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# Matthew Chapter 7

## ☐ 1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. When you are praying for something, how often do you pray for it? Once, twice, three times? What determines how frequently you pray for something?

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- b. When you pray is it typically for things or situations or is it more of a conversation? Explain?

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## ☐ 2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this last chapter that is part of the Sermon on the Mount Jesus' teachings get shorter and He covers a lot more topics: Not judging, effective prayer, the golden rule, the narrow gate, the tree and its fruit, true disciples and building on a solid foundation. Do these seem to be just a bunch of random ideas or is there something unifying the topics of this chapter?

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In the Andrews Study Bible the commentators say that in the Sermon on the Mount Matthew is trying to encourage people to compare Jesus with Moses. So it seems that Matthew is laying out a bunch of Jesus' teachings in rapid succession somewhat like the 10 Commandments. The interesting thing is that Jesus was actually the one who gave Moses the 10 Commandments on Mount Sinai thousands of years earlier! In the end we could probably sum up the teachings in the Sermon on the Mount the same way Jesus sums up the 10 Commandments in Matthew 22: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind and soul, and love your neighbor as yourself (Matthew 22:37-40).

If the point is to love God and others, why do you think the Pharisees made so many thousands of little rules back in their day? Do you think it was possible for anyone to keep all those rules?

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If the point is to love God and others why do you think there are 10 Commandments instead of just this one?

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How many rules do you need in your life today to help you feel like you know what is expected of you and for you to feel like you are doing what you should?

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Do you and your parents agree on how many rules that should be?

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**3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)**

**Choose one or two:**

- a. Sit down with your parents and tell them about this lesson and what you've learned. See if you can come up with a short list of rules that you are both comfortable with that will help you to understand each other better and their expectations of you.

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- b. Make up a list of realistic expectations you have of your parents. Things like: love, respect, etc... Explain to your parents what would be meaningful to you about these expectations.

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**4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)**

Pray and ask Jesus to be the leader of your home and for the influence of the Holy Spirit to be felt there each day. Pray that He will help you establish good guidelines that will help you to stay close to your family and to Him.