

COUNTER CULTURE

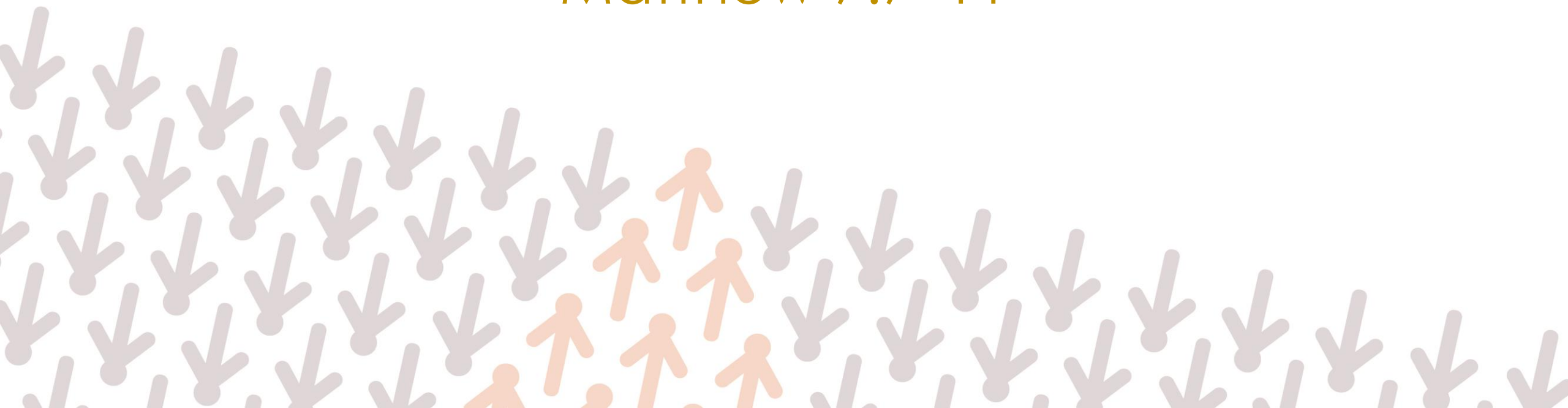
THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT



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THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Good Father, Good Gifts

Matthew 7:7–11



Matthew 7:7–11

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

COUNTER CULTURE THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

1. Rest—you have a heavenly Father (6:25–34; 7:7–11)



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“Between the opening beatitudes (5:3–12) and the closing warnings (7:13–27) the disciples are constantly bombarded by uncompromising demands. Respite comes only in two places—in 6:25–34 and 7:7–11.”

—W. Davies and Dale Allison



Anxiety → Asking

6:25–34 → 7:7–11

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Ch. 6	‘Do not be anxious’	Ch. 7	‘Ask and you will receive’
6:25	do not be anxious about your life	7:7	ask and it will be given to you
6:28	why are you anxious about clothing?	7:8	everyone who asks receives
6:31	do not be anxious	7:9	if his son asks him for bread
6:34	do not be anxious about tomorrow	7:10	if his son asks him for a fish
6:34	tomorrow will be anxious for itself	7:11	God will give good things to those who ask

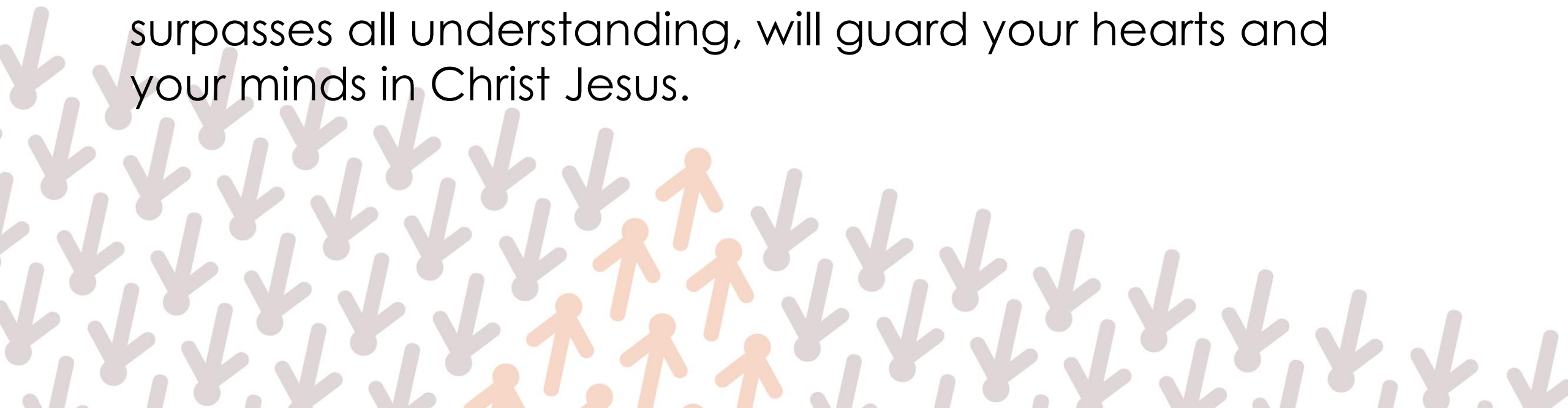
Restful Discipleship in Matthew 6:25–34 and 7:7–11

	do not be anxious (6:25–34)	ask and you will receive (7:7–11)
key word	'anxious' (5x)	'ask' (5x)
illustration	birds fed, flowers clothed	boy asking dad for food
logic	lesser-to-greater birds/flowers < God's children	lesser-to-greater earthly father < heavenly Father
goal	RESTFUL DISCIPLESHIP	RESTFUL DISCIPLESHIP



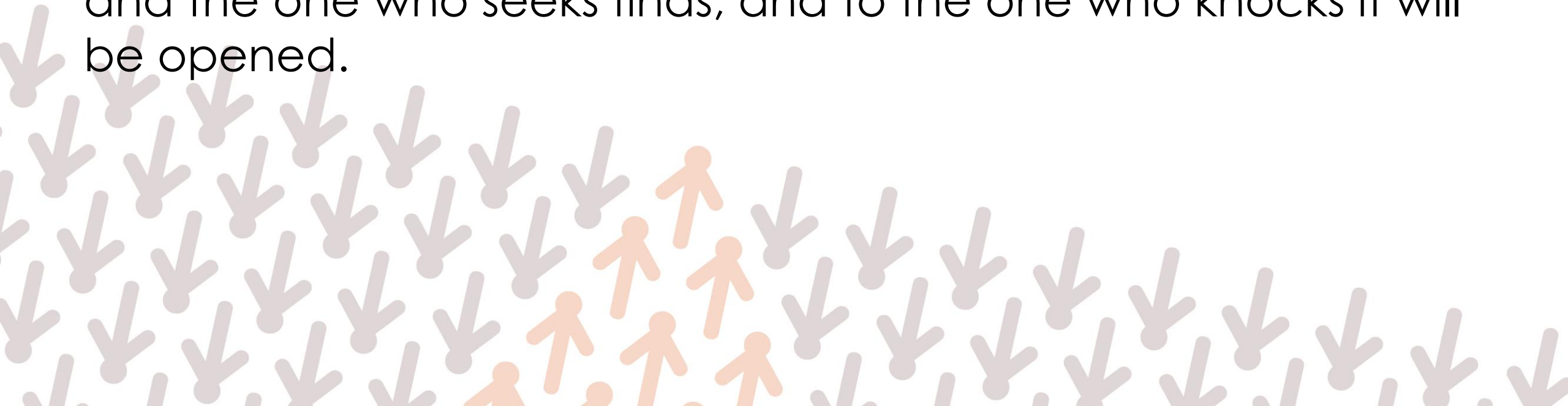
Philippians 4:6–7

⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.



2. Ask—your heavenly Father will give (7:7–8)

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.



'Seeking' in the Old Testament

Jeremiah 29:13 You will seek me and find me,
when you seek me with all your heart.

Proverbs 8:17 I [wisdom] love those who love me,
and those who seek me diligently find me.

Psalms 105:4 Seek the LORD and his strength;
seek his presence continually!

Matthew 6:31–33

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

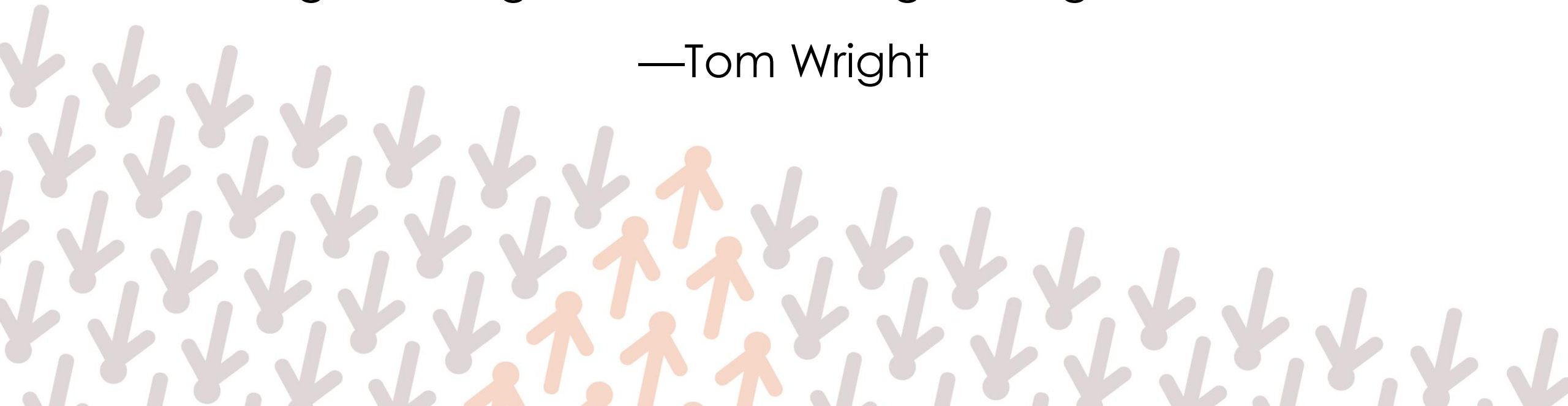
Matthew 6:8–13

⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this: “Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. ¹⁰ Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. ¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread, ¹² and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. ¹³ And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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“For most of us, the problem is not that we are too eager to ask for the wrong things. The problem is that we are not eager enough to ask for the right things.”

—Tom Wright



3. Trust—your heavenly Father is good (7:9–11)

⁹ Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!

Psalm 119:68

You are good and do good.



Romans 8:29

For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.



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Romans 8:32

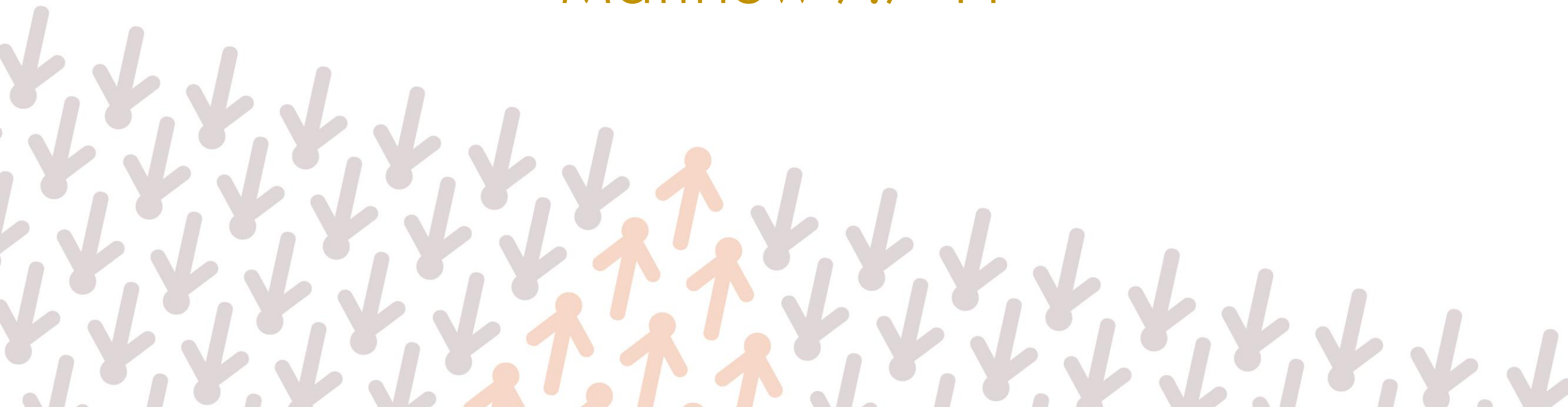
He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?



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Matthew 7:7–11



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