

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

**This series from Acts 9-15 tells the story of Jesus' first disciples learning that the gospel is for all. It cannot be limited by race, by tradition, or even by persecution. It calls the church in every generation to embrace the unlimited mission of God.**

**1 Read Acts 12:1-17.** Luke tells an amazing story of a church earnestly committed to prayer, and a church astonished when their prayer was answered. Does that story surprise you or encourage you?

**2 PRAYER IS LIMITED... by memories of “no” answers.** No doubt the church prayed for James, but he died. Memories of “no” answers to our prayers can limit our zeal for prayer. What are some of the reasons God might say “no” to our prayers? How do those memories of “no” answers tend to diminish our enthusiasm for future prayer opportunities?

**3 PRAYER IS LIMITED... by confusion about what to pray for.** Read **Philippians 1:22-24**. Sometimes we are confused about what to pray for. We don't know what is about to happen, and we don't know what would be best. What should we do in those circumstances?

**4 PRAYER IS LIMITED... by a lack of awareness of what God is up to.** Often we pray to God about matters that He is already addressing, but we are not aware. Have you ever been able to look back and see how God was at work long before you were aware of it? Share an example with your group.

**5 PRAYER IS LIMITED... by the low expectations of others.** One thing that discourages prayer is the skepticism of fellow believers. What are some ways that we can discourage another person's prayer life? Why is it sometimes difficult to believe when we hear stories of miraculous answers to prayers?

**6 Read 2 Corinthians 12:8-9. GOD IS NOT LIMITED by our limited prayers.** He knows what is best. How should this encourage our prayer lives?

**7 Read Romans 8:26-27.** How do you think the Holy Spirit aids us in prayer?

**8** We do not pray so God will learn what we want. We pray to learn what God wants. What can we do to better want what He wants? Share one specific thing you can do today.