

The Withered Fig Tree—[Mark 11:20–26](#)

Topics:

Answers, Doubt, Faith, Forgiveness, Prayer, Relationships, Resentment

Open It

1. Why do people hold grudges?
2. *Why is it easy to hold grudges?
3. How do you think holding a grudge would affect your relationship with your best friend?

Explore It

1. What happened when the disciples saw the fig tree withered along the road? ([11:20](#))
2. How did Peter react to what he saw? ([11:21](#))
3. *How did Jesus use a seemingly insignificant event as an opportunity to teach the disciples? ([11:22](#))
4. *On what do answers to prayer depend? ([11:22–25](#))
5. What truth did Jesus illustrate with the withered fig tree? ([11:23–24](#))
6. What elements did Jesus single out of this object lesson regarding a strong prayer life? ([11:23–25](#))

7. What promise did Jesus offer about receiving answers to prayers? ([11:24](#))
8. How can a person be sure God has forgiven his or her sins? ([11:24](#))
9. What can stand in the way of God's forgiveness? ([11:25](#))
10. *How can holding a grudge affect the way God answers prayer? ([11:25](#))
11. How is some unanswered prayer accounted for? ([11:25](#))

Get It

1. Why does Jesus tie God's forgiveness of us with our forgiveness of others?
2. What does this passage say about the relationship between faith and forgiveness?
3. What should we be willing to do to resolve conflicts between ourselves and others?
4. *Why is it necessary to forgive others for what they have done?
5. *When is it difficult for you to forgive others?
6. What will happen if you refuse to forgive others?
7. In what ways has this passage challenged you to reexamine your faith and your prayer life?

8. When have you experienced frustrations or doubts in your prayer life?
9. How can God be both sovereign and bound to grant every prayer request we lay before Him?
10. For what other reasons besides grudges do our prayers go unanswered?

Apply It

1. What is one specific request that you want to commit yourself to pray for regularly this week?
2. *What can you do today to let go of a grudge or feeling of offense?