

**Matthew 7:7-14****Finding Life****Warm Up**

What is your favourite “Knock knock” joke?

Who is your favourite literary or film villain? Moriarty? Blofeld? Voldemort? What makes them evil?

**Background and context**

Jesus is beginning to draw His sermon to a close and in this passage He reveals some startling things. Firstly, the Father is generous and is waiting to give us salvation if we ask Him. Secondly that we are evil! Jesus calls us evil. Is that how you see yourself? Despite this, God is still wanting us to choose salvation. Thirdly we **have** to make a choice. Which gate will we choose? The one that has a wide path that leads to destruction or the narrow gate (Jesus) which leads to eternal life?

**Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity**

**READ Matthew 7:7-14.** What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

1. Verses 7-8 have often led people to think God will respond to anything we ask. In truth what is it we ought to be asking for? Look up Luke 11:9-13 for help.
2. Verses 7-8 also reveal something of God's generosity, love and grace towards us. In the light of this, how should we respond? v12 will help you.
3. **Read v13-14.** How many gates are there? Where are these gates? At the start or end of the journey? What difference does it make where the gate is?
4. How does your answer to Q3 differ from traditional views in other religions about salvation?
5. What do you understand by the word **evil**? Why does Jesus call His disciples (and us) evil? How does the Sermon On The Mount point to this?
6. V12 is often misquoted to become *Do to others as they do to you*. Why is the true way so much harder to live out? How does this verse sum up the law and prophets?
7. The outcome of the choice in v13-14 has serious eternal consequences. Why do you think so few choose it?

**Discipleship and Application**

8. Flick back through the **Sermon On The Mount**. It is a picture of a life with a pure heart. How does your heart measure up?
9. How can we recondition our hearts to work out the salvation we have already received, rather than work for a salvation we can achieve?
10. What can you do to support someone to choose the narrow gate/path?

**Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.**

There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.