



Bible Study Booklet

Study 2

Study 1

Week of 7 April

Jesus Pursues and Satisfies Sinners

Read Matthew 9: 1-13 and Mark 2:1-12

1. What do each of the events recorded in this chapter have in common? Can you think of a common thread that links them all together?
2. Why did they go to such a great effort for Jesus to see this paralytic?
3. Why do you think Jesus only said to the one man that his sins were forgiven, instead of to all five? What did He see in that situation that we cannot?
4. In this passage what is the relationship between the faith of the four men and their works?
5. How did the scribes react? Why did they react like this?

6. Which do you think is easier to say... (read verse 5)?

7. How did the people react to this healing? How would you react if you saw this happen today?

8. Why was it so surprising for Jesus to ask Matthew to follow Him? Is it equally surprising that Jesus asks you the same question?

9. What does it mean that Jesus desires mercy not sacrifice?

10. What insights into Jesus' character do you have from this passage?

Study 2

Week of 14 April

Worship

“The Lamb is worthy – the Lamb who was slain. He is worthy to receive the power, and the riches, and the wisdom, and the strength, and the honor, and the glory, and the blessing.” In these beautiful words from Revelation 5:12-13 we see a powerful example of worship. These inspired words are filled with wonder as they describe the reality of Jesus Christ.

Key passage: Romans 12:1-2 I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1. Please share with the group what worship means to you. Discuss with one another what may be new to you about this topic, and what you have learned in the last few months or years.
2. We just read that we ought to offer our bodies “as living sacrifices.” What do you understand that to mean?
3. What does verse 2 of the passage add to your understanding of true worship?
4. In your own words, what is the difference between *attending worship* and *living in worship*?

Study 3

Week of 21 April

The Lost Matter

Read Matthew 9:35-10:42

1. Why was Jesus moved with compassion?
2. Where does the power(10:1) come from and do you have the same power?
3. What can you learn from the phrase “sent out?” How is this an integral part of the mission of the church today?
4. What is the message they were supposed to preach?
5. What does it mean “the kingdom of heaven is at hand?” What is the kingdom of heaven?
6. What else were they supposed to do? Why do you think Jesus told them to receive no pay for this?

7. What do you learn from verse 9? Why was this important, and how is this still important for us today?

8. How do you understand verse 13?

9. Why did Jesus say He came to bring a sword and not peace? What does He want us to be ready for?

10. Why should you love God more than your own family?

11. In what kind of cases would you have to make a choice between the two (God & family)? Can you share any examples of when you have had to choose between obeying God or family?

12. What does it mean to take up your cross?

Study 4

Week of 28 April

The Importance of the Sabbath **Read Matthew 12:1-14**

1. What does 'keeping the Sabbath' mean to you?
2. What accusation did the Pharisees level at Jesus' disciples? (v2)
3. Were they accurate in saying that the disciples were breaking the Sabbath?
4. What was Jesus' reply? Does He defend the disciples or agree with the Pharisees?
5. What do verses 7-8 tell us about the Sabbath? What can we conclude about the purpose of the Sabbath from this passage?

Study 5

Week of 5 May

Sharing Jesus

Read Matthew 13:1-23

1. What is a parable? Why did Jesus often teach in them?
2. Imagine for a minute, you didn't have the interpretation of this parable. Do you think you could understand it?
3. What are the key points you get from this parable?
4. Why did Jesus conclude His parable saying, "He who has ears to hear, let him hear?" What does this mean?

Study 6

Week of 12 May

Living in the Miraculous

Read Matthew 13:53–14:36

1. How you ever witnessed a miracle, how did you respond?
2. Why couldn't Jesus do many miracles in His hometown?
3. Why did Jesus have compassion on them? Do you feel likewise when looking at others who are in need?
4. Why do you think Jesus asked the disciples to give them something when He knew they wouldn't have been able to?
5. What observations do you have about the miracle that Jesus performed?

Study 7

Week of 19 May

**The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like
Read Matthew 13:24-52**

1. Who is the man who sowed good seed in this parable?
2. Who is the enemy?
3. Who or what do the weeds represent?
4. Why is the destruction of the weeds delayed?

The Heart of the Problem **Read Matthew 15:1-20**

1. What was the Pharisees goal in pointing out that the disciples did not wash their hands first?
2. Why do you think Jesus didn't answer their question directly?
3. What problem in their own attitudes did Jesus strive to point out?
4. What do Verses 7-9 mean?
5. What does Jesus mean by saying what comes out of your mouth defiles you? Is He talking about words or actions or both?

6. If you are very careful, can you disguise what is in your heart by being careful of what you say? How long do you think a person can keep up the act?

7. What is the best way to ensure that your words are the good kind and not the defiling kind?

Personal reflection

Where in your life are you being hypocritical?

In what situations are your words and actions not reflecting the faith you confess?

How will you change this?

5. Are we ever like Peter here? Do we doubt God's plan or try to force our own way instead of following God's leading?

6. Why did Jesus respond so strongly? What can we learn from Jesus through His response?

7. Take some time thinking about verses 24-26.
What does it mean to deny self, to take up a cross, and to lose your life in order to save it?

8. How can you gain the whole world and lose or forfeit your soul?

9. What things can you put in place, to protect yourself and others from losing your/their souls?

