor, and needy, but this one had stubborn, persistent faith in the face of resistance.

**Q2.** How do you feel when your prayer goes unanswered? Anxious, unheard, impatient, unworthy, confused, frustrated, forgotten, exhausted, broken, out of control, disappointed, sad, lost, punished?

## 3 Filters of Prayer

### 1. GOD'S WILL

**REF: MATTHEW 6:10; 1 JOHN 5:14-15**

- "God's purpose for us is to be so filled with His will that we forget our own interests." *Watchman Nee*

### 2. GOD'S TIMING

- Some people get married or quit their jobs or move to another city before it's TIME. God's delays are our protection.

**REF: PSALM 27:14; ECCLESIASTES 3:11**

- "You must be patient...until your hands are completely open."  
—*Henri Nouwen*

### 3. GOD'S GLORY

- We don't ever want to just pray for what we want.

**REF: PSALM 79:9; JOHN 6:38; MATTHEW 26:36-46**

- In the garden Jesus prayed three times asking God to cancel the crucifixion plan. But he ended each prayer with "Not my will but yours."

**REF: REVELATION 3:20**

**Q3.** When your prayers aren't answered, how does your prayer change?

**TAKE PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAY OVER NEEDS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**