

Matthew



LEGACY GREEK MINISTRIES

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Welcome

We are so excited you've chosen to dive into Matthew with us! Great things are bound to happen when people gather, read God's Word, pray and learn from one another.

The Gospel according to Matthew opens up with an introduction. Matthew, our author, introduces Jesus as "the son of David, the son of Abraham" ([Matthew 1:1](#)). The genealogy here is kind of like Jesus's birth certificate saying, "Here He is! In the line of David... the line of Abraham... Here is the long awaited King!" But we have to back up beyond Matthew to understand the HUGE significance of that.

Since the book of Genesis, the nation of Israel - God's people - had been awaiting their promised and prophesied King. Matthew proclaimed to the Jewish people that the Messiah, Jesus, was here! Matthew emphasized Jesus as The King who was and is the fulfillment of the Old Testament Scriptures.

After 2,000 years of crying out and longing for their Messiah plus 400 years of silence from God, you would think the Jewish people would respond with nothing but rejoicing for their anticipated King. But they began to wonder, "Could it really be Him?... How can you be sure?..."

Because Jesus wasn't the king that people expected or even wanted. Jesus radically declared He was the Son of God. He proclaimed that the Kingdom of God welcomed sinners and the lowly. He preached that repentance, turning from your own ways to the ways of God was the pathway into God's kingdom. He wasn't the most likeable guy to those in power, and since he did not fit their picture of the long-awaited Messiah, it wasn't long before he was rejected and despised by his own people.

We hope that as you engage with God's Word and learn about the story of Jesus Christ through this study, you grow more curious and amazed by His unconventional ways of love, power, mercy, and humility. Let's dare to hope that as we learn more about Jesus, we would become people that are more like Jesus so then in turn we cannot help but show Jesus to others.

LET'S GET STARTED

THE Background of Matthew

The Gospel according to Matthew was one of the earliest official accounts of Jesus of Nazareth; his life, death, and resurrection, and is the first book of the New Testament.		
AUTHOR	Matthew	AUDIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disciple of Jesus; one of the twelve Apostles • Former tax collector for Rome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Objectionable profession - Tax collectors were elite society known for pocketing a portion of Roman citizens' taxes • Great writing capability • Kept accurate and detailed records, also used in composing his Gospel • Humble man <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Called himself tax collector while other Gospel writers just called him "Matthew" or "Levi" - Matthew called his feast for Jesus a dinner (Matt. 9:9-10), but Luke referred to it as a great banquet (Luke 5:29). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This Gospel account is written primarily to a Jewish audience to emphasize Jesus Christ as King or Messiah. Matthew's account shows us as readers how the promises and prophecies God made to his people in the Hebrew Scriptures came to pass in the person of Jesus. • Matthew referred to the Old Testament more than any other evangelist. He also referred to many Jewish customs without explaining them, evidently because he believed most of his original readers would not need an explanation.
PURPOSES		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prove that Jesus is the Messiah that the Jews have been waiting & hoping for • Instruct Christians and non-Christians about the person and work of Jesus • Encourage Christians to witness (to disciple) for Christ boldly and faithfully 		
<i>Watch The Bible Project's videos on the Book of Matthew.</i>		

Timeline

The boxes filled with blue are the events spoken about in this study, and each box depicts the chapter this event can be found.



A COMPREHENSIVE GUIDE ON

How To Use This Book

Each week in this study consists of reading a section of Scripture and answering eight basic questions. The focus of this method is to both read the Bible AND put it into practice in your life.

1	Read the passage given, ask someone to summarize it in their own words, then read it again in a different translation.
2	<p>Answer these with questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How is Jesus introduced? 2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him? 3. What's one thing that stands out to you? 4. How does Jesus interact with others? 5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently? 6. What is my response to Him? 7. How will this story apply to my life this week? 8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?
3	<p>Create a plan of action.</p> <p>So, what will I do today, or this week, or this month to implement this application? Who will I ask to hold me accountable? How and when will I touch base on my progress? A plan of action for an application from Matthew 28 might look something like this:</p> <p><i>"By the power of the Holy Spirit I will ask my neighbor to lunch this week. I commit to daily pray for her salvation and for the opportunity to share what I'm learning about Jesus with her during lunch. I will ask my Bible study leader to hold me accountable to initiate this plan by asking me next week if I have followed through"</i></p>



You can use this method in not just small groups, but in your alone time with the Bible too!

Leader Resources

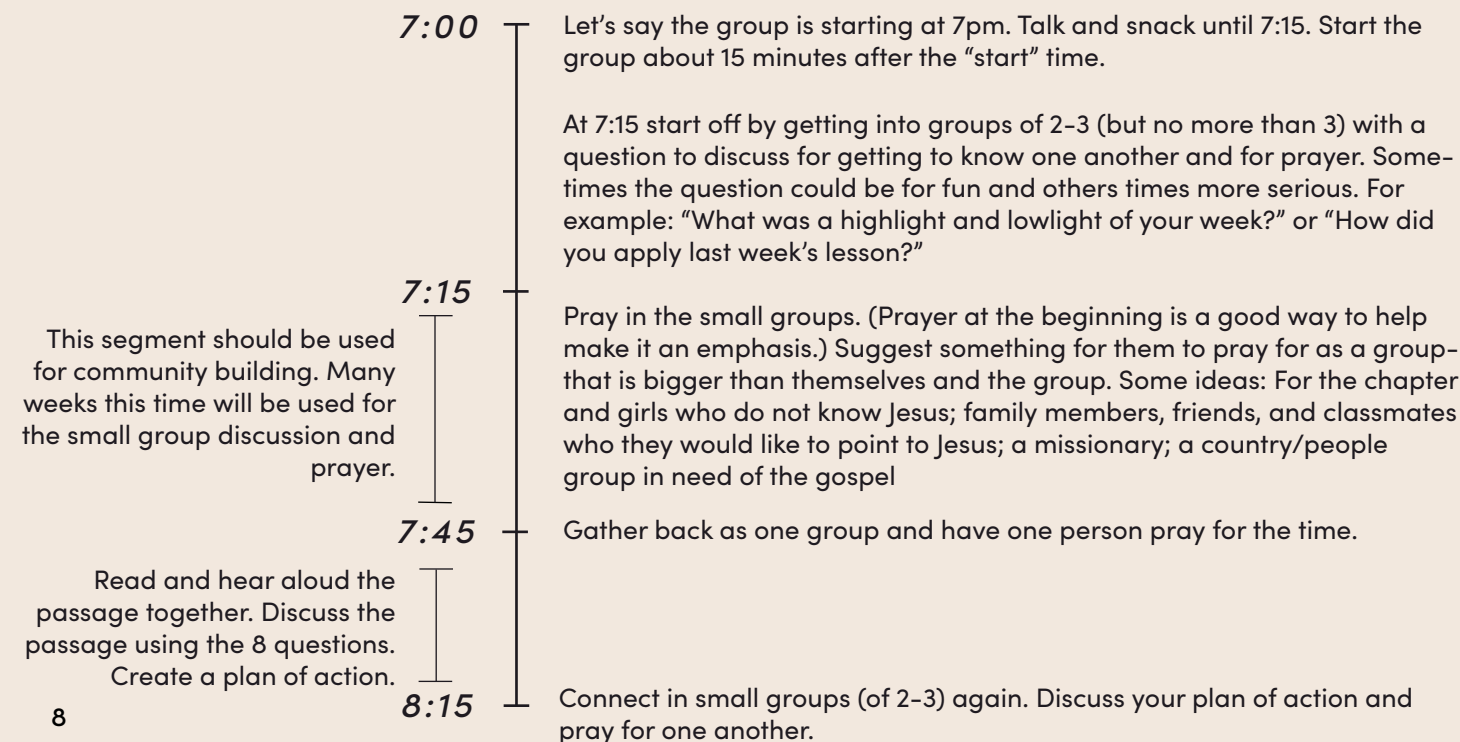
1. Whole Hearted Devotion of The Leader

- The best preparation for leading a bible study is maintaining your personal walk with the Lord. Keep these things in mind:
- Spend time with God daily. Your relationship with God needs to be fresh and growing! This is what you want your leadership to flow from- your relationship with God.
- Spend time in the passage throughout the week.
- Pray with your co-leader for each woman in your group and for your chapter.
- Prepare ahead of time and discuss with your co-leader. Make a plan (see example).
- Your job is not to be "everything" to them or to know "everything." God just asks you to trust Him and be faithful with the opportunity you have.
- Lead and walk by faith. Often we grow the most when we step out in faith.

2. Thoughts for an Engaged Small Group

- Have a snack each week if possible, alternating healthy and "less healthy." Maybe have popcorn one week and a bag of candy the next. Everyone likes a snack, it creates a welcoming environment!
- Set a regular meeting place and time. Consistency helps avoid obstacles that will keep people from being there and a plan creates an environment where people know what to expect.
- Regularly break up into smaller groups of 2-3, starting from the very first meeting. Smaller groups help people feel known. Keep the groups no bigger than 3. This will pay off in the long run.
- Have half of the time be in the Bible study passage, going over it and applying it. The other half should be like a "community group" (getting to know one another and for prayer). So if the Bible study starts at 7, then start the Bible study part at 7:45, ending at 8:30.
- Try reaching out to different women each week- grab lunch or coffee with one woman a week outside of group time.

3. Sketch for the Time Each Week



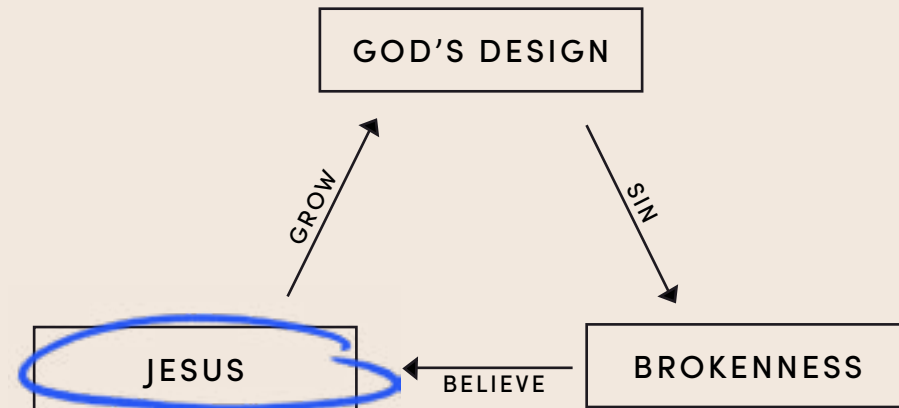
4. Additional Bible Study Questions

This study was designed to be more of a general overview that facilitates discussion. There are many more resources out there that are beneficial for deeper bible study. But to start, here are some additional questions!	
What does the text say? <i>MAKING OBSERVATIONS</i>	Ask: who, what, where, when, why, how questions
What does it mean? <i>MAKING INTERPRETATIONS</i>	What does this word mean? Why does the author use this analogy? Note about interpretation: Start your search for answers within the immediate context of the passage. Also, consider what others say now (your small group, pastor...) as well as in the past (commentaries). Your goal is to discern the author's intended meaning.
How does this touch my life/change the way I see things? <i>MAKING APPLICATIONS</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there an example for me to follow or avoid? (Joshua 1:9) • Is there a sin or error for me to avoid? (1 Cor. 5:1) • Is there a promise for me to claim? (Heb. 13:5) • Is there a prayer for me to repeat? (Eph. 3:14-21) • Is there a command for me to obey? (2 Timothy 2:22) • Is there a verse for me to memorize? (Psalm 119:11) • Is there conviction from the Spirit to which I must respond? (1 Thess. 5:19)
Ask yourself, how should the truths from this passage affect my attitudes, thoughts or actions in relation to: <i>MORE APPLICATION</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • myself • my family • my Christian friends • my non-Christians friends and the world

5. Additional Study Resources

ONLINE	DISCIPLESHIP
biblestudytools.com <i>Multiple translations and cross references</i>	Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Peter Scazzero <i>This book integrates a biblical approach to emotional health and contemplative spirituality.</i>
netbible.org <i>Word studies and cross references</i>	The Master Plan of Evangelism by Robert Coleman <i>A highly motivational analysis of Jesus' own principles of evangelism and discipleship.</i>
soniclight.com <i>Commentary</i>	The Lost Art of Disciple Making by Leroy Eims <i>This practical resource will give you a detailed structure to follow and great content to cover as you begin to disciple a new believer.</i>
bestcommentaries.com <i>Commentary database</i>	A Survey of Bible Doctrine by Charles Ryrie <i>An easy-to-read, relatively short systematic theology primer that you can walk a new believer through to ground them in the faith.</i>
	Essentials of the Faith by Grace Bible Church, College Station, TX <i>This small group Bible study packet walks through the fundamental truths and practices of the Christian faith in ten self-paced lessons.</i>
	<small>Note: Legacy: Greek Ministries and Grace Bible Church does not always agree with the views of these commentaries. These are good tools to help understand hard passages, but the particular theological views reflect the author of the commentary and not those of Grace Bible Church.</small>

The Gospel



GOD'S PERFECT DESIGN

Out of his love, God made people to enjoy a deeply connected relationship with Him and to represent Him through our lives. ([Genesis 1:26-28, 31](#))

BROKENNESS

Yet, when we look around our world, we see brokenness - oppression, injustice, disaster, corruption. If we are honest, we also see brokenness inside ourselves - jealousy, hatred, self-indulgence. This is because we have rejected God's perfect design and chosen to follow our own way of living.

Our rejection of God and His ways is what the Bible calls sin.

Our sin results in separation from God which the Bible calls death.

Unless our sin is forgiven, we will be separated from God forever. ([Romans 1:20-21](#); [Romans 3:23](#))

JESUS

But God did not leave us in our brokenness! He graciously provided a way to forgive our sin and freely give us eternal life - a life connected to God both now and forever. ([Romans 6:23](#); [John 17:3](#))

God's only Son, Jesus, picked up all of our rejection and sin and died in our place. Then, Jesus rose from the dead. Since He is God, even death could not beat him. He conquered sin and death forever. ([1 Corinthians 15:3-5](#); [Romans 5:8](#))

BELIEVE

It's not enough to just read these things, we must respond to Jesus by believing in Him. Anyone can choose to thank God for this gift of rescue, believe Jesus has conquered and forgiven their sin and receive eternal life with God. This is the only way we can know God personally and experience the life we were designed to live. ([John 3:16-17](#))

To believe in Jesus means that you no longer try to earn God's approval through what you do, nor do you deny that you need forgiveness and rescue. Instead, you accept God's free gift of eternal life and learn to grow in a healthy relationship with Him. ([John 1:12](#); [Ephesians 2:8-9](#))

**Where do you see yourself in the diagram?
Are you living in brokenness or God's design?**

Introduction

Take time as a group to introduce yourselves with some type of get to know you question or activity.

Break into small groups of 2-3 and let each person choose & answer one of these questions:

- 1 Why did you choose to come to this time?
- 2 What are you hoping to get out of it?
- 3 What is an area you would like to grow in personally?

Hear from the leaders what the time will look like.

Read together:

<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Letter	<input type="checkbox"/> Timeline	<input type="checkbox"/> The Gospel
<input type="checkbox"/> Background of Matthew		<input type="checkbox"/> How To Use This Book

Pray Together.

Prayer Requests

For Myself	For Others	For The Group



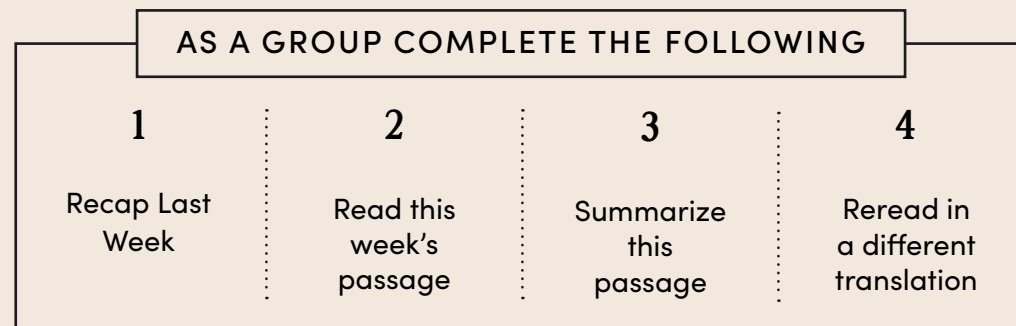
Jesus' Birth & Baptism

[Matthew 1:17-2:15, 2:19-3:17](#)

Take note of:

The hostility from some and worship from others that surrounded Jesus from the moment He was born

The Father's words to Jesus at his baptism



Answer the following questions

1. How is Jesus introduced?
2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
3. What's one thing that stands out to you?
4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

Jesus's arrival on earth was powerful and purposeful. People's responses varied widely, but none could deny that this baby was different. At Jesus's baptism, before any part of his mission on earth began, God affirmed Him as a beloved Son.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

For Myself	For Others	For The Group

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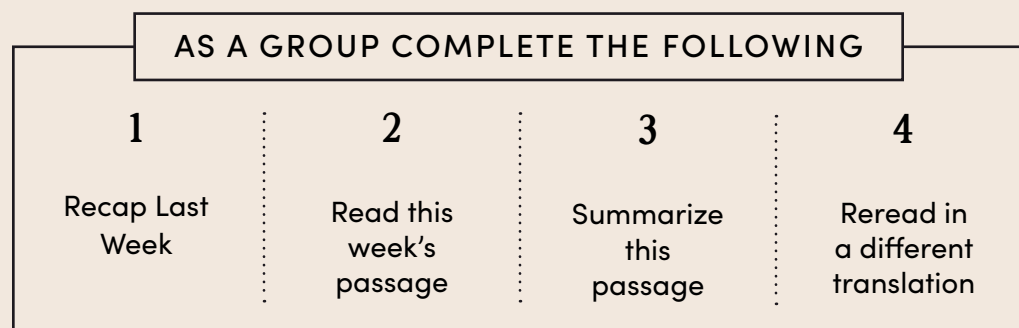
Temptation & Repentance

[Matthew 4:1-25](#)

Take note of:

How Jesus responds to Satan's temptations

Jesus' offer to the people



Answer the following questions

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5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

Jesus is introduced as the King; He is fit to be King. He is perfect. He is King. Therefore what does his rejection of Satan's offers say about Him as King? What example does He give us?

Jesus makes an offer: repent and follow. How did the first disciples respond to what they knew about Jesus? They chose to follow. If Jesus is King, what should our response be? If He is who he claims to be, how should we respond?

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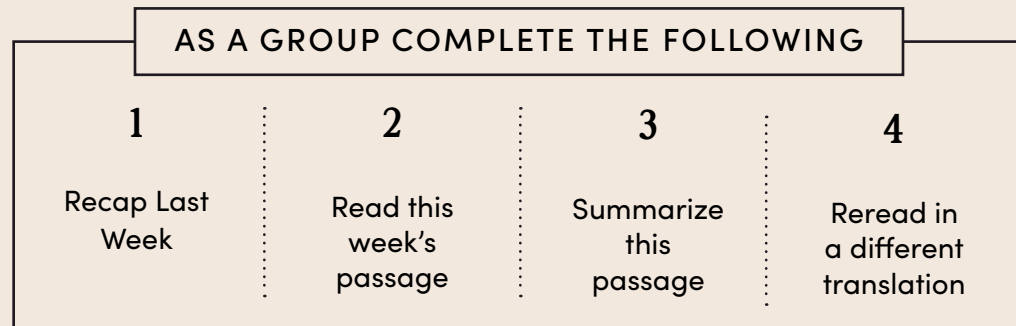
Beatitudes

[Matthew 5:1-20; 7:12-14, 28-29](#)

Take note of:

What do the Beatitudes (5:1-12) say about Jesus? What does it say about His Kingdom?

What is God's standard for righteousness? (5:20)



Answer the following questions

1. How is Jesus introduced?
2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
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6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

The Kingdom of God is upside down from our society - the lowly and persecuted are exalted and the proud are brought low. Jesus embodies the humility, generosity, and suffering that will be honored in the Kingdom of God, and encourages Christ followers to embrace the same. God's standard of righteousness is perfection. When Jesus says "narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it," He means only one has ever made it on his own-Jesus. On our own, we will never be able to achieve or surpass the standard required to be present before a perfect and holy God.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

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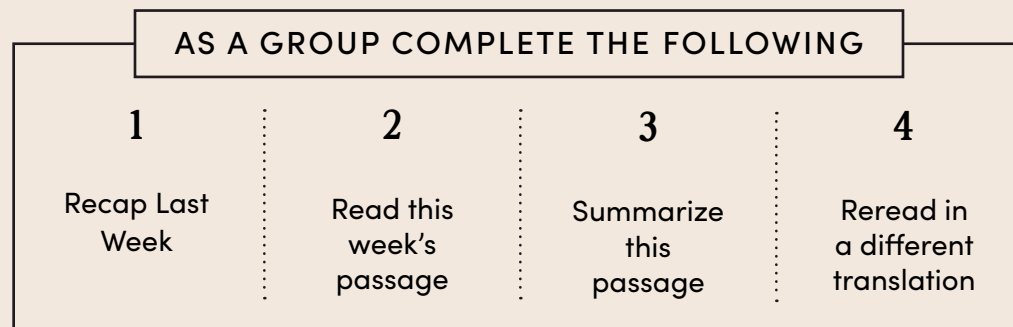
Miracles & Responses

[Matthew 15:1-31](#)

Take note of:

What do Jesus' miracles say about Him? How do they authenticate His claims?

In the midst of Jesus's miracles and teachings, some responded negatively (Pharisees), some responded neutrally or asked questions (the disciples), and some responded positively (Canaanite woman; the crowd).



Answer the following questions

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2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
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4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

Jesus' miracles demonstrate the power He has that no one else has; they reveal and authenticate who He is - the King, the Son of God. When people experience Christ, they will respond in these three ways: negative, neutral, or positive. How will you respond? How can you see the people who respond positively and make the most of the opportunity?

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

For Myself	For Others	For The Group

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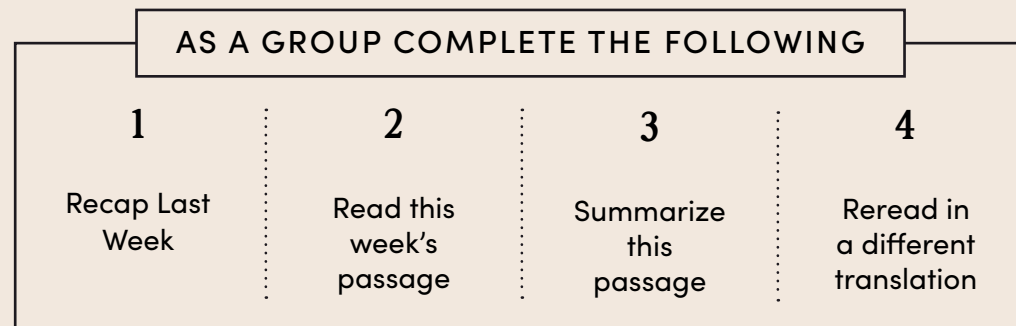
Who Do You Say I Am

[Matthew 16:13-28](#)

Take note of:

Peter's response to Jesus

What it means to follow Jesus



Answer the following questions

1. How is Jesus introduced?
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3. What's one thing that stands out to you?
4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

In Matthew, we have seen many responses to Jesus. Here we see Peter's response to who Jesus is. Peter believed Jesus is Christ but soon after was rebuked by Jesus for rejecting that He would suffer and die. Jesus explained that those who follow Christ are to look like Christ. His path is our path. Life with Christ is costly yet worthy and He understands the cost Himself.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

For Myself	For Others	For The Group

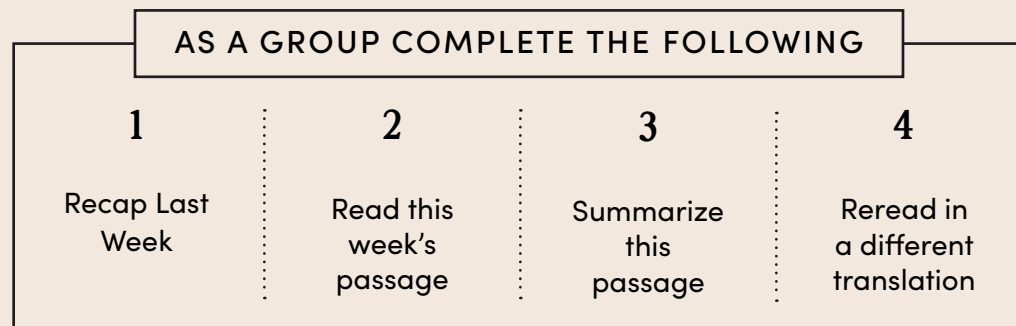
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Laborers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-16

Take note of:

The connection between the landowner and God as both generous givers of grace. Regardless of when the workers begin in the vineyard, He supplies the same abundant generosity to all.



Answer the following questions

1. How is Jesus introduced?
2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
3. What's one thing that stands out to you?
4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

Many workers were hired throughout the morning, day, and evening. At the end of the day, the landowner paid everyone the same amount, but those who'd worked longer felt entitled to a bigger paycheck than those who worked only a fraction of the time. Jealousy, judgement, guilt, and pride can keep us from appreciating the grace given to us. Where are you?

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

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The Greatest Commandment

[Matthew 22:34-46](#)

Take note of:

The Pharisee's attempt to trip up Jesus and His response to them.

What Jesus says about the first and second commandments.

AS A GROUP COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING			
1	2	3	4
Recap Last Week	Read this week's passage	Summarize this passage	Reread in a different translation

Answer the following questions

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2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
3. What's one thing that stands out to you?
4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

The Pharisees have been trying to stump Jesus ever since He began proclaiming that He is the Son of God, but Jesus is focused on loving God and loving others. He reminds them (and us) that the Law is all about these two commandments to love.

CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

Prayer Requests

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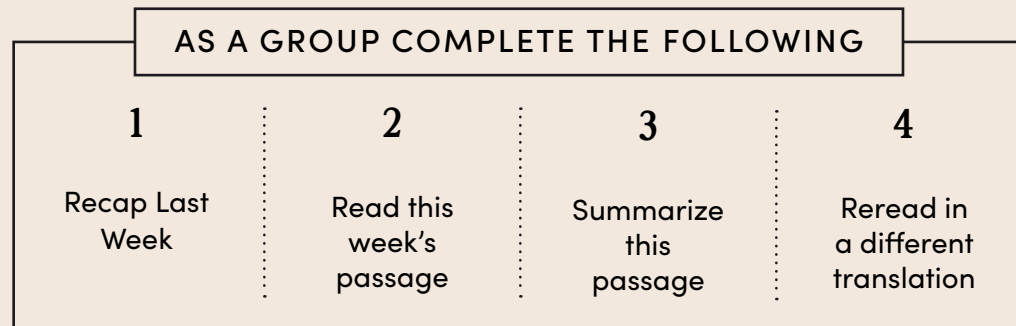
The Great Commission

[Matthew 28:16-20, 28:5-10](#)

Take note of:

Who Jesus appeared to first after his resurrection

Who has authority and how it was given



Answer the following questions

1. How is Jesus introduced?
2. What do you learn about Jesus? What does the text say about Him?
3. What's one thing that stands out to you?
4. How does Jesus interact with others?

5. How do people in the passage respond to Jesus differently?

6. What is my response to Him?

7. How will this story apply to my life this week?

8. Who am I going to share this passage with and/or what I'm learning from the Bible?

As a group, come up with a short summary of this passage that you can memorize so you are ready to share it with someone.

After Jesus's crucifixion and resurrection, He appears to two women first and then to the disciples. Because all authority is given to Jesus and His presence doesn't end or leave, all of his followers are called to go and make disciples of all nations. According to his authority and his presence with us, this is possible for us to do!

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Synthesis & Reflection

Synthesis

During this study, we've learned about some of the characteristics, choices, and relationships in Jesus' life. Now let's draw our study to a useful conclusion with a process known as synthesis. Our goal is to create an overall summary of the book of Matthew that we can quickly review any time in the future to remind us of the flow and content of the book.

1	Looking back through the study, review your summary sentences or phrases for each lesson.
2	Break into small groups of 2-3 and let each person choose & answer one of these questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is one truth about Jesus that you've learned during this study? • Was there anything about Jesus that stood out to you week after week? • What characteristic(s) of Jesus have you enjoyed learning about most?
3	Discuss: In what ways have you personally applied these truths about Jesus to your life?

Reflection

Not only do we want you to look back on the lessons in Matthew you've learned, but also over the time you've had together as a whole and how you have grown with Jesus.

1	Thinking back to when you first started coming to this bible study, review what your hopes and expectations were for the group at that time.
2	Break into small groups of 2-3 and let each person choose & answer one of these questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How have you grown as a person and with God since you first started coming? • What made you want to keep coming back to this time? • In what ways has God revealed Himself to you during this time?
3	Discuss: What will inspire you to continue learning about the life of Jesus and its impact on your life? How will you take what you've learned and continue to let it change you?

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