



Sermon Discussion Guide
Week of 02/11/2018

➤ ***Icebreaker***

Introduce yourselves again if you have some new people in your group. What do you do for a living- what do you like the most and the least about your job?

➤ ***Announcements***

Please pray as we calculate the cash and 3 year pledge donations and work towards our \$1,000,000 goal.

Please go over the Guidelines for a Healthy LifeGroup even if your group is largely the same as last session.

➤ ***Prayer Time***

➤ ***Discussion Questions***

What are some of the perspectives you've heard from others regarding prayer? Why does the concept of prayer raise so many questions? Why is there so much mystery to prayer?

Read Isaiah 9:1-2; 6-7. Why is the prophecy in Isaiah predicting a future Messiah so important in understanding Jesus preaching, teaching, and healing ministry? According to these verses what are some of the things expected of the future Messiah? What does Matthew say about the fulfillment of this prophecy in Matthew 4:12-17.

According to Matthew 4:18-22 and Matthew 4:23-25, how does Jesus bring hope and push back darkness? How does Jesus' teaching- the Sermon on the Mount in in Matthew chapters 5-7- do the same thing? How does prayer accomplish this same goal?

Read the story of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:1-17. What thoughts and emotions did she likely experience? How do most people respond to such difficult circumstances? How did prayer in 1:18-20, change her? What role did perseverance in prayer play in Hannah's breakthrough?

Why is it significant that Hannah worshipped even though her circumstances had not changed? Why it is important that we continue to pray and worship when our circumstances remain difficult?

What does James 5:16 and 2 Chronicles 7:14 say about the power of prayer? What prayers have you seen answered? How can our prayers bring hope and push back darkness? What will happen if we stop praying?

> ***Conversational Prayer: Dear God help me...***