



## THE GOOD FATHER Matthew 7:7-11

### CONNECT

*Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7*

1. When is a time you have persistently sought after something? It could be a promotion at work, a perfect present for a loved one or even a destination that was hard to find?

### CELEBRATE

2. Read Matthew 7:7-11. Count the number of times the word "ask," "seek," and "knock" is used in these verses. How would you summarize what Jesus said in these verses?
3. The verbs (ask, seek, knock) used in this section all signify continuously repeated activities. When Jesus told the disciples to ask, He did not mean for them to ask one and never again. Rather, Jesus commanded the disciple to continuously ask. How persistent are you in asking for things in prayer? Do you get discouraged if your prayers aren't answered immediately? Do you ever feel selfish or that you are bothering God?
4. Look at Matthew 7:9-11. What definite requests does the child make of the parent? These verses include examples of asking for specific needs. Just as the child asks a father for bread and a fish, followers of Christ can trust that God the Father will also answer their clearly defined requests.
5. Read Matthew 6:31-32. What does our heavenly Father know? According to James 1:17, who is the source of every good gift? Based on these verses, why can we have confidence in God's answers to our prayers?
6. Do you give your kids everything they ask for? Why or why not? How does this ideal impact your view of God?
7. What did Jesus tell us to seek in Matthew 6:33? What things do we often seek instead of God (see James 4:1-4)? Why are these things ultimately unfulfilling? What does it mean to seek the kingdom of God? What does it mean to pray, "Your kingdom come"?
8. Read Colossians 4:3. To what end did Paul pray in this verse? How are prayers and obedience connected?
9. Look at the parallel passage in Luke 11:9-13. What additional insight does Luke 11:13 give us into the good gifts from God? How can today's study bolster your faith?

### CONTRIBUTE

10. Asking God involves desired petitions and definite requests. How would your life be different if you lived the way Jesus sets forth in this passage? What is a situation you are currently facing that highlights this passage? How might your group pray for you as you seek to choose trust over fear with that decision?
11. What can you do to align your prayers with the good things God wants to give you? With the purposes of God's kingdom? How can you alter your schedule this week to make more time for prayer?

### PRAYER

Thank God that He answers prayers, that He loves us and for the good gifts He gives. Pray that God would transform our prayer lives—aligning our prayers with His will. Pray that, as a group and church, we would ask, seek and knock in persistent prayer with our loving heavenly Father.