

TITLE AND NUMBER: 90. Good gifts



REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S): Luke 11:9-13

'So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

LOOKING FURTHER: Matthew 7:7-11; Psalm 103

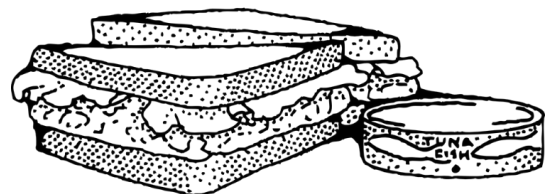
What does this Bible passage tell us?

The first time Jesus talks about asking God for good gifts is at the beginning of His ministry in what is known as 'The Sermon on the Mount' (Matthew 7:7-11). Today's passage is further into His ministry and here He talks about asking for the Holy Spirit. On both occasions, God clearly wants us to receive gifts from Him, both physically and spiritually.

In the previous verses of Matthew 11, Jesus teaches us how to pray, encourages us to be persistent in prayer and not to give up (v2-8). Maybe we are puzzled as to why we do not get the things that we ask for. We can be assured that God only gives what is best for us because He loves us. God does not mock us. Can you imagine being given scorpion or snake sandwiches to eat rather than tuna or egg ones? (v11). He is our Father, desires to give us the best, and wants us to succeed as we seek to follow Him by the power of His Holy Spirit.

There is a song you might have heard in chapel that says: "You're a good, good Father, that's who you are...and I'm loved by you, that's who I am."

In this day and age, our own identity can be stolen or compromised. As a child of God, we can be absolutely sure that we are known, loved, precious and part of God's own family, and that cannot be taken away! Let us boldly ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit, being confident that He hears our prayers. He can and will satisfy us with good things (Psalm 103:5).



Reflections:

- Do you ask God for good gifts? Remember to thank Him for His goodness to you.
- How has the Holy Spirit made a difference in your life?
- If you need further help with today's study then do speak with Chaplaincy.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

