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

When you need help with something important, who is the first person you usually go to? Why do you trust that person?

Jesus teaches us that we can come to God with our needs, questions, and struggles. He invites us to keep praying and trust that our heavenly Father is good. He also teaches us to treat others with the same kindness and respect we want them to show us.

Today we will discuss how following Jesus means trusting God in prayer and treating others with the love and kindness we want to receive.

SCRIPTURE

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
- How a good father cares for his children
- What Jesus says about treating other people

PASSAGE SUMMARY

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

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."* He encourages us to keep coming to God in prayer and trust Him with our needs. This does not mean God will give us everything we want exactly when we want it. It means we can depend on His wisdom and goodness.

In verses 9–11, Jesus compares God's care to a parent's care for a child. If even imperfect parents want to give good things to their children, we can trust our heavenly Father even more.

Then Jesus gives what we call the Golden Rule: treat others the way you want to be treated. Our relationship with God should change how we treat people at school, at home, online, and everywhere else.

Main Point: We can trust our heavenly Father when we pray, and we should show others the same love and kindness we want to receive.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think Jesus means when He says, "Ask, seek, and knock"?

Jesus wants us to keep coming to God in prayer, look to Him for wisdom, and continue trusting Him instead of giving up. Prayer is part of an ongoing relationship with God.

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

No. God is not someone we can use to get everything we want. He knows what is best for us, and His answers may be different from what we expect. We can trust His wisdom even when we don't understand His answer.

How does Jesus' example of a father giving good gifts help us understand God?

Jesus reminds us that God is a good Father who cares for His children. We may not always understand what He is doing, but we can trust His character and know that He cares about us.

What should you do when God doesn't answer a prayer the way you hoped?
Keep talking to God honestly, look to Scripture for wisdom, and ask trusted Christians to pray with you. You can be disappointed or confused and still choose to trust God.

What does the Golden Rule mean, and how could you live it out at school or online?
It means treating others the way you want to be treated. We can include someone who feels left out, refuse to join in gossip, respond respectfully during disagreements, and think before posting or commenting online.

Why is it sometimes hard to treat others the way we want to be treated?
We may be hurt, angry, embarrassed, or worried about what our friends think. Following Jesus means choosing love and kindness even when our feelings make that difficult.

APPLICATION

What is one thing you need to keep praying about and trusting God with?

How can you remind yourself of God's goodness when life doesn't go the way you hoped?

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

DIG DEEPER

Read Luke 11:9–13. What does Jesus teach about asking God for help and trusting Him as our Father?

Read James 1:5–8. What should we do when we need wisdom? How can we show trust in God?

Read Romans 12:9–18. ***What are some practical ways Paul says Christians should treat other people?***

What is the difference between trusting God with what you want and trusting God to know what is best*?*

CLOSING THOUGHT

Jesus invites us to keep coming to God because He is a good Father who cares for us. We may not always receive the answers we want, but we can continue to trust Him.

Jesus also reminds us that following Him changes how we treat people. Our faith should be visible in the way we speak, act, serve, and respond to others.

Challenge
This week, keep praying about one specific need, and look for one opportunity to treat someone the way you would want to be treated.

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

- Help us keep praying and trusting God's goodness.
- Give us faith to trust God's wisdom when we don't understand His answers.
- Help us treat others with kindness, respect, and compassion at school, at home, and online.
- Help our LIFE Groups encourage one another to follow Jesus and put His teachings into practice.
- 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.