

### DISCUSS

How have you seen the cause and effect of prayer and God's response in your own life? What have you asked for and seen God provide in response?

What are you asking God to do in your life today?

As you compare your life before Christ and your life after coming to know Him, how has your perspective changed toward God's Word?

In what ways have you grown more disciplined in "keeping" His Word? Where do you find yourself struggling with consistency?

What are some areas in your life where you find full obedience most difficult?

What are some of the factors blocking that obedience?

Having watched this session, has the Holy Spirit convicted you of any ways that you are trying to obey apart from God's transforming power? How would your efforts change if you asked God to change your heart?

What can you do practically over the next week to plead with God to change your heart the way David does in these verses?

How would your life look different if God created in you wholehearted obedience?

How do you tend to respond to someone telling you what to do?

How is that response reflected in the way you tend to react to the commands in the Bible? In what ways does it affect how you see the heart of God behind His commands?

In Psalm 34:8, what does David say we find out about God when we “taste” of His ways?

How have you experienced God’s goodness in your obedience to Him? How has God shown Himself as kind and gracious to you?

How should that change the way you approach His commands? Or to put it another way, how should it cause you to trust in the goodness of God’s commands going forward?

What do you find yourself most tempted to use for your own purposes rather than in service to the Lord?

What would it look like to devote that resource more fully toward God’s purposes? What would need to change about your life currently?

What are some of the “worthless things” we pursue instead of chasing after the things of God?

How do those distractions keep us from displaying Christ to a lost world? In what ways do they weaken our witness?

According to Philippians 4:8, where does Paul say to fix our perspective?

What kind of difference do you think this perspective would make in your life?

How did Matt describe the experience of fearing God?

How have you experienced the fear of God in your own life? In what ways did it affect you?

What were the two fruits Matt keyed in on as results of David’s prayers?

How do verses 41–46 demonstrate a freedom from the fear of what others think?

How have you dealt with a fear of rejection in your own life?

How should the truth of our adoption in Christ inform our penchant for perfectionism? How should it confront our fears?

Where are you in need of God to supply you with boldness to overcome your fears?

How do verses 46–48 demonstrate a confident walk with Christ?

In what ways do you experience doubt? How do you respond to the doubts in your life?

Where do you need God to create confidence in you today?

What does the father ask of Jesus in Mark 9:24?

How should this prayer change the way you approach God with your doubts and fears?

## LIVE IT OUT

**Pray:** Each day this week, pray the prayer of the father in Mark 9:24 and trust that God will help your unbelief.

**List:** Write down at least 2–3 specific items you are asking God to accomplish in your life. Place them somewhere that you will regularly see them in order to pray daily over them and rejoice when God responds to your prayers.

**Reflect:** Take some time this week to reflect on your life before Christ and how He has transformed you since. Be encouraged by the work He has done in you and allow the Holy Spirit to minister to your heart as you resolve to pursue Christ.

**Give:** Recall whatever you identified as the thing you're most tempted to use for your own purposes rather than in service to the Lord (money, time, influence, etc.). Find a practical way this week to intentionally devote a portion of that in service to God and as a blessing to those around you.

**Draw:** If you have a creative leaning, draw an image of what you believe best pictures a biblical fear of God. Hang the image in a place for you to see it daily so that you can be reminded of the freedom that comes with fearing the Lord.