

**WEEK of June 30:**

**Character of God in an Uncertain World: Wonder**

**Matthew 7:7-8**

Sometimes life is a lot.

As summer arrives, with late night fires, weekend lake trips, and no school, youth group, or Sunday School, it can end up being a time away from the routines we have most of the year. And, during these times, life can be a bit fluid. In strange routines and late nights our connection with God, with ourselves, and our friends can feel weak and strange. We ask ourselves questions, thinking:

**Do I really know who God is?**

**How does he interact with me day to day?**

**Who did he create me to be?**

**How do I live these lazy summer months engaging with the God of the universe when some days I don't do a single thing till 3 in the afternoon?**

Matthew 7:7-8 says,

*“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.”*

Around two years ago I got the opportunity to travel to about 13 countries over the span of nine months. One thing I wanted to do, as a bit of a souvenir of all these different countries and cultures, was find really cool doors and take pictures with them. While I didn't maintain this goal for more than a few countries, it was

really cool to see the different ways that these varying cultures designed and created doors for certain places and purposes. I got to see a very cool carved wooden door at a cathedral in Brazil. I saw a massive sun made out of black metal pieces on a gate in Mexico. I saw a large wooden door in a slave trader's castle in Ghana. All of these doors were used for different purpose. Some were for really good experiences. Some for really bad experiences.

God promised that when we seek Him, we will find Him. When we knock on the door, it will be opened to us.

**But what is that door?**

I like to think that every day we are faced with hundreds of doors to walk through.

Some doors could be really beautiful – lake days with friends, late night fires with your family, a beautiful day on the golf course.

Some doors could be really ugly – friends who didn't invite you to hang out with them, gardens that keep dying, financial stresses, anxiety that comes with a lack of routine, etc.

We are faced with all these doors every day, and we have the choice to just barge right through them, and handle what lies on the other side by ourselves.

**Or, we can stop and knock, asking that God would open the door and walk through whatever is on the other side with us, the whole time revealing who He is and who we are in Him.**

This may not be the most literal interpretation of this passage, but I believe this is an accurate representation of what life is like.

We do not always know what to do in the good times or the bad. We do not always know how to engage with God in day-to-day life.

In fact, a lot of times our life can be summed up with the phrase '*I don't know.*'

But God has promised to give when we ask. To be found when we seek him. To open the door when we knock on it.

So, when we are faced with the myriads of emotions, feelings, situations, struggles, joys, and everything else this summer might entail, **let's knock on those doors, asking that God would be present. That He would help us know.**

### **REFLECTION QUESTIONS:**

~Ask yourself these questions and, as you journal them each day this week, see if your answers change and how God was present with you as you knocked:

Do I really know who God is?

How does He interact with me day to day?

Who did He create me to be?

How do I live these lazy summer months engaging with the God of the universe when some days I don't do a single thing till 3 in the afternoon?

### **ACTIVITY: Pay Attention Exercise**

~Go for a walk around your neighbourhood. See the different doors that are there. Bright red front doors, wooden garden gates, creaky old garage doors, etc. Each door is different, yet a reality of every day life.

~Keep walking. Start noticing the people around you. See the happy mother and kid at the park, see the lonely grandpa going for a walk, see the kids happily starting their summer break, see the people driving to work. Each one is walking through different doors every moment. Each of the moments they are walking through are different, but a reality of every day life.

~Keep walking. **Think about your week**, the time a family member got upset at you, the wonderful conversation with a friend, the cookies you made, etc. Each of those moments are different, but a reality of every day life.

**What has defined that reality for you?**

**Trying to stumble through it alone?** Or walking through the mundane with the God who knows and gives knowledge.

**What could these moments be if you knocked and asked God to walk through them with you?**

Ask God where He was with you in those moments.

### **PRAYER:**

Creator, you are the God of knowledge, the God who delights in revealing yourself to us. In this next week, as we may face experiences of great joy, great sadness, great anxiety or whatever else comes, we knock on the doors of these experiences and ask you to come through them with us. That you help us know who you are and who we are in you.

We love you, Lord, and we thank you in advance for how you are teaching us to hear Your Voice.

Amen.