



EXPLORE THE BIBLE.

Session 9: Clears

Suggested Week of Use: October 29, 2023

Core Passage: Mark 11:15-25

News Story Summary

In the wake of a massive 6.8-magnitude earthquake in early September, the International Mission Board (IMB) has issued a call for prayer for the people of Morocco. Along with praying for the physical safety of those in the affected region and for the comfort of those who have lost loved ones, the IMB is asking believers to pray that missionaries will have a chance to share the hope of Jesus in the midst of tragedy. In a predominantly Muslim nation, less than two percent of Morocco's population has a personal relationship with Jesus. More than 3 million Moroccans have little or no access to the gospel, though local believers have been able to support rescue and relief efforts since the September 8 earthquake.

Prayer is a powerful expression of compassion and solidarity. Additionally, prayer serves as a catalyst for action. Ultimately, prayer represents a heartfelt call to God for healing, strength, and the restoration of shattered lives.

For more about this story, search “Urgent prayer for Morocco earthquake victims.”

Engage

To supplement the Engage activities, read the story of the International Mission Board's call for prayer. Ask: *If we pray for those in Morocco right now, what do we expect to happen?* Briefly discuss responses. Affirm that sometimes it's hard to believe that God will actually answer our prayers, even though we give prayer lip service. Ask: *What are some things that hinder us from praying like we should?* Record responses on the board. Share that today's session focuses on prayer, specifically Jesus removing obstacles to prayer. Challenge adults to consider what keeps them from praying—and how they might be hindering others from praying.

Challenge

To supplement the Challenge activities, remind adults of the International Mission Board's call for prayer for Morocco. Ask: *If we really believe in prayer, how should we respond to the truths of today's session?* Encourage adults to spend a moment silently reflecting on the memory verse, Mark 11:17. Say: *Take a couple of minutes to thank God for hearing our prayers, confess how you've taken prayer for granted or doubted its effectiveness, and ask Him to reveal how He wants you to respond to the truths of today's session.*