



# The Power of Prayer

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**Focus** The two most powerful reasons we should pray are because God is sovereign and He does not change. God desires to move on our behalf in response to our prayers.

**Fun** If you could pick one food that could magically be calorie-free and completely nutritious, what would you choose and why?

**Review** Key Scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1–2

## The Sovereignty of God

*Jeremiah 32:8–11*

Sovereignty means supremacy. God is the supreme ruler of the universe, yet He has given us stewardship over the earth. He created us in His image, therefore we have a will. His will or desire takes place when people partner with Him through prayer.

## The Immutability of God

*Malachi 3:6; James 1:17; 1 John 5:14–15*

Immutability means unchangeable. God will always be powerful, merciful, and compassionate. He won't change His character; however, He can change His mind. God can be moved to show us mercy by our repentance and prayer.

**\*Group Dynamics Idea\*** Schedule a time for your group to attend a Pray First event together at the nearest Gateway campus. If possible, arrange to go to coffee or breakfast to connect afterward.

## Discuss

1. What is your first response when you think about prayer? What are some hesitations people may have about praying to the Lord?
2. Have you ever seen God's sovereignty as a reason not to pray? Before this message, what did "the sovereignty of God" mean to you?

3. Read Malachi 3:6. Why should His immutability or inability to change give us confidence to pray?
4. Read Exodus 32:14. Like He did for Abraham, Moses, Jonah, and others, God will change His mind and therefore the fate of a person, city, or nation in response to a repentant prayer. What does this mean to you?
5. Read 1 Timothy 2:1–2. We are to pray for all leaders and people in authority. Ask your group members to write down the names of the following people: the president, vice president, state governor, state senators, and representatives. Name the pastor or pastors of your church. Take a few minutes to pray and ask for volunteers to pray over each name. Then close by asking your group to pray for their leaders this week.

**Take Home** As we conclude, remember the following:

- The Lord has supreme reign over all the earth.
- The stewardship of the earth was lost to Satan, but Jesus bought it back.
- Repent means to change your mind. The Lord can repent or relent.
- Sometimes God gives a word or prophecy to get people to repent.
- Commit to praying regularly to the God of the universe who will move on your behalf.

**Prayer** Lord, You are the supreme ruler of all things. We are grateful You never change. You are good, merciful, compassionate, and always forgiving. Reveal to us any area of our lives that is not in line with Your will. Lord, we commit to partnering with You in prayer to bring about Your will in our lives. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**\*New Leader Tips\*** Prayer is an important aspect of small group ministry. Open and close your gatherings in prayer as much as possible. Sharing prayer requests and praying for each other is also very important but can take a great deal of time depending on your group size. Consider setting aside time once a month to break into smaller groups of two or three people to share and pray.