



## AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD

### Discussion Guide

#### Prayer: A Conversation with God

We all pray. Even those who may not actually believe in God find themselves praying sometimes. In the new movie **AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD**, we meet Paul Asher, a journalist fresh off covering the war in Afghanistan. The experience has completely changed his outlook on life and he is struggling with a lot of questions. He prays, he wonders where God is in all the horrible things he has seen, he wants answers.

How often in our lives are we in the same place as Paul? Life has thrown us off course, given us more than we can handle; maybe we are carrying a burden for a friend or family member. Often in these situations, we wonder where God is; we ask why these things are happening; we talk AT God instead of TO God; we might even raise our voices to make sure He hears us.

Yet prayer is not a one-way form of communication; prayer is a conversation with God. When we yell we only hear ourselves. Part of praying is also listening, experiencing, being quiet. The next time you are at the end of yourself, frustrated in the struggle, take a minute to be quiet and listen. That is where you might actually hear God and experience the peace He has for you.

**Scripture:** Read 1 John 5:14-15; 2 Chronicles 16:11; Jeremiah 29:12

#### Discussion Questions:

1. How often do you pray?
2. From what you read in Scripture, what are some of the character traits of God?
3. Think of a time when you felt God was silent. What was that like for you?
4. Have you ever had a clear answer from God?
5. What are some things you need prayer for now? As a group, spend some time now praying.

DAVID STRATHAIRN      AN      BRENTON THWAITES

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AUGUST 20, 21 & 22  
IN SELECT THEATERS

## **Faith: When You Talk to God, Do You Believe?**

With faith, we believe we are talking to the maker of the universe, the one who controls all things, the one who sent His son to die on a cross for me, the one who knows my path before I do. This is the basis for our prayers; we pray because we have faith.

How often do you pray because it's something you have been trained to do? Maybe you pray just because you have no other solution to your problem. Prayer is the ultimate sign of faith: it is saying to God that you need Him, you trust Him, and you know He has the power to act on your prayer request. Faith is simply believing, with your whole heart, that God can do what you cannot do. Faith is not what we can see or know; it is believing in what we do not see, what we know God can handle and we can't.

Paul has a crisis of faith in **AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD**. He has been shaken by what is going on in his life—returning from Afghanistan, a marriage on the rocks, and friends who are suffering. He understands there are many forces working against us. But the One who is for us, the One who can make a difference, the One who holds it all in His hands, is the same One he can talk to and put his faith in. Paul comes to a place of pure faith when he can see beyond the circumstances and see how God is working.

**Scripture:** Read James 1:6; Mark 11:24; John 11:40; Matthew 17:20

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1.** What are some of the things that stand in the way of your Faith?
- 2.** Do you have questions that keep you from firmly trusting God?
- 3.** Have you seen God work through your faith? How?
- 4.** What are you holding on to right now that you won't let God take control of?
- 5.** Discuss what a person who lives by faith looks like.

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## Focus On Others

When we are going through difficult times, it helps to focus on others. While working in Afghanistan in **AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD**, Paul built good relationships with some of the people he met. They reached out to him for help as they struggled with re-entering back into the American culture. Paul did what he could to help, calling people he knew who could offer hope to his new friends.

When we are struggling, sometimes it helps to redirect our pain by helping others who might also be struggling. If you are having a hard time seeing God in your pain, perhaps He wants to show Himself to you in someone else's journey. There is something healing about helping, about giving ourselves for others, or giving our time to sit with and pray for a friend. You might just need a break from thinking about your own problems to focus on others instead.

**Scripture:** Read Galatians 6:2; Hebrews 6:10; John 15:12; Hebrews 13:16

## Discussion Questions:

1. When is the last time you served someone—without being asked to? What did it feel like serving them?
2. What are some ways you can easily help others?
3. Has anyone ever served you or helped you in a time of need? How did that make you feel?
4. As a group, discuss some ways you can impact someone's life today.

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## See What God is Doing

So often when we pray, we are doing so in order to move on to the next thing on our to-do list. In **AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD** we see Paul rushing through life, focused on his struggles. It's not until he begins to look around and take deep breaths that he really sees how God is impacting his life—and answering his prayers. It's important that we pay attention to see what God is doing.

What if you just took a minute or two after you pray to be quiet and just listen? At the end of the day, think about how and where God showed up. The reality is: God uses His people to accomplish His work. This might be hard for you to see, but through words and actions, He does. We don't often pay attention enough, we don't look at each other, we don't really believe that God is orchestrating answers to our prayers through family, friends, and even strangers.

Henry Blackaby, co-author of *Experiencing God*, states: "Right now, God is working all around you." Simple words, but full of truth. We need to begin looking around to see what God is doing; after all, He is working all around us. So often, we are so busy, so focused on ourselves that we simply cannot see Him. Start paying attention ... you will be amazed!

**Scripture:** Read Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Proverbs 3:5-6; James 1:5

## Discussion Questions:

1. When was the last time you saw God work?
2. Have you ever experienced God in a way that surprised you?
3. How can you experience God more?
4. If you were sitting across the table from God, what would you ask Him?