Small Group Discussion Guide (1.21.24) — Read Matthew 7:7-12

- Like the command we saw last week to "Judge Not!", the command this week, "Ask, Seek, Knock!" is also often misquoted and misapplied. What are the ways in which these verses are often taken out of their context? Why is that so dangerous?
- Jesus is concluding now the body of his sermon in 5:17-7:12, where he has shown us the radical righteousness that is necessary for his kingdom citizens. What again is this "righteousness" and how is to be different than the scribes and Pharisees? (see 5:20) How has that been illustrated for us in 5:21-7:6?
- As we walk back through this entire section, and even the beatitudes, (try to do this with your group) in what areas did you find yourself particularly challenged, convicted, or lacking in our study of the Sermon on the Mount? What have been the most consistent struggles for you in your Christian walk that Jesus has covered in this sermon? (don't let them say "all of them," but try to ask for specifics and areas of real struggle)
- How does Jesus intend for us to apply the commands in vs. 7? According to Luke 11:13, what are the "good things" that Jesus promises to give us in Matthew 7:11? What should be the posture of our hearts as we pray and seek to grow in these areas? How does Jesus want us to approach this "impossible standard" of his kingdom?
- What do each of those words ("ask," "seek," "knock") imply about how we are to come to God? What two ways does this text shows us how to pray?
- How do you struggle to believe the promise of vs. 7-8, that when we ask, seek, and knock, he promises to give us whatever we need? In what ways do you succeed or struggle with persistence in prayer?
- Based on the illustration of vs. 9-11, what does Jesus want to communicate about our Heavenly Father and how we should approach Him? In what ways do you have a hard time applying this or believing this picture of God to be actually true?
- How is vs. 12 a summary of this entire section? (5:17-7:12) What does Jesus mean that this command to do to others what you would have the do to you "is the Law and the Prophets"? How can you see this to be true with everything he has taught us so far? How does the command in vs. 12 emphasize the importance of obeying the command of vs. 7?