

Summer With Jesus

Week 8 LIFE Group Study – Seeking and Asking

Checking In

Welcome everyone. Look around and see who is missing. Assign people to contact those who are not present at the meeting. Do some of them need prayer or something else that our group can provide?

September 12 Our church will begin an “alignment campaign” for the fall, a new series of messages and new LIFE group materials. Have you noticed someone in your group that could branch off and start a LIFE group of their own. Ask them to consider it and give their name to Tom Gillespie.

Memory Verse

“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..”

Matthew 7:7

NOTE: THERE IS NO GROUP VIDEO FOR THIS SERIES

FACILITATION FOR THE GROUP LEADER

NOTE: Use the following as a guide as you prepare to lead your group time. Use what is helpful for you to facilitate the discussion. Discovery questions and the group guide follow this material:

Opening thoughts:

The ancient scholars used a practice called Divine Listening. They would gather in a group, read a passage of scripture activity listening for what

the a Holy Spirit was saying to them through that passage. I didn't know about this practice until a few years ago. I have practiced this with various groups with mixed results.

I want your group to give this a go. Read through this passage three times and have your group write out what they heard the passage saying....

"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. For everyone who asks, receives.

Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? 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 7:7-11 NLT

Here are some guide points for discussion:

Most people will give you a surface level response...don't settle for that.

Keep pushing for the deeper meaning.

Some will over share...be careful and manage that.

There will be natural launch points for discussion...go with that.

There is often one big thought that will need clarity...lean into that thought.

This will be a very different group experience. This will help you be a better facilitator.

Discovery Questions

- God's truth expressed in scripture trumps popular psychology. Is that true? How does this relate to changes that are taking place in our society and culture today?
- Which of these attitudes of "asking" is more biblical? How do you know?
 1. Name it and claim it! (Word of Faith or "prosperity gospel").
 - you'll 2. We will be rewarded if we don't give up. (the more you talk with God, the more recognize His voice).
- In Matthew 7:9-10 God won't give his children a stone or snake (even though that's what they might be praying for). What does this say about what we need and when we need it.

- The Bible says “the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective,” so what does it mean when prayers go unanswered? (Note Garth Brooks song: “Thank God for Unanswered Prayers”).
- The Bible also tells us to “pray without ceasing,” but what does that look like in today’s fast-paced world?

Putting It Into Practice

How can we embrace “absolute truth” in a post-modern world? (Postmodern religion considers that there are no universal religious truths or laws, rather, **reality** is shaped by social, historical and cultural contexts according to the individual, place and or time).

Why does God want us to keep asking? He wants us to keep coming to Him about that thing that's so important to us, as this shows our humble surrender and need for God to provide.

On Right Now Media check out the message “Seeking God’s Truth” by Rick Howerton at:

<https://www.rightnowmedia.org/Content/VideoElement/99537>

Communicating with God takes Faith, Focus, and Follow-through.

Prayer Time

If your group knows the song “Seek Ye First” sing it together to close your session.

1. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness. And all these things shall be added unto you.

Allelu Alleluia.

2. Ask and it shall be given unto you, seek and ye shall find. Knock and it shall be opened unto you.

Allelu Alleluia