

Luke 8:40-50

1. Desperation.

2. Motivation.

Prayer is bringing our requests to God through Jesus.

If we don't take our fears to Jesus, our fears may take us out.

3. Expectation.

Luke 8:49

Faith is believing what God says more than what we can see.

Psalms 27:13 (AMP); Luke 8:50-55

4. Determination.

"Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you." — St. Augustine

Philippians 4:4-6 (NIV)

Our prayers matter to God because we matter to God.

Small Group Outline & Discussion Questions

Celebrate and Care:

Have each person share a high and low from this past week.

Review:

Faith conquers fear when you bring your concerns to Jesus. We can pray faith-filled prayers in the midst of fear-filled despair.

Open Up:

Talk about a time when you experienced a display of God's power in the delay of a situation.

Discuss:

Choose one or two questions for your group to discuss as time allows.

- ▶ What do you think of when you hear a phrase like, "God's not in a hurry, but he's never late"?
- ▶ Read Psalm 27:13. The world says, "Seeing is believing" but in the kingdom we know that believing is seeing. What does God want us to believe and then see?
- ▶ "Pray as though everything depended on God. Work as though everything depended on you" (St. Augustine). How can people do both?
- ▶ Faith is "trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse" (Philip Yancey). How can this mindset shift how we view our situations? And how can we grow in "trusting in advance"?

Engage:

Spend 1-2 minutes in silence with these questions then share your thoughts.

Where is there a sense of despair in your life that God wants to use to initiate connection with him?

Read Philippians 4:4-6. How does God want you to pray through your situation in expectation?

Pray:

Thank God for the situations in your life that offer a connection with him.