

# THE HEART THAT ASKS

Sermon on the Mount | Family Devotion | Week 13

## The Passage

Matthew 7:7-11

## Questions

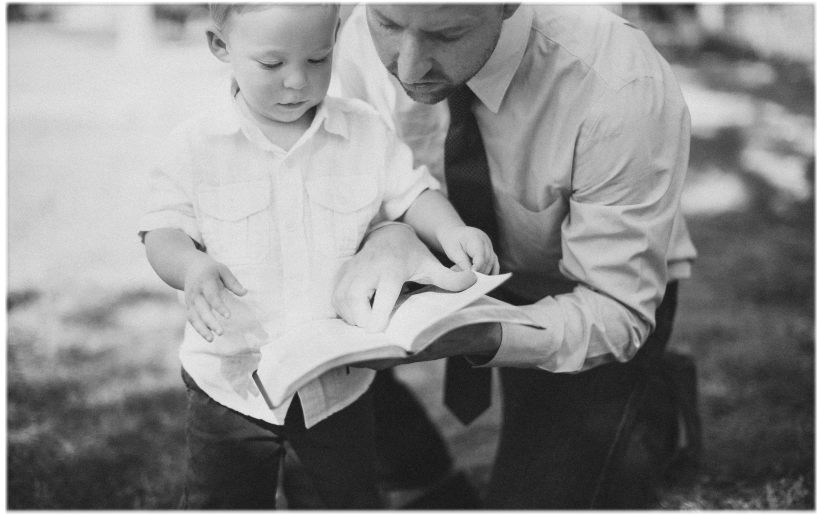
What, if you could pick one thing, do you want more than anything?

Jesus gives examples of good gifts in verses 9 and 10. What are they and why are they good?

How can we as a family consistently call on God for our needs?

## Prayer

God...we love you so much. We know that you are the only source of what is good and the only place we can truly lean. Help us to call on your name constantly, not for the things you can give us but because we, as a family, desperately need your mercy and provision in our lives. We love you and we need you. Help us to call on you.



## The Story

Its the new Avengers movie. Its the Lego set. Or perhaps it is the M&Ms, the iPhone, the new book, or the t-shirt. And then the question, “Can I have this?” Every parent has witnessed this scene hundreds of times. The store aisle, the gas station counter, the mall window, or the web page shows something and the child who sees it instantly responds. Whether mom or dad says yes or no doesn’t matter (usually no), there is nothing like a persistent child with candy on their mind. Jesus in Matthew 7 is talking about prayer, saying “Ask and it will be given.” Jesus implores the crowds to ask God and call on Him. Echoing his point from chapter six, he is giving us a picture of how to speak to God. But is He saying that prayer is a simple matter of persistence, of wearing God down? Like a tapping on the shoulder or the 45th cry of “Mom,” are we to tug on God’s sleeve until he finally relents? No, Jesus is actually headed in another direction. Like the rest of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is painting a vision of this new kingdom, a kingdom full of hearts focused on God. Such a heart sees prayer differently. Rather than habitually wearing God down until He relents, the heart focused on Him is desires to have from God what God wants us to have. It is not about things, or pleasures, or happiness. It is about over and over, day after day, asking God for His help, His mercy, and His goodness because we trust that in His hand is the only true happiness. We must ask and seek, but with a heart that loves and is content with what He alone can give.