



# THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

FAMILY DEVOS

# Ask, Seek, Knock

**Scripture:** Matthew 7:7-12 (See also Luke 11:5-13)

**Memory Verse:** Matthew 7:7

“Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.”

## For My Family:

Jesus once again brings us back to the topic of prayer. We already learned about how to pray and how not to pray (6:5-13), but Jesus calls us a step further in this passage by telling us to persevere in our prayers. In other words, Jesus calls us to pray and keep praying. We were warned about those who use vain repetitions to try to get God to do things for them, but that is not what Jesus is talking about here. Consider the parable in Luke 11:5-8. A man went and knocked on his neighbor's door in the middle of the night asking for some bread. The neighbor told him to leave since his whole family was asleep and he didn't want to wake them, but the man kept knocking and kept asking. Finally, the man's persistence was rewarded. The neighbor got up and gave him bread just to get rid of him!

That neighbor was clearly annoyed. He didn't get up and give the man bread because they were friends, but because the man kept knocking. Jesus tells us to be like that man knocking on his neighbor's door. Don't ask only once. Don't seek once. Don't knock once. God is instructing us to keep asking, keep seeking, and keep knocking. If you pray for something and don't see an answer to your prayer, don't be discouraged, keep praying!

But don't think that God is like that annoyed neighbor who just grants our request to get us to stop bothering Him. That's not who God is at all! He is a good and perfect Father who loves to give good gifts to His children. We are promised that when we keep asking, it will be given, that when we keep seeking we will find, and when we keep knocking, it will be opened. When we continue to come to God it shows Him that we trust Him and believe His promises. Sometimes God doesn't grant our request right away because He wants to grow our faith. At other times we may even ask for things that would be harmful for us! But if we ask for something harmful, like a scorpion or a stone, when we really need something else, God knows what we have need of before we ask, and graciously gives us what we really need instead of what we thought we needed.

“Therefore whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.” Jesus sums up everything He has been teaching in this verse. Remember, He was being accused of coming to destroy the Law and the Prophets, but He actually came to fulfill it. It had been taught that you should NOT do to others what you do NOT want them to do to you, but Jesus calls us to action. We can't be followers of Jesus by simply NOT doing things. Love does things, not to be seen and praised by others, but to bring glory to our Father in heaven. How do you want others to treat you? Go and treat them the same.

## Questions for Young Children:

How many times should we ask God for something?

Does God give good things to His children, or bad things?

How should you treat others?

## Questions for Teens and Pre-teens:

If you ask God for something, but don't see an answer to your prayer right away, what might this mean?

What encouragement did God give in today's verses to keep us from getting discouraged as we pray?

How do you want people to treat you? Who can you treat like that this week?