

Mentor/Student Discussion Guide

Why Should I Pray When God Doesn't Answer All My Prayers?

January 2021

*Your goals in your time together are continue to develop your relationship, to discuss the importance of prayer in the lives of Christian people, and to pray together. Use your own judgment on how much time to devote to each part of the conversation.

*Both mentor and mentee should share answers and thoughts one another.

*Neither person should be made to feel that they should share more than they are comfortable sharing.

*You do not need to make sure you have answered every question listed below. They are provided merely as a way to guide your discussion. Neither should you feel limited to these questions.

*You will not be reporting answers to anyone. If it is helpful to write answers or take notes, feel free to do so knowing that it is not necessary.

*Remember that each Middle Schooler is at a different stage in the transition from concrete to abstract thinking.

*Today you will need a Bible and a Small Catechism.

*Please take a moment to pray together at the beginning or end of your time together. You may pray your own prayer or pray the Lord's Prayer together (or both).

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

Check in

*Check in about any events or conversation from the last time you met.

*Each person share a high and a low (something good and something no-so-good that happened) from the previous week.

Video

*Share one thing that you learned from the video.

*What questions did the video raise for you?

*How have you responded when it feels like God hasn't heard you? When has God answered the way you hoped?

*Do you agree/disagree with the video's description of prayer as a relationship? Why or why not? How would you define "prayer"?

Bible

*Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What do you think Paul means by "pray without ceasing" and "give thanks in all circumstances"?

*Read and discuss Matthew 6:5-13. Why do you think Jesus tells us to pray in secret? Do you think he means to say that we should never pray in public? Why or why not?

-In addition to being a prayer that we pray together, how do you think the Lord's Prayer can also be a model for our own personal prayers?

Questions for Discussion

*When and where do you feel most comfortable praying?

*In what posture are you most comfortable praying (hands folded, hands open, sitting, kneeling, walking...)?

*How or from whom did you learn to pray?

*Is praying easy? Hard? Comforting? Awkward?

*What does it feel like to know that God is with you all the time?

Small Catechism

*Review the Second Commandment and Martin Luther's explanation from the Small Catechism. How could we use the examples of how Luther calls us to use God's name as a model for our own prayers?

*Read and discuss the Lord's Prayer and Luther's explanations of each petition.

