

PRAY WITH FAITH

Matthew 7:7-12

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”
- Matthew 7:7*

As you begin your group time use the following questions to get the conversation started:

Describe a time you asked for something, not necessarily expecting to get it, and you actually received it.

Have you ever known someone was home and kept knocking at the door? What did you do when they didn't answer?

Under what circumstances have you quoted the “Golden Rule?”

Does prayer matter? Does God really answer prayer? We see Jesus, the Son of God, praying multiple times in scripture so there must be merit in praying to the Lord! Thru prayer we open ourselves to God's wisdom and direction for our lives, eliminate hypocrisy through confession of our own sin, and lift up the needs of our family and friends. But how can we pray with the same faith Jesus had?

The first key to praying with faith is **DON'T QUIT**. Read Matthew 7:7-8 together as a group.

What words did Jesus use to describe our pursuit in knowing God? What kind of words are these and why use three of them?

What did Jesus say the results of these actions would be? Share an experience when you have found this to be true.

What kind of things should we constantly be asking for and seeking in our relationship with God? When have you asked for something, then later realized it was good that you didn't get it?

The second key to praying with faith is **EXPECTATION**. Read together Matthew 7:9-11.

Based on these verses, why can we have confidence in God's answers to our prayers?

Do you give your kids everything they ask for? Why or why not? How does this ideal impact your view of God?

What are you praying for right now that you are expecting God will do? Share your experience.

James 4:2 says "You have not because you ask not." Where would you like God to intervene in your life, home, marriage, finances, and you just haven't asked yet?

Finally, Jesus tells us the key to praying with faith is **ACTION**. Read together **Matthew 7:12**.

Verses 7-11 describe God's gracious and loving provision for others. How does verse 12 connect our walk with the talk of the previous verses?

How has your prayer life lacked action lately? What things have you prayed for but not acted on personally?

Read James 2:14-17. How we treat others is a major indication of the work of the Spirit in our life. What practical ways can you take action this week to share your faith?

Are you praying for your church? If so, how big are your prayers? What do you wish to see God do through your VGroup and through VillageChurch? After jotting down some ideas read Ephesians 3:20. How does this verse say it will happen?

Pray:

Pray with faith that God would move in your life today. Ask for the things you are lacking and persist in your prayers for them. Know that God will answer and trust He will provide you good things because He is a good good Father.

Connect:

Listen to the song "Good Good Father" by Chris Tomlin this week.

Thank God for his provision in your life and the blessings of his love and mercy. Pray for protection from the lies of satan who seeks to destroy us, and trust you are a child of God. He knows your need before you say it! Let your prayers energize you to action this week as he calls you deeper into love.