

**“Prayer is not overcoming God’s reluctance.
It is laying hold of God’s willingness.”**
--George Mueller

1 John 5:13-15

¹³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God that you may know that you have eternal life. ¹⁴And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Opening question:

1. How would your friends describe you – as a better listener or better talker? Why?

2. Who is the most confident person you know? What do they place their confidence in?

3. What did you learn from the message?

4. What did you apply from last weeks study?

Open your group reading Psalm 103 aloud. As a group, share what the psalmist praises God for?

Looking into the text:

5. Read 1 John 5:13 – 15. Write down 5-6 key words mentioned in this passage. Circle those words. Why are these words key to this passage?

6. What does John write that we should know or believe according to verses 13 – 15?
Know:

Believe:

7. How would you answer the person who asks you, "How do you know that you have eternal life?" What verses would you use as reference?
8. In verse 14, how are "we" described, How is God described?
9. Look in your concordance under Pray/Prayer. As you reference these verses, what are guidelines for prayer? (note the verse, too)
10. Scripture gives us guidelines of how we are to pray. Look up the following verses and write what needs to be included in our prayer:
 - a. Matthew 21:22, James 1:6
 - b. Luke 18:1-8
 - c. Psalm 66:18, 1 Peter 3:12
 - d. Luke 22:42, Romans 8:28, 1 Peter 4:19
11. Practically speaking, how do we pray as v. 14 says, "according to his will"?
12. Does verse 15 mean that if we pray to God, he hears us and will automatically answer our requests as we have prayed? Use supporting verses for your answer.
13. Often our prayer requests are very self-focused. Is this right or wrong? Why or why not?
14. What are the current and personal concerns and prayer request you have in your life? How can you pray for these with a). *confidence* and b). *according to His will*?
15. As a group, share specific prayer requests that are not "me-focused" but rather "asking anything according to his will". (share your response to 14 with your group).

16. As a group, close in prayer. With your Bibles open to Psalm 103, pray the truths of God, and also the prayer requests of those in the group “according to his will”.