

ACTION STEP

We've read several Bible verses, heard two messages and discussed. It's time to put the words into action.

Examine your current circumstances and any disappointments you might be facing, and ask God the following questions: is there any area in my life where I've missed the mark? Is there anything I need to learn from this situation? What might God be protecting me from that I don't see?

Write down some of your conclusions...

PRAYER

Ask how you can pray for one another this week. Then, close in prayer, mentioning each request and person before the Lord.

(Tip: Depending on the size of your group and time allowed, you may need to break up into "prayer squares" or "prayer triangles." — Groups of three or four within the group.)

Finish by reciting The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For Yours is the kingdom and the power
and the glory forever.
Amen." — Matthew 6:9-13 NIV

LIFE AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE

Week 2: The Prayer of Surrender

For Small Group Meetings, September 21-27

CHECK BACK

Before moving forward, check back on last week's content and action step. *"Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name."* How did you do in focusing on relating to God as your Father and reflecting His character to others? How did your action step turn out?

VIDEO NOTES

"Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven. — Matthew 6:10

How To Pray Through Disappointment

1. Tell God how you _____

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7 NIV

I feel...

- Messed with
- Manipulated
- Mad
- Missed

2. Ask God for what you might be _____

After the celebration was over, they started home to Nazareth, but Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents didn't miss him at first because they assumed he was among the other travelers. — Luke 2:43-44 NLT

KEVIN!

What might I be missing? Questions to ask...

- Have I sinned?
- Is there something I need to learn?
- Is God protecting me from something I can't see?

3. Thank God for what he's _____ in the past

And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. — Ephesians 5:20 NLT

4. Accept where _____ has you today

"Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." — Matthew 6:10 NIV

You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail. — Proverbs 19:21 NLT

So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. — 1 Peter 5:6 NLT

5. Trust God's _____ for your future

For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. — Jeremiah 29:11 NLT

6. Position yourself for God's _____

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. — Ephesians 5:15-17 NIV

- Does this position me to worship Christ and give to His kingdom?
- Does this position me to better belong to Christ's family, the church?
- Does this position me to grow in Christlike character?
- Does this position me to serve Christ's will?
- Does this position me to share God's message?

Don't let today's _____
keep from tomorrow's blessing

SCRIPTURE READING

Read Ephesians 5:1-20

(Tip: Take turns reading one paragraph at a time, out loud. You may use your own Bible or the Bible section in the Rock Brook app. If you're reading from various translations, don't let that deter you. Hearing passages in various versions can provide additional insight.)

KEY QUESTION

"Point 3: Thank God for what he's done in the past." Remembering yesterday's blessings will help you endure today's sufferings; how can "zooming out" help change your perspective on your current situations?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Begin by simply reading through the six points on how to pray through disappointment.

1. What stood out to you from this message on how to pray through disappointment? (It doesn't have to be a deep insight. It could simply be an extra note taken, or something you remember or highlighted.)
2. What do you tend to turn to when you're disappointed? (Old habits? Addictions? Inward? Places? Stubbornness? Other?)
3. The decision making grid about positioning yourself for God's blessing includes questions about worship, belonging, growing, serving and sharing. Are these things on your radar when you make decisions?
4. Which of those five areas under point 6 do you feel most challenged by right now, and why?