

## Prayer and Pleases

Choose the best starter for your group

### Starter a

Imagine you booking your holiday. You are sitting in a shop in front of a lady or you are sitting in front of your computer clicking away. You tell the lady/computer when and where you want to go. You tell them how you want to travel and what sort of accommodation you would like. You describe what you want to do when you get there and how many people you would like to go with. An hour later you sit back satisfied and looking forward to your amazing holiday

### Starter b

With your group pick some pizza's to order. Call the pizza company and order them. Get them delivered to your door. Sit back and enjoy them!

### Read

Psalm 50:15; Matthew 7:7-11; 21:22; and Mark 11:24.

### Discussion Questions

How is prayer like booking a holiday or ordering Pizza?

How is prayer different to booking a holiday or ordering Pizza?

Do the bible passages have any promises or conditions about prayer?

Does God really answer your prayers or is this just "stuff" written in the bible?

Is it a good thing to think about God as a Pizza delivery guy or holiday booking assistant? (Why or why not?)

How do the bible passages effect your view of God?

### About You

How do you think about God? Do you ever ask Him for things? Do you believe that God can make a difference when we ask for things? Or do you just treat God like Father Christmas giving Him your wish list and getting cross when you don't get your own way?

For me how I treat God changes. One day I treat God as this Pizza delivery, Father Christmas type of guy and get all sulky when I don't get my way. Then I treat God like a scary Judge, mean old man and I wont ask Him for anything because I am afraid He will get angry for me being so self centred or silly.

I find the most helpful thing for me is to keep talking to God and to keep looking at the bible to see what God says He wants. It is the days when I worry if I am asking God too much or if I am not asking Him enough that I don't pray and that doesn't help anything. Do you ever do that?

### To do

Start a prayer diary. Everytime you ask for something write it down. Every now and then read what you have written and see if God has given you what you asked for. *I did this a year ago then stopped. The other day I read it and God was still giving me things I asked for back then. I found it really encouraged me that God did listen.*