UNSHAKEABLE
AGAINST ALL ODDS
WEEK 9: THE KIND OF PRAYER GOD ANSWERS

"If my people who are called by my name and will humble themselves, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and I will forgive their sins and I will heal their land!" -2 Chronicles 7:14

Daniel was tested more in his lifetime than we probably ever will be. Yet, he honored God throughout his life by praying and reading the Scriptures daily. Because of these habits, he gave us a powerful example of the kind of prayer God answers.

There are six steps to this:
1) Let God speak to me before I speak
2) Focus my attention on God
3) Express my desires with emotion
4) Demonstrate my seriousness
5) Thank God for His love and promises
6) Humbly confess my sins

OPENING PRAYER

This is only a guide – select the points you want to discuss.

"So I turned my face to the Lord God, seeking him. . ." -Daniel 9:3a (ESV)

1. Ask group members to briefly speak about a current trouble in their life. How could seeking God provide an answer to the situation? List some ways to focus more intently on God when you come to Him in prayer.

"And I began pleading with God earnestly in prayer. . ." -Daniel 9:3b

2. Discuss how it makes you feel knowing God gets very emotional about you. Why is it important that we return that emotion when we pray? How does strong emotion convey the seriousness of the prayer?

"The people of Israel and the people of Judah together will go in tears to seek the Lord their God. And they will ask the way to Jerusalem, and they will start back home again." -Jeremiah 50:4b-5a

3. If each group member feels comfortable, ask them to describe a time in the past when they sought the Lord in tears. Why is it important we pray together as a community of believers? What are some benefits to praying with fellow Jesus followers?

"I pleaded with him in prayer and fasting, I also wore rough burlap and sprinkled myself with ashes." -Daniel 9:3

4. List what actions you can take when you are crying out in prayer to show God how serious you are about your request. What is the modern-day equivalent of putting on sackcloth and ashes? Have you ever fasted? Why or why not? How did God answer your prayer(s) when you fasted?

DIVING DEEPER (optional)

1. If many of our problems are caused because we didn't seek God first, reflect on a time when you ignored God when making a decision. What was that time like? How did God's absence make you feel? What did you learn about God? What did you learn about yourself?

2. Why is it important to *humbly* confess your sins? When you pray, what does humility look like to you? Are there any disciplines (like kneeling down during prayer, lifting your eyes up to the heavens, lying prostrate on the floor, etc.) that will help you become more humble when talking to God in prayer? Try one today!

Prayer requests and closing prayer.