



Today's study takes us to a familiar passage in the Sermon on the Mount related to who God is and how we are to approach Him with our requests. Whenever we talk about God being a Father, that can stir up uncomfortable experiences for many people. Some of us were raised in a healthy home and had a good relationship with our fathers. For others, that's not the story. For some, their dad was in the home, but it wasn't a healthy home. For others, their dad was totally out of the picture. So, whenever we talk about God as Father, it's a bit of a mixed bag for many. Here's what we want for everyone today: To understand that God is a perfect Father. For those of us with good dads, God is even better. For those who have an unhealthy picture of what a father is, God is the perfect Father. He can be to you what your earthly father should have been.

Key Passage: Matthew 7:7-11

Discussion Questions:

1. How can experiences with our earthly father influence our perception of God as Father? How can you reconcile any negative experiences to embrace God's perfect fatherhood?
2. How does understanding God as a perfect, approachable Father change your perspective on prayer and your relationship with Him?
3. What factors contribute to our hesitation in approaching God with our needs or desires? How can we overcome these hesitations together?
4. How can the story of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8) inspire you to continue praying for something you've given up on?
5. Consider the analogy Jesus uses in Matthew 7:9-11 about a father giving good gifts to his children. How does this help you trust God's goodness and responses to your prayers?
6. Have you ever felt that your prayers were unanswered or not answered in the way you expected? How can the idea that God knows what is best for us help you trust His timing and decisions?
7. Think about a specific area in your life where you need to start asking, seeking, and knocking again. What steps can you take to renew your commitment to persistent prayer in this area?
8. What does it mean to truly trust that God is trustworthy? How can you deepen your trust in God, especially when you feel disappointed or frustrated with unanswered prayers?