



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 14 July 2024



Matthew 7:7-12 Ask, Seek, Knock

Warm Up

Did you always get what you wanted when you asked your parents for something? What lessons did you learn in your disappointment or joy?

Background and context

This passage comes at the end of Jesus' first major block of teaching as described by Matthew, The Sermon on the Mount. The whole section is a summary of the Mosaic law, given new depth by Jesus. The passage in focus (v7-12) seems to be suggesting that, because of God's gracious and loving nature He is waiting to give us good things, we need just ask. However, our experience tells us our prayers don't always get answered in the way we would want. So there must be more to this passage than meets the eye. They invite us to interact with a loving God who delights to hear our prayers.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity



READ Matthew 7:7-12. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. The Greek verb use of Matthew 7:7 suggests a continuing asking, seeking and knocking and the response will be continuous. i.e *keep on asking...and you will keep on receiving*. How is this different from the way it is written in English? Does this matter?
2. What is it teaching about prayer? How should this verse change our prayer life?
3. What do these verses teach us about God's character and nature? Why should this give us encouragement?
4. How might these verses be helpful to those who have doubts and questions?
5. Read v 8. Does the righteousness of the prayer impact God's response? Why is this important?
6. How do we reconcile seemingly unanswered prayer in the light of this passage?

Discipleship and Application



7. When we ask, it is because we need something. When we seek we require to find (a truth). But why are we knocking? What door will be opened to us?
8. How does v12 fulfil the whole of the law?
9. Why is this verse so challenging to live by?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.



We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.