



SDG Discussion Guide

Matthew 7:7-29

January 20, 2019

For Starters:

What was the best gift you ever received from a parent or teacher or the like?

Have you ever been in a house threatened by a natural disaster or calamity? What happened?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find these questions in print on that Sunday.

As you can, read aloud the passage in your group. Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together, what points and questions arose? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion.

1. What central truth about God does Jesus stress in verse 7-12? How have you experienced this in your life?
2. How might verse 12 define what Jesus means by the "narrow gate"? Why is that road less traveled?
3. Who are the false prophets you need to be on your guard against? What "test" does Jesus give us for identifying such?
4. What are some of the "good fruits" Jesus is looking for? How can these fruits be cultivated in your own life?
5. What was the fault of the "evildoers" (v 23)? If the ability to prophesy, drive out demons, and perform miracles is not what Jesus means by doing the will of the Father, what is?
6. How do the two house builders reflect the people who heard Jesus? What kind of commitment is Jesus calling for here? What is the alternative?
7. To be a "wise builder" at this point in your life, do you need to learn more or practice what you already know?
8. How would you describe your spiritual foundation: Shaky? Solid? New? Slowly wearing away? Rebuilding? What would you have to tear down in order to solidify that foundation? How do you need others to help you in the process?
9. What building materials will you use in the coming week or two to build or maintain a firm foundation on "The Rock"?

Spend some time in prayer. Thank God, and ask him to continue to speak to you from his word in this passage. Ask him to speak to you along the line of your spiritual foundation. Ask him to really illuminate that one for you. He wants to be your one and only Rock. Really listen for his voice, leading and guiding in terms of what to "tear down" and what to "build up". Go forth this week enlivened by the teacher - our Rock - Jesus Christ.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).