



Study Guide: Ask, Seek, Knock

Sermon Topic: Asking, Seeking, and Choosing the Narrow Path

Link:

<https://oregoncitychurch.org/podcasts/media/2025-12-28-ask-seek-knock-choosing-the-narrow-path>

Scripture Focus	Speaker	Date
Matthew 7:7-14	Steve Haney	12/28/2025

Opening Thought

In this sermon Steve challenged our comfort zones by looking at Jesus's teaching on prayer and commitment. This guide is designed to help you process what it truly means to live as a Kingdom-minded follower and commit to the hard, narrow road that leads to life.

Part 1: Redefining "Ask, Seek, and Knock" (Matthew 7:7–11)

Steve emphasized that Jesus's promise to answer prayer is rooted in our relationship with a perfect Father and the context of His Kingdom.

- **Read Matthew 7:7-11.** Where have you adopted a "vending machine" expectation of prayer—believing that if you ask, God must deliver exactly what you want?
- Steve mentioned that God always gives what is *best* for us, even if it is not what we initially asked for. Can you identify a time when God answered your prayer with a "no" or "wait," and later you realized that "no" was a gift?
- How can you shift your prayer life to be more "kingdom-minded"? What does it look like to ask for what is needed to serve His purpose instead of just personal comfort?

Part 2: The Core of the Command (Matthew 7:12)

Jesus called the Golden Rule the summation of "the Law and the Prophets." Steve defined this as essential Kingdom work.

- **Read Matthew 7:12.** In which area of your life is it easiest to practice the Golden Rule (e.g., family, friends)? In which area is it the most challenging (e.g., work, social media, politics)?
- Steve's message implies that following this rule is an active choice, not just a passive feeling. What is one specific, practical way you can apply this rule this week to someone you find difficult to deal with?
- If you lived every day by this command, how would your life look different?

Part 3: Choosing the Narrow Gate (Matthew 7:13–14)

The sermon concluded with the stark contrast between two paths—one wide and popular, the other narrow and difficult.

- **Read Matthew 7:13-14.** What makes the **wide road** so appealing? What kind of distractions, beliefs, or cultural norms make that path feel "easy"?
- Steve stressed that the **narrow path** is hard. What personal comfort or worldly ambition might you need to sacrifice right now to stay committed to this hard, life-giving road?
- How does the support of your church community help you when the path feels too hard or lonely? What is your role in helping others stay on the narrow path?

Action Step for the Week

Take five minutes each morning this week to pray using the structure of Matthew 7:7:

Ask God to reveal one way you can serve His Kingdom today, **Seek** out opportunities to practice the Golden Rule, and **Knock** on the door of commitment, asking for the strength to walk the narrow path.