



Community Group Study Guide



Date: May 13, 2007

Series: "Building a Kingdom Household", Pt 1 The Foundation: In God We Trust

Scripture: Matthew 7:7-11

Speaker: Mark Van Valin

Questions for your consideration:

•Jesus' teachings in Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount) provide a kind of blueprint for Kingdom living. It provides a nice outline for families who attempt to raise their children as Kingdom citizens! The sermon is actually a series of short teachings of Jesus on a variety of subjects. There are four key themes:

- 1.(Righteousness) He calls us to a life-giving righteousness of the heart, not just one of outward appearance or ritual. (5:21-6:18)
- 2.(Generosity)(aka Hope) He has promised to provide all that we need in this life, and more than we can measure in the next life - an eternal Kingdom for all who obey him. (So there is no longer any need to hoard our resources, time, or talents (6:19-24) or be anxious over things.) (6:25-34)
- 3.(Grace) (aka Love) He has shown us mercy and forgiveness, so we must show mercy and grace to others. (7:1-6)
- 4.(Trust) (aka Faith) He invites us to trust him and test his goodness, to ask him to provide every need. (6:25-34) (7:7-12)

•In this morning's sermon on building a Kingdom household, Pastor Mark started with what he considered to be the "foundation" of a Kingdom household, which was the fourth "key", namely "trust".

- 1. Read Matthew 7:7-11. Notice several things: How does it describe God?
- 2. What in your mind, and in your family's mindset, would constitute a "good gift", or the "good things in life"? How would your definition of what is "good" (valued) be different from a family that didn't believe in God? Are you sure?
- 3. What is Jesus inviting a family to do? First, he is challenging us to identify our heavenly Father as the source of all "good gifts". What would an unbelieving household see as the source of the "good things" in life?
- 4. Second, Jesus is challenging us to actually "trust" God, our father in heaven. How would your family express trust in God's goodness for the truly "good things in life" out loud?
- 5. Second, he is inviting us to "ask, seek, and knock" – to pursue our father in heaven for these "good gifts". How does a family do that "out loud"? (Hint: It has something to do with prayer!)
- 6. Can you think of an instance where your family's "trust" in God for truly good things was tested?