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| **SERIES** | **Teach Us to Pray** |
| **BIBLE** | **Matthew 7:7-11** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **Pt 3 – Ask (P. R. A. Y.)** |
| **OVERVIEW** | God’s people should not be afraid to ask God for what they need. God is waiting and wanting to hear them. He has a listening ear turned towards our requests. Because of this, we can ask boldly, actively, expectantly, and reverently. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | **As God’s people, we should ask *boldly/confidently* (v.7).**   * Jesus tells his listeners to simply ask God for what “good things” (v.11) they need, especially the wisdom and discernment for every step of life. They should not be hesitant or timid about approaching God for their needs. See also Hebrews 4:16 and James 1:5. * We can approach God knowing that he is ready and wanting to be asked for what we need. * Ex: A loving, gentle parent wanting to be asked by their child for what they need.   **As God’s people, we should ask *actively* (v.7).**   * Two other “active” verbs are used to communicate the intensity of our asking:   + Seek: to intensely look for something (in this case, God’s answer)   + Knock: to strike on a surface in order to attract attention * This would mean doing what we know should be done while waiting for God’s direction. An example would be how Abraham actively followed God’s lead in his willingness to sacrifice Isaac until God gave him further direction (see Gen. 22:1-13). * See also Jeremiah 6:16 and 29:13 * Ex: When asking God for a job, to ask “actively” would be to fill out job applications while waiting—“seeking” and “knocking” for a job. * Ex: When asking God to help us lead someone to Christ, to ask “actively” would be to regularly talk to people and listen for Gospel openness.     **As God’s people, we should ask *expectantly* (v.8-10).**   * Jesus goes onto explain that those who ask, seek, and knock can expect to receive a response. * Jesus gives two examples to show that a “good” answer will be given: the son who asks for bread, and the son who asks for a fish. In both cases, their father gives them what is good and does not deceive them. * See also Matthew 21:22 and Mark 11:24 * Ex: When we ask people something, we usually can expect a reply. When we ask God something, we can certainly expect a reply * But what about when the “good” response from God is not “yes”? See 2 Cor. 12:1-10   **As God’s people, we should ask *reverently* (v.11).**   * While we should enter God’s presence boldly and confidently, we should still reverence God as our Father. * God is an authority figure (righteous judge) who should be treated respectfully. * See also Exodus 3:5. * Ex: Someone who enters a judge’s chambers, even if they are innocent (as we are in Jesus), must do so reverently and not carelessly. |
| **GOSPEL** | Have you asked God to cleanse you from your sin through Jesus Christ? We can do so knowing that God will hear us and respond with “yes” if we are willing to surrender our lives to him. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple |

If you need further guidance, you can email me at [jasonp@newlifechicago.org](mailto:jasonp@newlifechicago.org)