

# **A Father's Heart**

*Matthew 7:7-12*

**1. We are invited to approach God in prayer with confidence**

**2. We are assured of His fatherly care**

**3. We are commanded to treat others as we want to be treated**

## Small Group Questions:

1. Last week, Eric pointed out how chapter 7 of Matthew focuses on both the Christian's vertical and horizontal relationships. How do we see that in verses 7-12?
2. How would you describe your prayer life? Is it easy for you to pray? Do you pray often? Do you pray short prayers or long prayers? What about prayer is difficult for you (if at all)?
3. How does Jesus seek to encourage us to pray?
4. Does Jesus' reference to God as "father" help you pray, or does it create an obstacle? Why?
5. If you could grow in an aspect of your life of prayer, what would it be?
6. Eric taught that there was a "silver rule" commonly taught in the 1st century. How did it differ from the "golden rule?" How is the "golden rule" superior?
7. What is your personal takeaway from this section?

## For Further Study and Reflection

- *Prayer* by Timothy Keller
- *Practicing the Presence of God* by Brother Lawrence
- *Abba's Child* by Brennan Manning
- *Deep Things of God* by Fred Sanders
- *Delighting in the Trinity* by Michael Reeves