

God's Promises

2025-06-08 • ADRIAN TOPETE



Genesis 9:16

FOR THE LEADER

These questions help you run the conversation. They are not your study. Get into the passage yourself first, because your group needs what God taught you, not just a list of questions. These also lean on Sunday's message, so a few will not land for anyone who missed it. Watch it before you lead.

WHAT THE MESSAGE WAS ABOUT

Jesus said ask, seek, knock. Adrian Topete preached that those three words are not a vending machine formula. They are a posture, and the posture starts with admitting you do not have the answers. Adrian was honest about the hard parts. Most people only seek God once they are desperate. And the door opens on God's timing, not ours. He ended in a prison yard, standing among men the world had written off, and the word he sensed from God was simple: I love them too.

To get started

- Tell us about a promise someone made to you and actually kept. What did that do for your trust in them?

Looking back at the message

He opened by admitting he breaks promises to his own kids. That honesty sets the tone.

- 1 Adrian opened by admitting he is a promise breaker, just like the rest of us. Why do you think he started there instead of starting with God's promises?
- 2 Adrian said knocking is the part he almost skipped, because knocking means waiting for someone else to open the door. How do you usually handle waiting on God?
- 3 Adrian closed with a story from a prison yard. The sense he got from God about those men was: I love them too. What did that story stir in you? OPTIONAL

Looking at the passage

Read Matthew 7:7-11 aloud, and Genesis 9:12-16.

- 4 Read Matthew 7:7-8. Jesus uses three verbs: ask, seek, knock. How are those three actions different from each other?
- 5 Read verses 9-11. Jesus compares God to a father whose kid asks for bread. What is Jesus saying about how God hears requests?
- 6 Read Genesis 9:16. God says the rainbow is a reminder. Notice who it reminds: God himself. What does it mean that God builds himself reminders of his own promises?
- 7 The covenant in Genesis 9 is not just with Noah. It is with every living creature. Who does that tell you God keeps his eye on? OPTIONAL

Bringing it home

Desperation as the usual trigger for seeking is worth naming without shame.

- 8 Adrian admitted that most people only seek God when they are desperate. How true is that of your own story?
- 9 What door have you been knocking on that has not opened yet?
- 10 Adrian said cutting something out of your life can be one of the hardest things a person ever does. If you had to name yours, what would it be?
- 11 Some people quietly assume it is too late for part of their life to change. Where are you tempted to believe that? OPTIONAL

The group together

The prison story is about who gets counted out. Keep that in view.

- 12 Every community has people it quietly writes off. Who gets written off around here?
- 13 Some prayers take years. How could this group keep asking for one thing together over a long stretch of time?
- 14 Adrian was sent into that prison yard by someone. Who could this group send, and where?

BEFORE YOU FINISH

What have you stopped asking God for? What would it take to start asking again?

You might pray about

- For those waiting on a door that has not opened
- For people everyone else has written off
- For honesty about only turning to God when desperate
- For promises kept by someone who does not break them