

## Crucial Questions

# If God is Sovereign, Why Do We Pray?

### CONNECT:

What comes to mind when you think of prayer?

### PREPARE:

- What are some reason that hinder you from praying?
- To answer our crucial question, we must define our terms. What does sovereign mean?
- Why does God's sovereignty make us question prayer?
- Here is what prayer is NOT:
  - manipulation of God (Read Ecclesiastes 5:1-7)
  - a performance (Read Matthew 6:5)
  - to let God know what we need (Read Matthew 6:8, Psalm 139:4)
- Here is what prayer IS:
  - personal communication with God

### STUDY AND DISCUSS:

- Read 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. What is one reason we are to pray?
- Why do we pray?
  - To express our trust in God and is a means to trust him more; God delights in our dependence on him.
  - To love God and have fellowship with him.
  - To be involved in activities with eternal importance
- Read James 4:2. Read Exodus 32:9-14. Does prayer change the way God acts?
- Read 2 Chronicles 7:14. Read 1 John 1:9. How do you explain the way God acts because of prayer when we also know the truth of Numbers 23:19 and Malachi 3:6?

## Community Group Discussion Questions

- Read Ephesians 1:11. How can having a good understanding of God's sovereignty lead to a more active prayer life?
- Read Romans 8:26-27 and Ephesians 6:18. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in prayer?
- Read Hebrews 11:1 and Mark 11:4. We're told to pray with faith, and yet we sometimes struggle having faith. Read Mark 9:24. How does this verse encourage you?
- Read Philippians 4:6-7 and James 4:2-3. In these verses, how does prayer change things in our lives?

### RESPONSE:

We pray out of obedience. We pray with faith. We pray according to God's will. We pray to praise God. We pray to confess sins. We pray to ask for help. We pray earnestly. We pray in humility. We pray consistently. We pray in private. We pray with others. We pray with thanksgiving. We pray when God answers. We pray when God is silent. We pray for those we love. We pray for our enemies.

- Let's take the 7-Day prayer challenge this week. (<https://www.bible.com/en/reading-plans/16086>)
- Join us for our Prayer Gathering this week on Wednesday night, from 5:30 - 6:30 in the worship center.

### PRAY:

Lord, we acknowledge that you are sovereign and we praise you for that! We also acknowledge that our understanding of how prayer changes things in light of your sovereignty is at times a mystery. We trust you and love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.