



Tri-Village Sermon Discussion Questions

Topic: *Disliking the Answer*

Text: Various Scriptures

Service Date: November 30, 2025

Note: The questions are only a starting point for discussion. Don't hesitate to modify, adapt, or highlight only specific ones to fit your group and/or personal study.

Getting Started

- Have you ever had a time when you clearly saw an outcome changed because of prayer?
- This Sunday wrapped up the sermon series on prayer. When have you experienced a time when God seemed to say “no” to a prayer, and how did it impact your faith?
- Why do you think unanswered prayer can be so confusing or painful for believers? Which examples from the sermon resonated with you?

Sermon Discussion

- The sermon highlighted that sometimes unanswered prayers are simply due to conflicting requests (like snow days or football games). How does remembering this help shape your perspective on prayer?
- How do you feel about the idea that some prayers would require God to override free will or the natural laws He created? Does that change how you pray?
- Paul shared that some “no’s” only make sense in hindsight. Have you ever been grateful later for a prayer God didn’t answer the way you wanted?
- Read Lamentations 3:44. This verse describes prayer feeling like it can’t “get through the clouds.” Have you ever felt that way spiritually? What helped you navigate that season?
- One reason for unanswered prayer can be lack of faith—but the sermon also showed that even Moses, Paul, David, and Jesus received “no’s.” How do you balance faith with acceptance?
- The sermon mentioned that sin can hinder our prayers. How does regularly examining your heart, as in Psalm 139, shape your prayer life?
- What role does forgiveness play in opening up our communication with God? Are there grudges or bitterness that might be affecting your prayers?
- Read James 4:3. This verse warns about praying with selfish motives. How can we discern the difference between a legitimate desire and a self-centered one?

- When God says “no,” the first response the sermon suggests is to examine ourselves. What does healthy spiritual self-examination look like for you? Have you found that this process changes (and even has gone deeper) the more your faith has grown over time?
 - Sometimes, we must trust God even when we don’t understand His “no.” What makes trusting God difficult in those moments? What helps you trust Him anyway?
 - The sermon encouraged focusing on eternity, especially when prayers go unanswered. How does an eternal perspective reframe our suffering, disappointments, or unanswered prayers?
 - The story of Angela’s family showed how God used a tragedy to change lives eternally. How have you seen God bring spiritual growth, purpose, or hope out of a painful “no” in your own life or someone else’s?
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This Week’s Action Response

- The holiday season is coming up and with it, there can often be a sense of extra busyness in life. Knowing that it will tend to be busy but also require us to be more intentional if we want to stay engaged in prayer and Scripture, what are some ways you will intentionally focus on your spiritual walk above the busyness of the holiday season?
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Resources/Books from the Sermon

Disappointment with God by Philip Yancey
My Utmost for His Highest by Oswald Chambers
A Heart for God by Elisabeth Elliot

Upcoming Impact Opportunity (tri-village.org/events)

- Caroling at Nursing Homes- Wed., Dec. 3, 5:30-7pm