

# PRAYER REIMAGINED

August 12 & 13

## OBSTACLES

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### INTRODUCTION

Prayer can move you from clutter to clarity, give you courage in the face of criticism, and dig through the layers of your life. With such rewards, why is it many of us still struggle with prayer in our lives? In week two of *Prayer: Reimagined*, we consider the obstacles that hinder us from further connecting with God through prayer.

### DISCUSSION

1. Hebrews 11:6 states "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." What are barriers in your prayer life? What practices or tools have you used to overcome such barriers?
2. Pride and self-reliance are often hindrances to continuous and consistent conversation with God. When have you seen this in your own life? What biblical examples do you use as reminders to keep God first as you pray?
3. **Read John 11.** When has God said 'no' to you as he did to Mary and Martha? With time, have you seen the greater plan God had in place at that moment?

### THINK ABOUT IT

In 1990, Garth Brooks released the song "Unanswered Prayers," a reflection of a man who in his youth prayed hard for a relationship to last but years later sees the wisdom in God's different plan. During the creative process, Garth and co-writer Pat Alger struggled to complete the song. In an interview, he commented it was the comment of co-writer Larry Bastian that brought everything together.

"... [Larry] looked at me and said, 'Oh, that's simple. This song should be called "Unanswered Prayers" because some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers.' This is probably the truest song I have ever been involved with as a writer... Every time I sing this song, it teaches me the same lesson... happiness isn't getting what you want, it is wanting what you've got."

"Unanswered Prayers" remains one of Brooks' most popular recordings, no doubt due, in part, to the fact so many of us can relate to that simple line contributed to the song from Larry Bastian, "some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."

### DO SOMETHING

1. Continue your 14-Day Prayer Challenge using the booklet available online. If you missed last week, no worries! Simply join in Monday with day 8.
2. Day 14 is just the beginning! Upon completing the challenge, reach out to someone and complete the challenge again as a pair or small group.