



‘When we prayed’ Bible study: Exploring answered prayer through history and scripture

Introduction:

This one hour Bible study session is ideally suited for use after listening to the first episode of the podcast 'When We Prayed: WWII'. It can be accessed at premier.plus/prayed or by searching 'When We Prayed' on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or your preferred podcast platform. This study has been designed to help you explore how God answers prayers and how miracles occur both in the Bible and in our contemporary world.

Session:

1. Opening Prayer

Feel free to pray in your own words, but here is a suggested prayer:

Heavenly Father,

We come before You today with hearts full of gratitude and wonder at Your incredible power and love. As we gather to study Your Word and reflect on the miraculous ways You have answered prayers throughout history, we ask for Your presence to be among us. Open our hearts and minds to understand and see Your hand at work in both the past and present.

Lord, as we learn about the miracles of World War Two and the many ways You have intervened in the lives of Your people, let our faith be strengthened. Help us to recognise and appreciate the miracles and answered prayers in our own lives. Guide our discussions, and let them be filled with Your wisdom and insight.

We pray for open hearts, willing to be moved and inspired by the stories we will hear and the scriptures we will read. May we leave this study with a deeper understanding of Your faithfulness and a renewed trust in Your divine timing and plans.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen.

2. Introduction to the Documentary (10 minutes)

Ask your group whether they have listened to any stories of answered prayers from the podcast series or whether they know of other stories from World War Two, such as the escape from Dunkirk. If there are no stories forthcoming, be prepared to tell the story of Dunkirk or play a section of the podcast (23:56-26:35) where God answers the prayers of the British forces. Encourage group members to reflect on these stories and share their thoughts on how they demonstrate God's intervention. Discuss whether they believe the events at Dunkirk were indeed an example of God's intervention and an answer to prayer.

3. Group Reading: Biblical Accounts of Miracles (20 minutes)

Assign group members to read the following Bible passages aloud:

- Exodus 14:21-31: The Parting of the Red Sea.
- 1 Kings 18:36-39: Elijah on Mount Carmel.
- Daniel 6:16-23: Daniel in the Lion's Den.
- John 6:1-14: Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand.
- Acts 12:5-17: Peter's Miraculous Escape from Prison.

Ask the group to identify common themes and discuss how these stories demonstrate God's power and faithfulness.

4. Application: Recognising Modern-Day Miracles (10 minutes)

Encourage group members to think about and share any modern-day miracles they have witnessed or heard about. Discuss how to remain hopeful and trust in God's timing and methods of answering prayers. Request examples of when group members have witnessed answered prayers.

5. Reflection: How Does God Answer Prayers Today? (15 minutes)

Discuss the different ways God can answer prayers—Yes, No, Wait. Share personal experiences of answered prayers, emphasising that miracles and divine interventions still occur today. Reflect on the importance of faith and patience in awaiting God's responses to our prayers. Discuss the importance of remembering answered prayer or journaling so you can look back.

6. Conclusion and Prayer (5 minutes)

Summarise key points from the session:

a. God's Faithfulness in History: Just as God answered prayers and performed miracles during World War Two, such as the remarkable evacuation at Dunkirk, He continues to be active in our lives today. Historical events and personal testimonies remind us that God listens and responds to our needs.

b. Biblical Assurance of Miracles: The Bible is filled with stories of miraculous interventions, from the parting of the Red Sea to Jesus feeding the five thousand. These accounts assure us that the same God who performed these miracles is still capable of intervening powerfully in our lives.

c. Modern-Day Testimonies: By sharing and reflecting on personal experiences of answered prayers, we recognise that God is continually at work in our world. Our faith is strengthened by acknowledging these modern-day miracles and trusting in God's timing and ways of answering our prayers.

Close with a group prayer, thanking God for His faithfulness and asking for continued faith and patience in His plans.

Additional Resources

Books:

"Remember: Revealing the Eternal Power of Answered Prayer" by Richard Gamble

"Miracles" by Eric Metaxas

"The Case for Miracles" by Lee Strobel

Share your answered prayer and have the stories embedded into the Eternal Wall of Answered Prayer monument. Find out more at eternalwall.org.uk
