

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Cell Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Cell Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

Concerning Your Father

Matthew 7:6-11

Rev Reuben Ng

SERMON SYNOPSIS

- Through the holy Word, God gives truths, wisdom and promises to His children, who He considers worthy. We should embrace such truths and stand on His promises. If we fail to appreciate such spiritual pearls, we are responding like “dogs” and “pigs”, i.e. those who aggressively reject such truths and are unworthy of them (Matthew 7:6).
- In our daily walk with Christ, we are commanded to keep on asking, seeking and knocking. Our loving Heavenly Father desires that we are given what we ask, find what we seek and presented with an open door when we knock. The more we know our Father's heart, the more we will also know what to ask. As God's redeemed children, we are called to exercise faith to continue with this practice until God answers, for this promise is given to everyone (Matthew 7:9-11).
- We should not lose hope when we have to wait for God to answer our prayers because Matthew 7:9-11 provides strong support that God will give good things to those who asks of Him. Even fathers who are evil, will give bread and not a stone or a fish instead of a serpent to their children who asks out of physical need – So how much more will God our heavenly Father want to give His children things they need for their own good?
- However, if God does not give us what we ask, seek or knock, then we should have faith that such things that we desire may not be good for us, that God has something better for us, or God will answer us in His own time. For indeed, God who is sovereign knows what is good and right for us.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Share an experience when you've seen a breakthrough and God answered your prayers or a time where you prayed and nothing seemed to change. What were your thoughts, emotions and learning points from these situations?

[Children's Activity: You can use this game about asking:

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2012/07/ask-see-knock-card-game.html> or this lesson on Ask, Seek, Knock: <https://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-ask-see-knock/>]

ACTNow! (Applying Christ's Teaching NOW) follows the weekly sermon series of TPMC, and challenges us to apply and put into practice the biblical truths we hear each week. It is the recommended Bible discussion material for TPMC's Cell Groups, and leader's notes are available to all Cell Group Leaders and at the Information Counter.

2. What prevents us from asking boldly of the Lord for great and marvelous outcomes in our daily prayers for ourselves or others? In what ways are such perspectives misconceived?
[Verses to help us go deeper: John 14:12-14; Luke 7:6-9; 1 John 5:14; James 4:3]

3. We all know from God's Word about asking, seeking and knocking in our prayers to God Almighty. When we do not see answers to our prayers, we might become discouraged, angry or indifferent. What habits and attitudes do you personally need to develop towards asking, seeking and knocking in order to see the fruits of it?
[Verses to help us go deeper: Psalm 5:3; Luke 18:1-8; Romans 5:5; Philippians 4:6-7]

PRAYER POINTERS

- Thank God for His wonderful promise that He is a good Father and will answer our prayers to meet our daily needs.
- Ask the Spirit to increase our faith and to also give us the words in order to be effective in asking, seeking and knocking according to the will of the Father.
- Ask Jesus to help us develop the attitude of persevering in our prayers and not lose heart in the face of challenges.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." [Philippians 4:6-7, ESV]

PRACTICAL HANDLE

Is there a person or situation that God has burdened you to pray for a breakthrough so that He may be glorified? Start asking God to give you success, seeking His wisdom to teach you how to pray over this matter and knocking for God to open the door to answered prayer in His time. In pairs, share this