

IS ANYBODY UP THERE?
WEEK 4 DISCUSSION GUIDE
"PRAY TOGETHER"

READ

This week we concluded our series, "Is Anybody Up There", by reflecting on how prayer can change our relationships. We started by taking a look at why relationships are so difficult.

James 4:1-2

What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight...

James points out that unmet needs and expectations are the reason that we fight.

James 4:2

...You do not have because you do not ask God.

Often, we place demands on people that they cannot possibly fulfill, we seek from others what only God can give. James encourages us to go to God for what we need. When we go to God for what we need, it helps us experience peace with the people in our lives. Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper can help us understand how this works.

John 17:9-10

I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine...

Jesus is praying for His friends something simple but important. "They are yours." Jesus acknowledges that they are God's first. We tend to be possessive about relationships, the more possessive we are of people the more jealous and controlling we are.

Jesus' prayer for His friends isn't rooted in what He wants for them, but what God wants. He is surrendering His friends to God. The thing we probably need to surrender most is our relationships, our hopes, dreams and expectations for those in our lives. We need to stop defining ourselves or our happiness by someone else's choices or desires. When we define ourselves by who we are in God and live dependent on Him we become free to enjoy the people around us and to encourage them to find their uniquely full life in Him.

DISCUSS

Why do you think we have a tendency to try to get from others what we can only get from God?

In James 4:1-2 he points out that we quarrel and fight because of unmet needs and desires, have you found this to be true in your life?

Share about a time that you have taken your needs to God rather than expecting to have them fulfilled by someone else.

In Scott's message he challenged us to think about our closest relationships and to ask ourselves – are you more focused on what you want for them or what you want from them. Talk about this with your group.

What are some things that you have a tendency to expect from others that you should seek from God instead?

PRAY FOR YOUR GROUP

Pray that we will take our needs to God rather than expecting others to fulfill our needs. Pray that we will focus on what we want for others rather than from them.

PRAY FOR FCC

Pray that we would define ourselves by who we are in God and that we would live lives dependent on Him.

PRAY FOR OUR GLOBAL PARTNERS

Human trafficking is more prevalent than anyone wants to believe, not only abroad but also here in our own country. Please pray for wisdom as we reach out to partner with organizations and other churches to do our part to bring awareness to this issue.