Ice Breaker Question:
What was the best gift your parents ever gave you?

Read and discuss Matthew 7:1-14:

1. Have you ever been judged wrongly by someone else? How can that experience help you in your relationships?
2. John Stott says the church should be a place where people are supported and encouraged, but is sometimes a place where people feel judged and manipulated. Have you seen the church encourage or support? Have you seen the church judge? How can a church community encourage or support in a healthy way?
3. Jesus says he will answer those who ask, seek, and knock (verses 7-8). He assures us that a Father gives good gifts to his children (verses 9-11). How does this encourage you in your prayer life as you ask God for what you need?
4. Jesus says everyone who asks receives. So how is it that some of our prayers aren’t answered the way we want? How do your answers to this question inform your prayer life?
5. Jesus says to enter through the narrow gate, on the narrow road (verses 13-14). What about the broad road is tempting to you? What about the narrow road is challenging to you? Finally, what encourages you to stay on the narrow road?
6. Matthew 7 gives God his due – God answers when we ask, seek, or knock. Matthew 7 also challenges us to do our part – to seek and knock, take the log out of our own eyes, and to enter by the narrow gate. What part should you play in your own faith development? What part does God play in your faith development?

Prayer:
Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:

- Prayers of healing for Pete Francois, Harry Milli, Hadley Lehr, and Liz Qua.
- Prayers of comfort for the Wenning family in the death of Judy’s mother and the Conner family in the death of Doug’s father.