

## Counter Rev Small Group Conversation based on Matthew 7:7-12

*Try keep this conversation no longer than 45 minutes - it is no good sending people home exhausted from just talking for too long. Keep the conversation moving and upbeat. Don't let people take the group off the topic. Do your best to draw out the contributions of quieter people. Land the time in prayer, but remember to gently coach people who haven't prayed in a group before. There is no pressure to pray aloud.*

### Getting to know each other

- If you can, share any stories of answered prayer.

### Understanding and applying Christ's teaching in Matthew 7:7-12

- Read Matthew 7:7-12.
- *If some of your group did not hear the Sunday message, then play the summary audio clip.*
- *Read verses 7-8.* How many promises does Jesus make in these two verses regarding prayer? What do you think is the difference between asking=prayer, and seeking=prayer, and knocking=prayer?
- What one obstacle undermines the regularity of your prayer? And what one obstacle undermines the level of faith with which you pray?
- *Read verses 9-11.* What, in your opinion, is Jesus trying to say here?
- Do you think that God promises to answer all our prayers? What might cause him to say 'No' or 'Wait' rather than 'Yes'? And what kind of prayers do you think God is more than ready to answer?
- *Read verse 12.* We should treat others like we like to be treated. This means we need to think through how we like to be treated. As a group brainstorm a list (write it down) of 5 ways that you like family to treat you, and 5 ways you like friends to treat you, and 5 ways that you like people at work to treat you, and 5 ways that you like perfect strangers to treat you. Once the list is done, say, 'Now we have an action plan for how to treat others.' Get someone to type this out and email it to all in the group.

### Praying through Matthew 7:7-12

- As a group, or in sub-groups, pray together about 1) experiencing more of God's goodness and 2) extending more of God's goodness to others. Also, see if there are any personal prayer requests, and pray short, faith-filled prayers for them.