

5. The power of prayer

Thirty-minute discussion



HOOK:

- If you had a magic wand, what one thing would you change on this planet?
- Regarding your experiences with evangelism and prayer, have you prayed sincerely for opportunities or help – and God answered?

BOOK:

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day.” John 6:44

- Have you ever tried to convince a person of the Christian faith, but could not? Tell us about your experience.
- What does the above scripture say about the human heart, and how it responds to God’s messages?

“You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

- Explanation: This was said in the context of explaining God’s blessings that would be toward Israel after their 70 years of exile – but this is also reflective of how God responds to all people.
- What does this verse say about how the human heart finds God?

LOOK:

- What do you think the relationship is between the above two points (...only God can draw a heart – yet people can choose)? They might seem to contradict each other - how might we resolve this? (See footnote)
- Have you ever talked with someone, and discovered during the conversation that God was already drawing them – even though they hadn’t yet come to a full realisation of what God had done for them through Jesus?

TOOK:

- What is it that you will take away from this discussion to apply?

Prayer

- Pray for those you desire to see come to faith in Jesus
- Pray for the strengthening of your personal devotional lives, through which our ability to hear and discern God’s voice is developed.
- Pray for eyes to see how God is already working in people’s lives, so you can synch with what God is doing in your conversations.

Footnote: Jeremiah 29 reflects that it is possible for people to genuinely humble their hearts and seek God. To all who sincerely seek after him, God promises that they will find him, because God is already ready to reveal himself to people! However, it is likely that very few people would seek after God naturally/by themselves. Jeremiah 17:9 explains how *“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”* This is why the greater effectiveness of our outreach efforts is really dependent upon God. God-alone can touch and ‘draw’ a heart to himself – giving them an improved opportunity of considering his love, and turning to him. Even for some who seek spiritual Truth, a divine revelation is needed for them to realise who Jesus is. This is why prayer and why sensitivity to God leading are important.