FBC SUMMIT

LIFE Group Discussion Guide

December 6, 2026

Matthew 7:7-12

CONVERSATION STARTERS

What are some highs or lows you experienced this past week?

What Scripture has been shaping you recently?

Where have you seen God moving in your life this week?

What did you hear in today's sermon OR read in today's passage that you would like to discuss?

What did you learn about yourself in today's sermon/passage?

What did you learn about God in today's sermon/passage?

What convicted you as you listened to today's sermon OR read in today's passage?

OPENING

What is something you have wanted or needed help with that required you to keep asking, searching, or working toward a solution?

Prayer is an important part of following Jesus, but sometimes we struggle to understand how God answers our prayers. In Matthew 7:7–12, Jesus encourages His followers to keep coming to God with confidence, trusting His goodness. He then connects our relationship with God to the way we treat other people.

Today we will discuss how following Jesus means persistently seeking God in prayer, trusting His goodness, and treating others with the same love we desire for ourselves.

SCRIPTURE READING

Read **Matthew 7:7-12** together.

As you read, listen for:

- The three commands Jesus gives about prayer
- What Jesus teaches about God's character
- The examples Jesus uses to describe a father's care
- How Jesus summarizes our responsibility toward others

PASSAGE SUMMARY

Jesus continues His Sermon on the Mount by teaching His followers to depend on God and treat others with love.

In verses 7–8, Jesus says, *"Ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you."* These commands encourage ongoing prayer and confident dependence on God. Jesus is not promising that God will give us everything we want exactly when or how we want it. Rather, He invites us to approach our heavenly Father, trusting His wisdom and goodness.

In verses 9–11, Jesus compares God's care to that of a good earthly father. If human parents desire to provide good things for their children, how much more can we trust our heavenly Father to give what is good?

Verse 12 applies this teaching to our relationships: *"Therefore, whatever you want others to do for you, do also the same for them."* This is often called the Golden Rule. Because we receive God's goodness, we should extend goodness to others.

Main Point: We can approach God with confidence because He is a good Father, and we should reflect His goodness by treating others with love.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think Jesus means by "ask, seek, and knock"?

These commands describe an active, persistent relationship with God. We bring Him our needs in prayer, seek His will and wisdom, and continue trusting Him rather than giving up when answers do not come immediately.

Does Jesus promise that God will give us everything we ask for? Why or why not?

No. God is not a vending machine, and prayer is not a way to force Him to do what we want. God answers according to His wisdom and goodness. Sometimes His answer is different from what we expected because He knows what is best.

How do Jesus' examples of a father giving good gifts help us understand God's character?
Jesus teaches that God is a good and caring Father. If imperfect human parents often want to provide what is good for their children, we can trust God's perfect wisdom and care even more.

What should we do when God does not answer a prayer the way we hoped?
We can continue praying honestly, trust God's character, seek wisdom in Scripture, and ask other believers to encourage us. We may not understand God's answer immediately, but we can continue trusting Him.

What does the Golden Rule teach us about how to treat others?
We should treat people with the kindness, respect, fairness, and compassion we would want to receive. Instead of focusing only on what others owe us, we take responsibility for how we treat them.

How does the Golden Rule apply to our families, workplaces, church, and LIFE Groups?
We can listen carefully, speak respectfully, include people who feel overlooked, forgive others, offer help, and address disagreements with grace. We seek to treat people as valuable individuals made in God's image.

APPLICATION

What is one area of your life where you need to keep asking God for wisdom or help?

How can you trust God's goodness when His answer differs from what you hoped?

Who is one person you can intentionally treat with greater kindness or consideration this week?

DIG DEEPER

Read Luke 11:9–13. How does Luke's account reinforce Jesus' teaching about prayer and the Father's goodness?

Read James 1:5–8. What does James teach about asking God for wisdom? What attitudes can interfere with trusting Him?

Read Romans 12:9–18. ***How does Paul describe the practical ways Christians should treat others?***

How can we distinguish between trusting God persistently in prayer and expecting God to give us everything we want?

CLOSING THOUGHT

Jesus invites us to come to God confidently, persistently, and with trust in His goodness. We may not always understand His answers, but we can know that He is a wise and caring Father.

Jesus also reminds us that our faith should shape how we treat others. We are not simply called to receive God's goodness; we are called to reflect it.

Challenge
This week, commit to praying consistently about one need or decision. At the same time, look for an opportunity to treat someone with the kindness and consideration you would want to receive.

LOOKING AHEAD

Next week we will discuss **Matthew 7:13-14** as we continue the series, *The Greatest Sermon Ever Preached: The Sermon on the Mount.*

PRAYER FOCUS

- Grow in persistence and confidence in prayer.
- Trust God's wisdom and goodness when His answers differ from our expectations.
- Help us practice the Golden Rule in our families, workplaces, church, and communities.
- Make our LIFE Groups places where people experience God's love through practical care and service.
- Pray for our worship services—that hearts will be open, the Spirit will move powerfully, and people will respond in obedience to Christ.

COMMENTARY

Matthew 7:7-12

This text from the Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus's teachings on persistent prayer and the Golden Rule, anchored by the character of God as a good heavenly Father.

The full passage regarding asking, seeking, knocking, the comparison of earthly parents to the heavenly Father, and the Golden Rule can be found in the referenced text.

The core themes of this passage are:

Ask, Seek, and Knock (Verses 7–8):

- The verbs emphasize continuous action, reflecting an ongoing relationship with God rather than a transactional formula.
- Prayer expresses human dependence and trust in God's wisdom.

The Good Heavenly Father (Verses 9–11):

- Jesus uses a lesser-to-greater comparison: if imperfect human parents give good gifts instead of harmful ones, God as a heavenly Father is infinitely more generous.
- God's gifts accord with His spiritual grace and sovereign will.

The Golden Rule (Verse 12):

- Summarizes the ethical core of the Law and the Prophets.
- Promotes active, compassionate treatment of others.