



UPSIDE DOWN

THE ANSWER TO YOUR SEARCH

MATTHEW 7:7-11

I. Easter celebrates the fact that what was originally _____ was not found.

But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." Matthew 28:5-6

II. Easter reminds us that God provides His _____ when we go to Him asking, seeking and knocking.

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ... If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!" Matthew 7:7, 11

ASK

We ask for things we cannot provide ... so God gave Jesus to be your Savior.

SEEK

We seek after things we do not yet have ... so God gave Jesus to seek after you.

KNOCK

We knock on doors we cannot open ... so God gave Jesus to open heaven's door for you.

III. Easter instills hope because Jesus is _____, answering and guiding our search for abundant life.

"I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly." John 10:9-10



UPSIDE DOWN

DEVOTIONAL & HOME GROUP STUDY

1. Archbishop William Temple famously said, "When I pray, coincidences happen; when I stop praying, the coincidences stop happening." How have you experienced "coincidences" in relation to prayer, and what has it taught you about God?

2. Read Matthew 7:7-11. Does the picture of God in these verses portray Him in the way you usually think of Him? Why or why not?

FOR THIS WEEK

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:

MATTHEW 7:7

"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you."

JOURNAL:

Matthew 7:7-11

"God will always answer our prayers; but He will answer them in His way, and His way will be the way of perfect wisdom and of perfect love. Often, if He answered our prayers as we at the moment desired, it would be the worst thing possible for us, for in our ignorance we often ask for gifts which would be our ruin. This saying of Jesus tells us not only that God will answer, but also that God will answer in wisdom and in love."

WILLIAM BARCLAY

3. Charles Swindoll writes:

"As we pray fervently for something over a period of days, weeks, months, or even years, sometimes God will use the passage of time and the earnestness of our prayers to change us. We may find our own hearts moving, our wills bending and our whole lives conforming to His will. In the process, we learn how good and wise and powerful God is."

How have you seen this thought played out in your own walk of faith?

4. While Jesus teaches His disciples here to persist in prayer, how is He also teaching them to know the certainty that their prayers are heard and will be answered?

5. How has this sermon motivated your prayer life? How can you encourage the others in your group or in your circle of influence to persevere in prayer?

JOURNAL Matthew 7:7-11

Ask, seek, knock. Notice the three different senses:

- asking is *verbal*—using the mouth to petition God for needs and desires;
- seeking involves the *mind*—more than asking, it sets priorities and focuses the heart;
- knocking shows *physical movement* in which action is taken.

Asking and seeking are important, but they would be incomplete without knocking (1 Jn 3:18). It's good to pray and seek God, but if one does not also act in ways that are pleasing to Him, all is for naught. And at times we are to take physical steps in faith while we continue to ask and seek the Lord.

It's no accident that Jesus told believers to love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength (Lk 10:27).

With these thoughts in mind, journal about how asking, seeking and knocking can be an intentional part of your walk with Christ this week.

COMING UP AT CHRIST CHAPEL

Here's a glimpse at what you need to know for this week at Christ Chapel. If you'd like to find out even more, visit www.ccbcfamily.org/events. That's a great spot to see what's coming up!

NAVIGATE 2022 Join us for a worldview conference about truth, identity, tolerance and compassion amid the current cultural climate this Friday and Saturday, April 22 and 23. National experts on faith and culture will provide you with biblical answers to life's toughest questions. Go to ccbcfamily.org/events.

FIND COMMUNITY IN MEN'S AND WOMEN'S SUMMER STUDIES Looking for a place to connect this summer? Band of Brothers encourages and equips the men through Scripture and fellowship. Women in the Word provides resources, community and growth to women. Get more info and register at ccbcfamily.org/events.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER Whether you can spare 10 minutes of your day in personal prayer or come for an hour as we corporately pray, we hope that Thursday, May 5 will be a time when our church family lifts up our nation, our city and our church to God. To learn more about this event and locations for your specific campus visit ccbcfamily.org/events.

AVENEW WEEKEND From dating and engaged to newly married, couples are welcome to our AVENEW weekend conference starting on Friday, May 13. You'll receive a biblical framework to model as you walk out the Lord's plan for your marriage. AVENEW weekend is an intensive two-day conference-style event equivalent to twelve weeks of learning. Learn more or sign up at ccbcfamily.org/events.

SUMMER CAMP FOR GRADES 5-8 Hey Middle Schoolers, kick off summer the right way with the MSM staff as we head to Camp Eagle June 3-6. Learn more about Jesus, have adventures, hang out with friends and make memories. If you're fast, you can get an Early Bird discount! To register, visit ccbcfamily.org/events. Questions? Email Jessica at jessicab@ccbcfamily.org.

HSM SUMMER CAMP Grab your friends and head to the mountains of New Mexico June 24-30! Whether this is your first time for a summer trip or you're a seasoned veteran, you won't want to miss the crazy games, amazing experiences and sweet memories waiting for you. Learn more about dates, locations and registration at ccbcfamily.org/events.

ROCK N' ROLL INTO MUSICAMP THIS JULY! If your children love music and dance, mark your calendar for July 11-15. This time of dancing, singing and discovering the fun of making music results in an entire musical by the end of the week. Professional musicians and exceptional volunteers instruct children Grades 1-6. Learn more at ccbcfamily.org/events.

LOOKING FOR THE CONNECT CARD? Scan the QR code here to fill out a Connect Card. Our team will reach out this week to answer your questions and tell you more about Christ Chapel.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO GIVE AN OFFERING TODAY, YOU CAN DO SO STRAIGHT FROM YOUR PHONE. The process is quick and easy—text CCBCFW to 833-422-7200 to get started.