

Read the Word: Matthew 7:1-29

Disciple Your Family: Discuss how to keep taking prayer requests to the Father and keep choosing to live the way Jesus instructed us to.

Discuss the following Key Truths and how to apply them to life. Use the questions to spark discussion.



Key Truth: Deal With Your Own Faults Before Correcting Others (Matthew 7:1-6)

APPLY: Evaluate your conduct and others' conduct by the teachings of God's Word.

- Some evaluation or "judging" is necessary for us to determine how we can best help people. How is that different from the kind of "judging" Jesus referred to in this passage?

APPLY: Consider and deal with your own faults before you try to correct others.

- What are some things we can do to have a right perspective about ourselves so we can be helpful to others? (Ask God to reveal our own faults; practice regular repentance; stay in the Word; etc.)

APPLY: Be humble and helpful instead of hurtful when helping others change.

- What was Jesus really warning about in this passage? (A prideful and judgmental attitude that looks down on others.)
- Describe the attitude we should have when we confront someone else about sin. How should we respond when someone confronts us about our sin?



Key Truth: Be Persistent in Prayer (Matthew 7:7-12)

APPLY: Take time daily to take your needs to God in prayer. Keep asking, seeking, and knocking.

- What do you find encouraging in verses 7-11?
- If you are not spending enough time in prayer, how could you make time in your schedule to pray more often?

APPLY: Treat others as you would like to be treated.

- We are to treat others as we would like to be treated. How does this principle simplify the Christian life?
- How can we put this into practice when dealing with people who are rude to us or people who want nothing to do with us?



Key Truth: Choose to Live God's Way (Matthew 7:13-29)

APPLY: Make sure you sit under the preaching and teaching of godly believers. Beware of false teachers.

- What kinds of false teachings have crept into today's churches?
- There are some who argue we shouldn't "judge" false teachers or false doctrine. What did Jesus say about false teachers in this passage?

- What is some “fruit” you might see in a godly teacher’s life? In a false teacher’s life?

APPLY: Go beyond hearing God’s Word to put it into practice.

- In verses 24–27, what happens if we put God’s Word into practice? What happens if we don’t put it into practice?

Build a Foundation: Discussion questions for elementary students.

- What does a wise person build his or her faith upon and what does a foolish person build upon?
- What happens when difficult times happen to the person who has built his or her faith upon a solid foundation? What about for the person who has not?
- What are some ways to build your faith on a solid foundation?

Work together to memorize the Verse of the Month: *Philippians 4:4*



Discuss This Week’s Building Block:

The Lord’s Prayer, or the Model Prayer, gives us an example of how to pray in a way that pleases God. It begins with acknowledging who God is.

Everyday Extras:

Place some flour (sand in the story) in one baking dish and place a piece of cardboard (rock in the story) in another. Allow family members to use Lego® blocks to build a house on the flour and on the cardboard. Gently pour water on both houses and talk about which house stayed strong. Remind family members to build a life of faith with Jesus as the foundation. When storms (the hard times of life) happen, the strong foundation will help keep you grounded in your faith.

Preschool Highlights:

Today your child learned Paul was arrested for telling others about Jesus and put in prison for two years. He was then sent to Rome by ship to share his story with the emperor, but the ship was caught in a storm. An angel appeared to Paul and told him the ship would wreck, but everyone would be saved. God was with Paul and **God Is With Us All the Time.**