Ask, Seek, Knock
Sermon Based Discussion (January 13, 2013)
Sermon Series: Sermon on the Mount

WARM UP

1. What is something you really wanted as a kid, but didn't get?

Most of us can remember a time as kids when we wanted something, but didn't get it. We may have pouted. We may even have become angry and bitter. And most of the time, we learned to move on.

As adults, many of us can also relate that to God. We wanted things from God but didn't get them. In this session, Jesus addresses the topic of wanting things from God, how to pray about them, and why we might not get them.

INTO THE BIBLE (Matthew 7:7-11)

2. Jesus uses three verbs to describe prayer. What are they and what do they teach us about prayer?

3. What reasoning does Jesus give for why we can trust in our heavenly Father's goodness?

UNDERSTANDING

4. What does this passage teach about why God might not give us what we want?

5. How does knowing God is good encourage us to pray more?

DIFFERENCE

6. When you pray, do you begin with an affirmation and reminder to yourself that God is good?

7. Would you pray more consistently or insistently if you were more assured of God's goodness?

8. Have you ever felt like no one (including God) cared enough about you? How would this passage offer help to us in those times?

APPLICATION

9. What is something you have been asking God for? Could you establish a habit of affirming God's goodness before you ask him for things? Would you set a time to pray like this in the next three days?

10. Take out the Commitment Form for *Plant by the Stream* Campaign. Will you consider praying and reading daily for the 21 days of the campaign?

FOR REFLECTION

Keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you… You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? …Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

(Matthew 7:7, 9-11, New Living Translation)