

Words of the King: Matthew 7:1-12
Discussion Guide, December 13, 2020
Next week's text: Matthew 7:13-20

CHECK UP:

Memory Work Review: Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. - Matthew 6:19-21

- How did you focus on Kingdom priorities this past week?

OPEN:

- What was the best gift you have ever received?
 - o How does your family remember the gift of Christ every Christmas?
 - o When you think about the gift of Christ what comes to mind?

READ and ASK: Matthew 7:1-12

- What practical instructions can we take away from 7:1-5?
 - o Is this saying we should never confront a brother or sister in Christ who is living in sin? Why or why not?
 - o When, if ever, should we criticize or judge someone else?
- What sacred or valuable thing should we withhold from people who have no concern for God?
- Why is it that the traits of others that irritate us most are often the very faults that are present in our own lives?
- What is the central truth about God found in 7:7-11?
 - o Would it be a good thing if God gave us every prayer request we ever asked for? What would the world look like?
- What do you tend to pray about?
 - o How does this passage coincide with "the Lord's prayer?"
- How does 7:11 bring you a special encouragement?
- Where do you see the message of the birth of Christ found in this text?

APPLY:

- How do you tend to respond when someone corrects you?
 - o What faults block your spiritual vision?

- What happened the last time you criticized someone else or judged another's actions?
 - o How can we become more merciful and nonjudgmental?

- How can you begin this week to get in the habit of examining your own life before you start criticizing others?

- To what relationship do you most need to apply the Golden Rule this week?

- NEXT STEP: What fault of your own can you focus your attention on this week?

Memory Work:

So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets. - Matthew 7:12