



**The “How?” and “Why?” of Prayer
March 23, 2025 | Matthew 7:7-12
Questions for Study and Group Discussion**

*** Before you begin, please read Matthew 7:7-12.*

1. **Ice-breaker:** Does prayer come easily to you or not? Explain your answer.
2. How does the way we view prayer influence our approach to it? In your own words, why would you say prayer is important?
3. Re-read Matthew 7:7-8 and Matthew 6:9-13. How does Matthew 6:9-13 give you a “head start” on what to ask for?
4. Asking, seeking, and knocking are simple actions anyone can take — reminding us of the value of “simple prayer.” What are some examples of “simple prayer” that come to your mind?
5. Do you tend to overcomplicate prayer, or keep it simple? Explain.
6. These verses say that “ask and it will be given to you, . . . knock and the door will be opened to you.” Does this mean God will answer every prayer, exactly the way we ask it? Explain your response.
7. Make a short list of observations about the God we pray to, from Matthew 7:9-11.
8. How do these truths about God reinforce trust in God — that we can trust what He puts in front of us?
9. What other truths about God (who He is and what He’s done) build further trust in Him? Tie your answers to specific Scriptures as best as you can.
10. What is one way you’ve learned to trust God, even in the midst of prayers that didn’t get answered the way you were asking?
11. What is one practical step you can take to live in light of what you’ve learned from Matthew 7:7-12?
12. What other questions or comments do you have about what you’ve looked at in the Bible today?
13. What was your biggest take-away from the message? Why?
14. **Challenge:** Identify one way this passage is challenging or encouraging you. Who can you tell about what you’re learning this coming week?