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**WEEK 7** | The Upside Down Life

## PRAYER

Lord, we acknowledge that your ways and thoughts are much higher than ours. Help us to trust you at your word, as your way is always what is best for us! We love you, Jesus, Amen.

## WARM UP

(OPTIONAL)

What is the best piece of advice that you have ever received? Why is it the best?

## NOTES

## WORD

<sup>6</sup> "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God,  
for he will abundantly pardon.<sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither  
are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than  
the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your  
thoughts.

[ISAIAH 55:6-9](#)

**To seek the Lord means to actively search for him in calling out to him. To call upon the Lord means to PRAY.**

**Why is it then that people struggle to pray? Is it the terminology? Is it the connotation that you need to know the Bible to pray, or be at a certain level of maturity in order to pray?**

**This is a huge reason as to why in the desperation of the times that Isaiah and the people of Israel find themselves in, the language revolves around a higher way (God's way) that is accessible to even the lowest, just by seeking and calling upon the Lord.**

**John Piper puts it this way:**

*"The word is 'call'! And that is part of our everyday language, just like it was then. We call the waiter. We call a friend on the telephone. We call for help from (emergency services) like that little boy whose dad had a seizure because his blood sugar was gone. The first thing we do to seek the Lord is call to him. We might use words like these: 'O God, help me!' Or: 'God, if you are really there, show me!' Or: 'O God, I need you, come and save me, forgive me, make me new.' Or: 'Father, I need your guidance, show me the way to go.'"*

**You don't need a High School Diploma to call for help. A child can do it. And that is the first step in what it means to seek the Lord.**

## GUIDE QUESTIONS

(NUMBERED ACCORDING TO LEVEL OF DEPTH AND READINESS TO SHARE)

1. On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your ability to acknowledge that someone you know may be better than you at something you are good at? Why have you rated yourself this way?
2. When is the last time that you were "seeking" and/or "calling" upon the Lord? What was the situation, and what happened?
3. What are the differences between our thoughts and God's thoughts? What are the differences between his ways and our ways?
4. Are there any ways you live that are not the way God wants you to live? Would you be willing to give God your ways?
5. If God's thoughts are different to yours, are you willing to change your way of thinking?
6. Verse 7 talks about forsaking your wicked ways in order to walk in his ways, and return to him. Have you fully forsaken your ways to walk with God? If so, please share what it is like to walk in relationship with God. If not, would you like to?

## PRAYER LIST