



Hey God: Vending Machine | May 17, 2017

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

I find that sometimes I treat God like a vending machine. I put a request in, and I expect something out immediately. However, it just doesn't work that way.

Key Verse

Matthew 7:7-10 (NIV)

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake?

Discussion

We live in an immediate gratification culture where there is a notification for anything we want, we can get an app to carry whatever we want with us everyday, and anytime we have a problem, it's only a matter of time before technology can solve it for us.

1. What is your favorite app and why? (FYI, Faith in Five has a mobile app...download it today!)
2. Discuss the length of time you expect to wait for a response to a text, facebook messenger, snapchat, email, voicemail, etc?

Many people treat God and their prayer life as if it's as simple as putting in a request and getting an immediate text-like response. It's a fast food, vending machine prayer expectation that hinders our relationship with God and can often leave us frustrated when prayer doesn't work in this "have it your way" or "freaky fast" fashion.

3. How often would you say you put in requests to God looking for an immediate answer? Share an example.

While the Bible clearly says, "Ask and you shall receive," we can't possibly expect everyone to get everything they want. What if the thing we are guaranteed in the asking of God is a relationship with Him? What if what we receive is potentially far better than we are requesting?

4. How often do you enter into a conversation with God looking for nothing in return?
5. Have you ever thought of prayer as a relationship builder with God?

What's Next?

As you think intentionally about your prayer life and how to engage God more regularly through prayer, consider structuring your prayers as a conversation: 1. Warm up 2. Time of sharing 3. Time of reacting 4. Wrap up. Spend some time this week praying in this fashion to help shift perspective from simple exchange of requests to relational conversation.