



Bible Study Booklet

Weeks 1 - 11

Read Matthew 2:13-23

1. What does verse thirteen teach us about God?
2. How does the fact of God's sovereignty and care for His children relate to our lives today?
3. How did Joseph respond to God's command? What do you think many people will do? What might be the dangers of delay? What can we learn from Joseph? How should we obey God?
4. Does verse sixteen tell us the age of Jesus at this time in the story? Why or why not?

5. How long did Joseph and his family stay in Egypt? What spurred their return?
6. Since God is powerful and could supernaturally protect Jesus and His family, why did they even need to leave for Egypt? What does this teach us about the methods God uses to bring about his plans in our lives?
7. How many times did Joseph have a dream with a spiritual meaning in these two chapters?
8. What did he do each time?
9. What is the importance of old testament prophecies in this passage of scripture?

Study 2

Week of 28 Jan

Read Matthew 3:1-17

1. Why would John preach in the wilderness? Who would be listening to him there?
2. What was the core teaching of John's message?
3. What does it mean that the "kingdom of heaven is at hand"?
4. Why was John's clothing and diet important? Are there any lessons we can learn from John in this?
5. What did "John's baptism" signify?

6. What does verse 9 mean? What is John's point?

7. What is the warning in verse 10? What important lesson can we learn from this?

8. Who is the latter part of verse 11 referring to? What does it mean that He will baptize with fire?

9. What else do we learn about the Messiah in verse 12?

10. Since baptism was associated with repentance, why did Jesus do it, as He was sinless?

Read Matthew 4:1-11

1. Why would the Spirit lead Jesus to be tempted? How does this fit with Jesus teaching the disciples to pray “lead me not into temptation?”
2. Why might Jesus fast 40 days and 40 nights? How can he fast for so long? What lessons can we learn from Jesus’ example here?
3. Who is the tempter?
4. What do you think is Satan’s chief goal in coming to tempt Jesus?
5. What is the underlying theme of all of the temptations?

6. Why does Satan use Scripture in his second temptation? What does this teach us about Satan?

7. How does Satan use Scripture? What does this teach us about the proper way to use Scripture?

8. What can we learn from Jesus' response? Was Jesus saying that Satan should not put Him to the test or that He should not put God to the test? How might we sometimes put God to the test?

9. How could Satan give the kingdoms of the world to Jesus? Aren't they His already?

10. What do we learn from this final exchange?

Study 4

Week of 11 Feb

Read Matthew 4:12-22

1. Where is this prophecy (15-16) from? What does it teach us about Jesus' ministry?
2. What was the core teaching of Jesus' message?
3. Seeing that John the Baptist and Jesus both focused on repentance, what can you learn from this?
4. What does this tell us about what a follower of Christ really does?
5. How can we follow their examples when we share the gospel?
6. What can we learn from Jesus' calling of these four disciples?

7. Did they suddenly decide to follow a stranger? If not, why would they follow Jesus?

8. What can we learn about Jesus from this exchange?

9. What can we learn from the disciples?

10. What changes can we make in our lives, in order to be a better follower of Jesus?

11. What do we learn about Jesus' ministry in verses 23-24?

12. Do we learn anything from this about how we should do ministry or the types of things we should pay attention to?

Read Matthew 5:1-12

1. What does the word 'Blessed' mean in the context of this passage?
2. Describe a time when you felt especially poor in spirit—a time when you were keenly aware of your need for God. How did He meet you?
3. Would you agree that we tend to mourn over our circumstances more than we mourn over our sin? If so, why do you think we don't mourn over our sin more often?
4. All of the following passages discuss "meekness" (sometimes rendered "lowliness" or "gentleness"): Matthew 11:29, Ephesians 4:1-2, 2 Corinthians 10:1, Titus 3:2, James 1:20-21, Psalm 25:9. Choose a few of these texts and discuss what further insights you uncover about meekness.
5. What are your deepest desires, those things that drive your daily life? Is righteousness in that list? Why or why not?

6. Do you think mercy is valued in our culture? Why or why not?

7. 1 Peter 2:10 says, "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy." How have we received mercy through Christ?

8. Matthew 5:8 promises that the pure in heart will see God. How have you "seen" God in your life in the past or the present? How would you like to see God in the future?

9. Would you consider yourself a peacemaker? Why or why not?

10. Have you ever been persecuted for your faith? If so, share an example.

11. Do you think much about heaven? How do you feel knowing we will be rewarded in heaven based on how we've lived on earth (Romans 14:10-12; 2 Corinthians 5:10)?

Read Matthew 6:1-15

1. Is it possible to do the right thing in the wrong way or for the wrong motive? Explain your answer. Verse 1.
2. Why would people intentionally do good deeds in front of others?
3. Is it possible to follow this command literally? If not, what is the meaning? Verses 3-4.
4. Did “the hypocrites” sin in standing and praying publicly or in being seen of men and loving it? Verse 5.
5. Do you think it is necessary to literally enter your closet and shut the door to pray acceptably? If not, why not? Verse 6.

6. What sort of prayer does Verse 7 look like?

7. Can you think of some reason for praying even though your Heavenly Father already knows your needs? Verse 8.

8. What are some elements of “the Lord’s Prayer” that should be included in our prayers? Verses 9-13.

9. Does God tempt us, or only allow us to be tempted and tested? Verse 11.

10. What is the basis upon which our trespasses (sins, Luke 11:4), may be forgiven? Verses 14-15.

Study 7

Week of 3 Mar

Read Matthew 5:21-48

We have a number of sections here where Jesus says :

‘You heard that it was said...But I tell you...’

Have a look at each section and ask the question, what is Jesus saying and why is it so important?

Matthew 5:21-26 Murder

Matthew 5:27-30 Adultery

Matthew 5:31-32 Divorce

Matthew 5:33-37 Making Oaths

Matthew 5:38-42 Eye For An Eye

Matthew 5:43-48 Love Your Enemies

Read Matthew 7

**‘Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.’
(Matthew 7:24)**

Chapter 7 is all about wise words, of Jesus, read all of chapter 7 and discuss the following questions.

1. What does it mean “do not judge?”
2. So, what kind of attitude should we have about judging?
3. What does it mean “or you too will be judged?” By who?
4. What is your understanding of Matthew 7:7-12?

5. What do these verses show us about God's heart?

6. What does the narrow gate represent? The broad road?

7. Why is one easy and the other difficult?

8. What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple?

9. What is a false Prophet and why do we need to be careful?

10. How is your faith challenged by Matthew 7:21-23?

The Dash – Gen/Rev

Beginnings are important! They tell us where we came from, who we are and why we exist. They speak to our meaning, purpose and identity. While people in our day are looking up ancestry.com trying to find who they are and where they came from, God has given us the ultimate answer in Genesis 1.

Read Genesis 1:1 - 2:3

- Who was the creator?

 - What did he make?

 - How did he make it?

 - What was it like?

 - Does it seem like he knew what he was doing?
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1. When you look around at God's creation, what things really amaze you?

 2. Most of us go about life thinking we are the main character in the story of our life. But Genesis 1:1 challenges that perspective. Before you or I existed, for all eternity, God was and still is the main character of this story of life. How does this affect the way you think about your purpose and place in God's creation?

3. What does the following verse mean for you?

Revelation 4:11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

4. What do you think it means to be the made in the image of God?

5. In vs26-28, what is the task men and women are given to do together?

6. If we viewed all people as bearing the image of God, with inherent dignity given to them by their creator, how should it affect the way we think about: Racism, Abortion, Euthanasia, Hate, Social justice (serving the needy)?

7. Another aspect of bearing God’s image is reflecting his character to our world. It’s seen in the way we care for and love others as Jesus loved and cared for us. - What’s one area of your life you want to change to reflect Jesus better?

Read Matthew 8

1. What stands out to you as you read this chapter?

2. **Matt 8:5-13**, list the unique and surprising behaviors the Centurion exhibited in his interaction with Jesus. What does Jesus commend him for?

3. What does Jesus say about those who reject Jesus' authority as Messiah and Savior?

4. **Matt 8:18-22** Why does Jesus rebuke the person who said he would follow Jesus everywhere?
 1. Why does he rebuke the person who wanted to bury his father before following Jesus?

 2. What does Jesus mean when he said, "Let the dead bury the dead"?

5. In **Mat 7:23-27**, what was the Disciples' response to Jesus calming the storm?

6. Contrast the faith of the centurion in Matt 8:10 and that of the disciples in Matt 8:26. Why should this not have been the case?

(Personal) Which of these two examples best describes your response to Jesus?

7. In **Mat 8:28-32**, what do we discover that Demons know about Jesus?

a. How does this inform your thinking about Faith in Jesus?

b. What was the people's response to Jesus casting the demons into the pigs and why did the people respond that way?

8. What role does "faith" and "belief" in our understanding and experience of the power and authority of Jesus?

Read Matthew 28:1-15

1. Why is the death of Jesus so important for our world?
2. What do you think the two Mary's were thinking as they made their way to the tomb of Jesus? What emotions would you have been experiencing if you had been in their place?
3. How does the contrast between the faith of the women and the doubt of the guards speak to your own spiritual journey?
4. How does the resurrection event affect your understanding of life, death, and eternity?

5. How can the actions of Mary Magdalene and the other Mary serve as an example in your own faith practice?

6. Does the angel's message to the women about Jesus' resurrection inspire you to share the Gospel?

7. How does the resurrection story impact your view of the nature of God?

