



3. At first glance at our text, Jesus seems to be implying that if we are sincere in our prayers, God will give us whatever we ask for. What are the dangers of interpreting this text literally in this manner?
  
4. Hyperbole is the exaggeration or overstatement of an idea in trying to get your point across. Jesus often used hyperbole as a teaching tool. Can you give some examples of Jesus using this teaching method? Why do you think Jesus often used hyperbole as teaching points?
  
5. Read our text aloud. What point was Jesus trying to make with hyperbole in this specific text?
  
6. There is a tendency to use prayer as a means to manipulate God into what we like God to be. Discuss ways people use prayer in a manipulative way. How can we guard against this tendency?
  
7. A mature prayer life takes time, reflection, and perseverance to have real value in the life choices we make. Discuss how you think we can grow in our prayer life.

8. Paul prayed for a thorn in his side to be removed from him three times but seemingly the thorn remained. Jesus cried once, “My God, why have you forsaken me?” What might these responses teach us about prayer?
  
9. Because God is bigger than we are, and more complex than we can imagine, there is mystery involved in a mature prayer life. How does this impact our understanding of prayer?