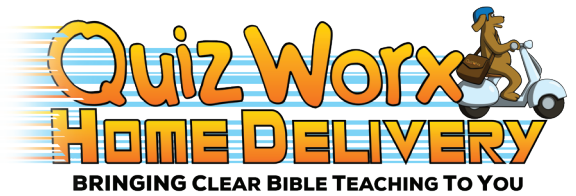


Digging Deeper

Family Devotions



How to use 'Digging Deeper' for Jesus' Sermon on the Mount.

As we come to the end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, this week's 'Digging Deeper' Family Devotions has three Bible passages to read. This will take you all the way through Matthew chapter 7. There are a couple of ways you can do this. You could have three smaller discussions reading one passage at a time. Or one big discussion, reading each passage as it comes up. There is no right or wrong way, simply whatever works best for your household.

Memory Verse Challenge

Can you remember the Memory Verse we have been learning? **This week we have a family memory verse challenge for you! Watch the video to see Miriam explain the challenge.** You can find the video in the "Do Not Judge" Google Drive Folder. Or you can view it on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/qQqx7n6jD40> or search 'Sermon On The Mount Memory Verse week 4' on YouTube.

Something to remember

As we keep looking at Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is going to show us the way that we are to live if we follow Him.

As you look at each passage, keep asking:

- a) How is the way Jesus saying to act, different to the way that the world acts?
- b) How does the Bible say Jesus acted this way perfectly?
- c) How can we reflect Jesus?

Passage 1 - Matthew 7:1-12

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns his followers about the danger of hypocrisy. People often make a big deal about other people's faults and overlook their own! It's easy to judge someone else when they are being selfish, proud, mean, unforgiving or dishonest. It's harder to notice when we are acting this way. Like we saw in the Kids' Talk video, Jesus says that's like trying to get a speck of dust out of your friend's eye, while you have a huge stick in your own eye. Jesus then goes on to remind his followers that God wants us to seek his will in all that we do.

Read together Matthew 7:1-12 (If you have younger children, just read verses 7-12)

1. In verses 7 & 8, Jesus says to "Ask", "Seek" and "Knock". What is he talking about?
2. Does this mean we should ask God for anything we want? Why/Why not?
3. How can we seek God?

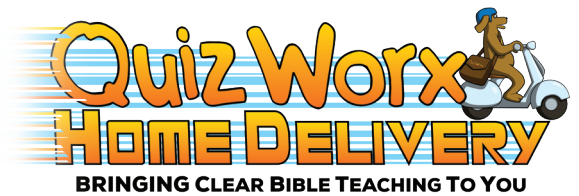
Enjoy this bonus video : **'Ask and you will receive'**. Find it in the Google Drive folder for this week, or type this into your browser https://youtu.be/AWu4l_2EhTY

Pray together thanking God that he does not judge us according to what we deserve.

Ask God to reveal himself to you as you seek him more and more.

Digging Deeper

Family Devotions



Passage 2 - Matthew 7:13-23

In the first part of this section, Jesus speaks about two gates. One is very big and easy to find. The other is small and hard to find. The big, broad gate leads to destruction. The small, narrow gate leads to eternal life. Jesus is really talking about our lives. Following Jesus can be hard, because we need to say no to doing things our own way and yes to living God's way. Jesus then goes on to warn his followers about those who say they love Jesus but their words and their actions show that they do not. People like this have no place in heaven.

Read together Matthew 7:13 -23 (if you have younger children, just read 7:13-14 and do questions 1-3)

1. Can we follow both the wide and narrow paths? Why/Why not?
2. Why do fewer people choose the road that leads to life?
3. Following the narrow path to the small gate leads us to Jesus. What are some ways we can do this?
4. What does the wolf represent? How does Jesus feel about the wolves among his sheep?
5. How can we tell if someone trusts and follows Jesus?
6. What are some good "fruits" we can grow in our lives?

Pray together asking God to help us stay on the narrow path that leads to life by trusting Jesus.

Passage 3 - Matthew 7:24-29

As Jesus finishes up his Sermon on the Mount, he teaches about the value and wisdom of living his way. Jesus is our rock and when we listen to and obey him we gain wisdom to live his way right now, and are guaranteed eternal life. Jesus is the only foundation worth building our lives on.

Read together Matthew 7:24-29

1. What did the wise person build their house upon?
2. What did the foolish person build their house upon?
3. How can we build our lives upon the rock?

Pray together thanking God that he is good and wants what is best for us.

Ask God to help us build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus by listening to and obeying him.

Memory Verse

Sermon on the Mount

Matthew 7:24-27

Jesus said, "If you hear these words of mine and put them into action, you're like a wise person who built their house on the rock (*hurgh!*).

The rain came down (*swoosh*), the streams rose (*bubble, bubble, bubble*), and the winds blew (*whoosh*); but it didn't fall (*NO!*), 'cause it was built on the rock (*hurgh!*).

But if you hear these words of mine and don't put them into action, you're like a foolish person who built their house on the sand (*ewww*).

The rain came down (*swoosh*), the streams rose (*bubble, bubble, bubble*), and the winds blew (*whoosh*); and it went crash, 'cause it was built on the sand (*ewww*)."

