

EGG HUNT

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**WE NEED 500 PEOPLE TO GIVE \$10 TO REACH OUR GOAL!**

SPREAD THE WORD | INVITE A FRIEND

**THE PRAYER  
EXPERIENCE**

**FREE TO ATTEND  
MARCH 24 | 6:30PM**

NO CHILDCARE PROVIDED



# ENCOUNTER JESUS

Week 28 | THE POWER OF ANSWERED PRAYER AND THE PEACE OF CHRIST | John 16:16-33

## WRESTLING WITH UNDERSTANDING GOD ISN'T A SIGN OF WEAKNESS IT'S A SIGN OF INTEREST.

What does the resurrection mean? I mean, really! What does it mean? Now let me guess what you're going to say. It means forgiveness, life, power, new beginnings, hope, love, salvation, and eternal life. Did I get a couple of those right? Well, I want to tell you that according to Jesus, it means something else. It means answered prayer and God's joy. In an interesting exchange with His disciples, Jesus intentionally confuses them to intrigue them. And He intrigues them so they will wrestle with the reality of the new work God would usher in through the resurrection. It is specifically bringing them the amazing blessing of answered prayer! Think about it, the Almighty Creator of the universe, who also happens to be our heavenly Father, answers your prayers. How does that work? What happens when His answers differ from our anticipations? That is part of this beautiful and extraordinary journey that we are on as the children of God!

**Leaders:** Take your group through each section: **Pray, Reflect, and Reach.** Keep in mind the time allowances. In the **Reflect** section, feel free to focus on several of these questions instead of all as time allows.



### **PRAY** (10 min)

As a Life Group, reflect and pray over this weekend's message. Think about the prayers God has answered throughout your life as a Christian. Name them as you pray and thank God.



### **REFLECT** (25 min)

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through the lesson this week, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. **According to the teaching, what does praying in Jesus' name mean? How is the first section of the model prayer (Matthew 6:9-10) connected to praying in Jesus' name? How does this set the framework for how we ask?**

**OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME. YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.**

**MATTHEW 6:9-10**

2. Sometimes the answers to our prayers aren't what we anticipate. Derek contended that even when God says no to something, He is saying yes to something else. In other words, prayer is never unanswered. For Paul, while the relief from Satan's thorn didn't come, the sufficiency of God's grace did. God has the right to overrule our request. **Why does He have this right? Why do you think He sometimes does this? How do you respond when He does?**

**WHEN GOD SAYS NO TO YOUR PRAYER, HE WANTS YOU TO SAY YES TO HIS GRACE.**

# ENCOUNTER JESUS

3. A prayer relationship with God isn't transactional. It's transformational. **According to the teaching, what does this mean? Explain how that looks in your life.**

**...THEREFORE I WILL BOAST ALL THE MORE GLADLY OF MY WEAKNESSES, SO THAT THE POWER OF CHRIST MAY REST UPON ME. FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST, THEN, I AM CONTENT WITH WEAKNESSES, INSULTS, HARDSHIPS, PERSECUTIONS, AND CALAMITIES. FOR WHEN I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG.**  
**2 CORINTHIANS 12:9B-10**

4. **According to the teaching, why does the Father answer your prayers? Discuss in some depth what that means and encourage one another.**



## WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSE

**PSALM 16:11** You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

### THIS WEEK'S MISSIONAL LIVING TIP:

Ask God for the salvation of one person you know who doesn't know Jesus. Focus on that person throughout the week. Ask God to reveal Himself, to open their spiritual eyes that they'd recognize their need for Jesus, and to be convicted of sin and drawn to Christ and His gospel.



## REACH (5 min)

Be humbly bold in your prayers this week. Focus first and foremost on communion with your Heavenly Father. As you submit to Him, His holiness, and His will, be Spirit-led about your requests this week. Expect Him to answer.