



WARMING UP

1. Can you think of a specific situation when God opened a door in your life? What happened?

DIGGING IN

When you pray, believe that God will open doors.

2. *Look past what you can see (12:1-4).*
 - What are the apparent obstacles in these verses to the work of God? What are some of the apparent obstacles that can keep us from God's highest and best?
 - Why is it so difficult for us to look past our immediate circumstances to what could be? How does recognizing the fact that for God "it's all small stuff!" enable us to look past what we can see right now?
3. *Fall on your face before God (12:5).*
 - What does "earnest prayer" look like? How are you doing at being earnest in prayer on your own and in your group? How could you improve?
 - Pastor Todd said, "Desperate times call for desperate prayers. But the problem is we don't believe that we live in desperate times." What is your response to this? How are these desperate times?
4. *Expect God to answer (12:6-11).*
 - Be honest—how expectant are you that God will answer your prayers? Does it depend on what you are praying about? What other factors come into play?
 - Pastor Todd said, "Whether he saves you out of your situation, or he strengthens you to face your trials with courage, God answers and gives grace sufficient for the moment." How should this perspective foster a greater expectancy in your prayers?
5. *Don't doubt the miraculous (12:12-17).*
 - How do the people in this story doubt God's miraculous activity? What are some of the common reasons why we have a hard time believing that God might act in a miraculous way?
 - Have you ever experienced God's miraculous activity in your life? When? What were the circumstances? What happened?
6. *And see God at work (12:18-25).*
 - How do we see God powerfully at work in these verses, not only in the miraculous but also beyond it? Is there anything about this that stands out to you?
 - Pastor Todd said, "God is more powerful than the world's most powerful." What are the implications of this statement? Are you convinced?

BREAKING OUT

7. Does your prayer life demonstrate a belief that God will open doors? How so? What door do you need him to open at this time? Pray earnestly about it together.