

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Read Matthew 26:39, Mark 14:36 and Luke 22:42, Mark 11:24, James 5:16. Do you think Jesus' prayer was answered?

How do you reconcile the answer to Jesus' prayer with His words in Mark 11:24?

What do these verses teach you about prayer and submission to God's will?

Skim through 1 Kings 18, Genesis 18: 16—33, Jonah 4, Exodus 32:1—14, Numbers 23:19, 1 Samuel 15:29. In the books of Numbers and 1 Samuel, we are told that God does not change His mind. And yet, in each of these examples, it would appear that God did change His mind. How do you explain this seeming discrepancy? Do our prayers change the outcome that God has planned?

In the light of the session we just heard, do you think the instances cited here are God's sovereign will or His revealed will?

What recurring ideas do you find in these stories?

What is the role of the mediator? Whom is God calling you to mediate for?

LAST WORD

Praying for God's will to be done and really meaning it can be painful. After all, crucifying the self is not an easy task. As you struggle to accept God's will and make sense of it, remember that God is sovereign. He sees the beginning from the end. While prayer does very often bring a change in our situation, it could also change the person making the prayer.

Horizontal lines for writing answers to the questions.

LIVE IT OUT

Select at least one activity below to complete before watching the next session.

Pray: Pray that over the course of the rest of this study, God will reveal or confirm His will in a certain situation for you or for a loved one.

Meditate: Think back to a time when God did not answer your prayer but looking back, you find that this apparent lack of answer was in fact the perfect answer.

Memorize: 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and Micah 6:8.
