



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of February 5, 2023: Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29

Memory Verse

Matthew 7:7 *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you"*

Activity

Hide & Seek

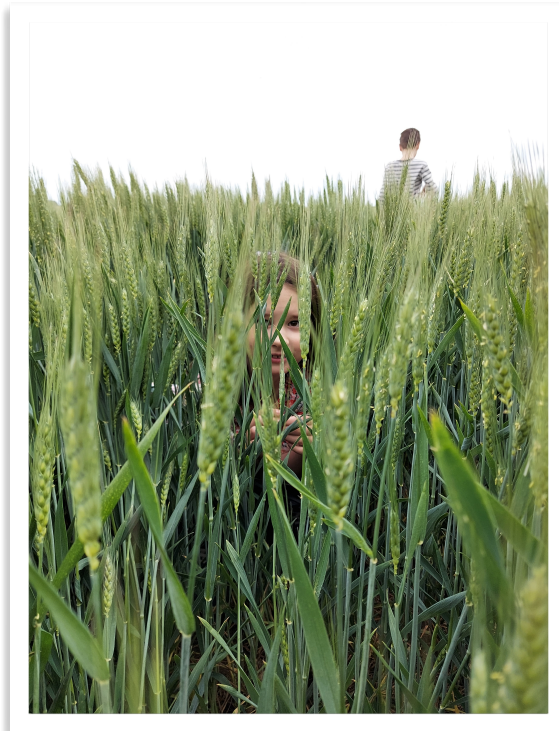
Play Hide and Seek. You could have family members hide or you could hide an item in a room and have your child look for it. Talk about how sometimes we can find something without trying, but most of the time we need to look hard in order to find what we need or want.

Knock, Knock

Look up some "Knock, knock" jokes. Ask your child if they know any. At the end, remind them that God would not say "Who's there?" God know who we are when we ask or pray.

The Story

Theme of the story: Theme of the story: Jesus is continuing with the Sermon on the Mount. He is instructing the crowds (and us) how we need to act and also how God loves us.



Retelling of the story: There are many parts to this Bible passage. Included in this passage is the Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12 In everything do to others as you would have them do to you.

However, this week we will concentrate on Matthew 7-11. ⁷"Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the

A Different Version

Mathew 7:7-11 (The Message Bible):

Here's another version of Matthew 7:7-11. Which one do you like better? How are they different? How are they the same?

"Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This isn't a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in. If your child asks for bread, do you trick him with sawdust? If he asks for fish, do you scare him with a live snake on his plate? As bad as you are, you wouldn't think of such a thing. You're at least decent to your own children. So don't you think the God who conceived you in love will be even better?"



*(Selected content used & adapted
©2014 Spill the Beans Resource Team)*

door will be opened. ⁹Is there anyone among you who, if your child asked for bread, would give a stone? ¹⁰Or if the child asked for a fish, would give a snake? ¹¹If you, then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good things to those who ask him!"

These verses are talking about how God always gives us good things. The first thing Jesus is saying is that if we ask, we will receive. That means that if we ask God for something, God will give it to us! Just remember that God doesn't give us bad things. If we ask for something bad, or if we ask God to do something bad to someone, God won't do it. God only gives us good things, and only does good things. If God doesn't give us something it means that it wouldn't be the best thing for us. God wants to give us something better.

The next part says that if we seek, we will find. Sometimes, God has something for us but we need to look for it. We need to seek to understand what God wants us to do. So, if you seek, you will find.

The last part of what Jesus says here is that if we knock, the door will be opened. Have you ever walked up to somebody's house and knocked on the door, but they didn't answer? Maybe you wanted to visit your friend and they weren't home? That can be sad if we want to visit someone, but they're not home. The great thing is that God is always home! God is always right there, ready to open the door and talk to us whenever we are ready. All we have to do is pray, and God is right there, ready to listen! So, if you knock on God's door, God will always open it!

Family discussion: Ask your child if there is anything they need that they should ask God to grant. Pray with your child about what they need. For older children, talk about how God can be revealed to them. Where do they "see" God?