



Sunday Teaching Discussion Guide: SERMON ON THE MOUNT 08.19.2018

Recap:

- People are asking, seeking, and knocking all the time and we still have poverty, we still have sickness, and we still have all sorts of tragedies that don't seem to be in line with an all powerful God who truly loves us.
- The other thing about this asking, seeking, and knocking things is that this doesn't seem to be in line with a lot of other things that Jesus said. In the opening verse of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, "Blessed are the poor for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." In another place, he told a man to sell all he had and give to the poor. Jesus also said not worry about what we eat, drink, or wear.
- Jesus' teaching is about moving people away from knowing about God and following an arbitrary set of rules to becoming a kind of people, living in a different way in this world. Jesus points us to living as a community where we carry each other's burdens and lean on each other in times of need.
- Think about the asking and seeking in a different way: asking means wanting to know how others feel or think, and seeking shows a desire to want to learn something about others. Ask and seek for the things that Jesus wants us to do. Seek first the Kingdom of God.
- When we ask for the right things, a door opens to a new way of living that will change our lives and the world around us.

Discuss:

- If you are comfortable, share a time you asked God for something and you didn't receive it. How did it feel? Did you feel like you were asking for the "right things"?
- READ Matthew 7:7-8
- What do you think are the types of things that Jesus would want us to ask for and seek out?
- Have you ever denied giving something to someone in need? How did it feel? What were the circumstances?
- READ Matthew 7:9-14
- Why do you think following the Golden Rule is hard?
- How do you think the broad way leads to destruction?
- What are some things that you think God wants you to specifically ask for and seek? What will be hard about asking for and seeking these things?

Pray: Invite members of your group to share prayer requests. Give a short prayer thanking God for your group discussion and asking God to be with the requests that have been shared.

Read at Home: Additional Readings about Asking

- Psalm 37:1-6
- John 15:1-8
- James 4:1-3