***Luke 11:9-13 “So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. 11If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”***

Father’s Day. A day to celebrate Fathers, Grandfathers, and Father figures in our lives. Just as Mothers offer wisdom we cling to, Fathers offer wisdom we cling to as well. As I grow older, I find myself hearing the wisdom of my father and the father figures in my life more and more, the logic and understanding each offered in dealing with this overly emotional, self-involved world and being grateful for their wisdom. May we all be grateful today.

In verses 9-10 of our scripture, we read *“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.* The idea of these verses is to pursue God vigorously, seek Him as though our Eternity depends on it! Our High Priest, our Advocate Jesus Christ says Ask, Seek, Knock. This is not about worldly things – ask for a car, ask for a bigger house, seek more prestige and worldly power. All of that is Lust of the Eye, Lust of the Flesh, Pride of Life, as 1 John 2 says. Instead, pursue the things above.

Men, *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth,* as Paul tells us in Colossians 3:2. Each of us is to set our mind on maintaining a Godly home, raising children in the faith*.* Ask, Seek, Knock. God will not deny an earnest plea. God hears repentant hearts. Trust Him in His timing and plan.

In verses 11-12 *If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? 12Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?* Which father will do harm to his child he loves rather than good? We know those exist, but the grand majority of fathers ache in the heart to give lovingly to their children. A good fathers love is unlike anything else on earth. A stone can be shaped and colored like a loaf of bread. A serpent may live in the same water as a fish. But a scorpion and egg? In Judea, there lives a white scorpion. The body is shaped like an oval. When lying in wait, with the tail and pincers folded in, it can resemble an egg. The people of that day would’ve known what He was talking about. These are object lessons from Jesus. The answer from every good father standing in that crowd was – I’d never give my precious child these things! Certainly, I’d do him, her no harm!

Men, *do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord,* as Ephesians 6:4 instructs. Let us seek God and train our children up in the same way. Give them a Rock to cling to, a Cleft to hide in. God will not despise our cry when we plead for our children to find Him Let’s set our minds on God and let our children see.

Verse 13 *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”* The word evil here has the idea of being hurtful or sort of thoughtless at times. Though parents can be hurtful at times, they still give beneficial, good gifts to children. Fathers sacrifice. The world doesn’t want to hear that. Say that a mother doesn’t sacrifice and fists will fly. Say a father doesn’t sacrifice and the world will kiss you in the mouth. Satan seeks to break down the family. The best place to start is with tearing down the father.

Notice what God gives when we Ask, Seek, Knock. The Holy Spirit! Is there a better gift than the indwelling of God’s Spirit? This is Eternity within! Truly from Above! In John 14:16, Jesus says He will pray and God will send the Comforter, the Helper – having the idea of our Advocate! There is no better gift than an Eternal Connection to God and Life Everlasting.

Men, *Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you,* as Matthew 6:33 instructs. Seek God and the things above first! Let us seek Him first in our lives, first in our homes, first in every step of our day. He’ll give us the greatest gift of all, the Holy Spirit. Your wife will see, your children will see. Every sacrifice will become worship of God. Every possession will become a resource for God. He will provide Strength, Wisdom, Understanding, and Courage. Ultimately fathers will be called to account for the household. Standing before God, we must be able to say we pointed our homes to Jesus.

This week, think of God, the Most Holy Father, think of Jesus, our High Priest, think of the Holy Spirit, dwelling within and thank God for His wonderful gifts. For God so loved the world He gave His only begotten Son to provide us the opportunity to become sons and daughters of the King. Today, anyone you consider a great father, thank him if he is still here, remember him fondly if he is gone. Thank God for the gift of fathers and their love! But most of all, we have a Great Father in heaven! Let us Thank Him and give Him Praise and Honor for the Gifts He gives, this day for the Gifts He gives and all our days to come!