

## Home Group Discussion Questions

TBC SERMON SERIES: Learning From Jesus

Message #14: Ask Expectantly

Matthew 7:7-11

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### MY STORY:

- 1) What is the best gift you ever received as a child? Describe the situation.
  
- 2) What gift(s) have you most enjoyed giving to someone? What was your relationship to them?

### QUICK REVIEW:

This week we continue with our series Learning From Jesus, a look at the Sermon on the Mount. This is probably the most famous teaching section by Jesus found in Scripture, providing his disciples a contrasting framework for viewing their lives with each other and God than was popularly held. Was there anything from this week's sermon that particularly caught your attention, challenged, or confused you? How would you summarize the main ideas of this week's message?

### DIGGING DEEPER:

Read Matthew 7:7-8.

- 1) What do you think Jesus is talking about here? What kinds of things might one “ask” for, “seek” to find, or “knock” to gain entry to?
  
- 2) How does James 4:2-3 shed light on this passage? How about Matthew 6:33?

Read Matthew 7:9-11.

- 3) What kinds of things does the son ask for in this illustration? What do they represent?
  
- 4) Would there be a difference between asking for bread and asking for candy or a toy in the illustration?

- 5) What is Jesus's point in this section? Have you found that to be true in your experience?
- 6) How would you respond to someone who was upset because they had read this passage and "asked" God for a better job situation, but nothing had changed?
- 7) How would you respond to someone who was upset because they had read this passage and "asked" God to heal their friend, but He did not?
- 8) How hard is it for you to trust God as a good Father when you do not get the answer you are seeking for "requests" you make? How does this compare to your own experience as a parent or a child?

### **TAKING IT HOME:**

- 1) What kinds of things do you most commonly "ask" for? In evaluation, do you feel they are more like "bread" or "candy"?
- 2) How can you conform your desires more to God's will this week so that you more frequently "ask" for things in line with what is good (in light of James 4:2-3)?

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### **Prayer Requests:**

