

## **Class Meeting #4 – Discussing Word Answers to Prayer from Video 3**

---

### *Leader's prayer focus for this week:*

*Pray that group members will become more confident in their ability to hear from God.*

### *Roadmap of what you'll be doing during class:*

- **Discuss:** Word Prayer Answers from Video 3.
- **View Video 4:** How Prayer Shapes our Future – Part 1

### *Step by Step Lesson Plan:*

**Goal:** To help students explore how to receive words from God in answer to their prayers.

**Main idea:** Word answers are ideas sent from God that I choose to act on in order to move forward.

**Activity 1: Gathering, introducing new members and Opening Prayer.** (5 minutes) Re-establish that this is a series on personal prayer and the importance of trying out new ways of praying at home.

Introduce new members. Remind the class this is a series on personal prayer and the importance of trying out new ways of praying at home.

If doing the 100 Answered Prayer Challenge, give each participant an answered prayer form and encourage them to write down an answer to prayer they discovered during the last week. Collect answers and total them up.

**Activity 2:** Briefly review the **Key Ideas of Session 3 - Word Answers** from the Action Guide.

If you'd like to summarize Karen Barber's personal story from Video 3 see Appendix B. (5 Minutes)

**Activity 3: Day 1- Review Mirror** Discuss the Rearview Mirror questions. (20 Minutes)

**Question 1:** Describe the person or other sources you go to when you need advice.

This question is designed to help participants think through how others might be a source of word answers in their lives.

**Question 2:** Describe how words someone said either helped you or hurt you.

Even a joking comment can make us feel upset and rejected. You might pose this question in terms of something a boss or teacher said that helped or hurt us. The purpose of this question is to help us become more aware of the incredible power of words and how they often have long-lasting effects.

**Question 3:** Describe a thought or idea that you've had that seemed to come from God.

Participants may not have anything specific to share on this answer. If they don't, emphasize that one of the challenges of interactive personal prayer is to learn how to hear answering thoughts from God.

**Question 4:** : To you, what's the hardest part about getting thoughts and ideas from God?

Here are some ideas:

- We might not know enough about God.
- We might be doing things we know we shouldn't and so we block out God's voice.
- We've never tried it before.
- We think it sounds hard if not impossible to hear from God.
- We might be doing so much talking God doesn't have a chance to answer.
- We might not be ready or willing to listen.
- We might be scared God will tell us to do something hard.
- We may not know enough about the Bible to know the kinds of things God might say.

**Activity 4: Discuss homework results from Days 2, 3, 4 and 5.** (30 minutes) For each section Read the "Consider This" section and the "Try This" questions out loud, then invite comments and discussions.

**Watch and Pray: You are now entering the workshop of the Holy Spirit in the individual lives of participants.**

**Activity 5 – (Optional) Postcards** (5 Minutes) Invite questions and comments.

Or pose this question: How have you always assumed God speaks to other people?

**Activity 6 -View Video #4 How Prayer Shapes the Future-Part 1** (20 Minutes) Invite any comments or questions after the video.

**Activity 7: Closing Prayer and Wrap- up** (5 Minutes) Remind participants of the daily activities in the Action Guide and to bring the guides back to class with them. Have the leader or a class member who volunteers close in prayer.

*Notes:*