



Ask, Seek, Knock

Matt VanCleave
July 17, 2022

GROUP ICE BREAKER

Share a time in which God answered a prayer, big or small!

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week? How did it go?

- I will work on knowing what to say and when to say it.
- I will obey the law of supply and demand when telling others about my faith.
- I will not force my wisdom on a non-receptive person.
- I will own my part in helping to pass the torch of faith to the next generation.

THIS WEEK'S SERMON RECAP

Have you ever earnestly prayed for something that ultimately did not come to fruition? How did this seemingly unanswered prayer make you feel? This week we will study Matthew 7:7-11, where Jesus instructs us to keep asking and seeking and knocking with confidence because we approach God not on the basis of our performance or our spiritual track record but solely on the basis of the sheer goodness of God the Father.

Matt will help us explore the truth that God hears all our prayers and that God responds not with reluctance but rather with attention. It is in this understanding that we get to bring everything to God and bring it to God often.

Highlighting two kinds of prayer to help us ask and seek and knock, our time in the Sermon on the Mount will help us dive deeper into our communal and individual prayer life. Join us Sunday!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. This week we are diving into the topic of prayer. What role does prayer play in your walk with Christ?
2. What would your hope be for your prayer life? Do you crave more time for prayer, more clarity from God in prayer, etc?



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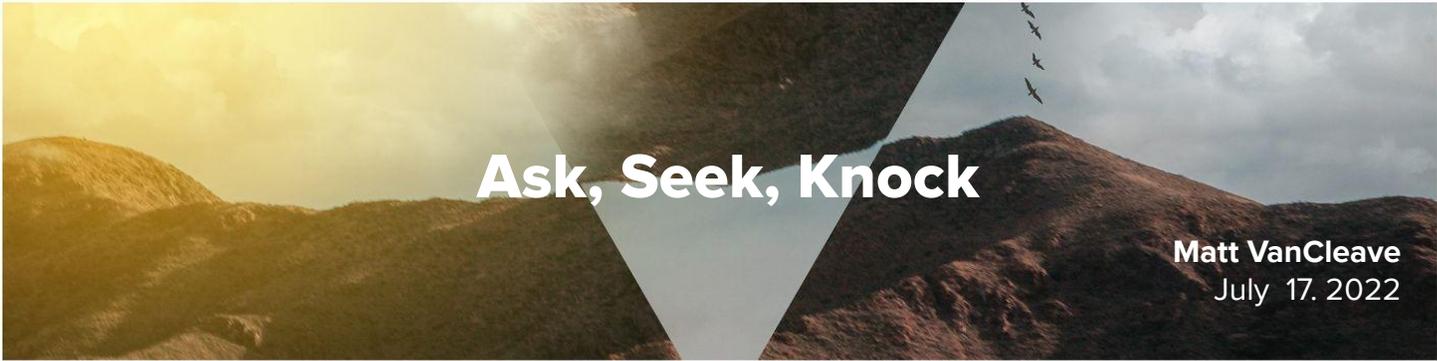
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (CONT)

3. Have you ever experienced a time when your prayer life felt stalled or distant? What makes you feel separated from God in prayer?
4. How does it make you feel to know that, as Matt helped us understand, God doesn't withhold things or His presence from you even when our prayer life is stalled?
5. What does it look like to seek and knock continuously in your life?
6. What category of prayer, the mundane or the evangelical, are you focusing on this week?

Rather than spending some time going over a few more questions, we are going to spend some time in prayer! Matt helped us to see that God is paying attention to you, that God longs to pour out blessings on you, and that God is closer to you than you can imagine. Pick one of these truths that feels most lacking in your life, and as a group spend some time praying over your needs and your community needs.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

- I will pray about whatever is on my heart, the ordinary events of my day.
- When my mind wanders in prayer, I will pray about whatever that is.
- I will make a commitment to pray for people who don't know God.
- I will ask God to open the door to spiritual conversations with people who don't know him.



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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

Luke 11:5-8

Matthew 7:7-11

Jonah 4:2-11

Prayer Requests

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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