

# Matthew Easter Studies

The Apostle Matthew, shortly before the destruction of Herod's temple in AD 70, retells the story of the Jewish Messiah to a largely Jewish-Christian audience, announcing that Jesus of Nazareth is the "Christ," the promised anointed king from the royal line of David ("the son of David," 1:1).

If the First Gospel was a symphony, the three defining notes of its melodic line would be all authority, all nations, and observe all. "Jesus has all authority so that all nations might obey all he has commanded."<sup>1</sup>

All authority	Jesus is king over all authorities both in heaven and on earth.
All nations	Thus, Jews and Gentiles are to bow before him, and
Observe all	demonstrate allegiance both to Jesus's ethical commands and his command to evangelize all people everywhere.

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/course/knowning-bible-matthew/#week-11-the-crucifixion-resurrection-and-commission-of-jesus-26-28>

# Study 1: Jesus Prepares for Death; Our Sin, His Willing/Knowing Sacrifice

This would be a great week to share a meal, as we see the Lord's supper eaten for the very first time.

You might even want to sing as a group! Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples that night.

## **Settling in: How do you usually prepare for Easter?**

(Looking to introduce the study as a chance to slow down, and remember what Christ has done for us over the next few weeks.)

Now would be a wonderful time to pray.

## **Diving in: Read Matthew 26:1-56.**

You might want to find a good recording, and get people to listen with their eyes closed. Or to draw out what is happening as they listen.

The following questions can guide your discussion:

1. Jesus predicts his death for the fourth time in the opening verses of [Matthew 26](#). What else does Jesus know of coming events?
2. Jesus' last meal with his disciples is a Passover meal, which he uses to explain the meaning of his death ([Matt. 26:17-29](#)). Review [Exodus 12](#), and reflect on the significance of the Passover for understanding why Jesus died. And what the Lord's supper means for us now.
3. What do we learn about the weakness or sinfulness of humans in this passage?  
from Judas's betrayal- (betray/betrayal is a really key repeated word here) ([Matt. 26:14-25](#)), the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples ([Matt. 26:31-35](#)), and the weariness of his closest friends in the garden ([Matt. 26:36-46](#))?
4. What words are most appropriate to describe what Jesus is experiencing in the garden of Gethsemane? The reason for Jesus' current state is the prospect of a "cup" that he must drink ([Matt. 26:39, 42](#)). How do [Psalm 75:7-8](#); [Isaiah 51:17-23](#); [Jeremiah 25:15-16](#); and/or [Ezekiel 23:31-34](#) shed light on what this cup represents?

**Taking it in**

In pairs: Take a moment to write a prayer reflecting on the passage. Tell God how it makes you feel, if you have been convicted of sin again, or made thankful, what new thing you appreciate about Jesus and what he has done for us.

**Going out**

What is one thing you want to take into the week?

- Something you want to keep praying
- Someone you want to encourage or invite to church
- A truth to remind yourself of in particular moments

# Study 2: Jesus is delivered to die: Jesus' glorification/achievement on the cross

**Settling in: What is your greatest achievement?** What was the journey like as you built up to it? Or the actual achievement? Was it glorious, clean, hidden, hard...? How big/long of an impact does our achievement make?

## **Diving in: Read Matthew 26:57-27:56**

Questions to guide your reading:

1. Among other themes woven into the account of Jesus' trial are his innocence ([Matt. 26:59-60; 27:4, 19, 23](#)) and silence ([Matt. 26:62-63; 27:12-14](#)), both of which allude back to the prophecy of [Isaiah 53](#). Read Isaiah's prophecy and note how it is being fulfilled in these events.
2. Verses 51-54 are miraculous, weird, and wonderful. What does all this mean? Read Hebrews 10:8-22. What did Christ's death achieve and/or change?
3. Why does Matthew emphasize the Gentile response and the women's presence?

## **Taking it in**

In pairs: Take a moment to write a prayer reflecting on the passage. Tell God how it makes you feel, if you have been convicted of sin again, or made thankful, what new thing you appreciate about Jesus and what he has done for us.

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# Study 3: Resurrection and Commission; Jesus is back!! And the world is new, let's go!!!

**Settling in:** What's the most unbelievable thing that has happened to you/that you've heard of? Did it change how you looked at the world?

**Diving in:** Read Matthew 27:57-28:20

1. What do we see in [Matthew 27:57–28:15](#) that emphasizes the historical reality of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection? According to [1 Corinthians 15:12–28](#), why is it so important that the resurrection actually happened?
2. How does Jesus reveal himself to different people? Why does he do it this way? What do you notice about their responses?
3. Jesus' parting command is for his people to make disciples of all nations. Very practically, what does it look like to fulfill this commission? How does Jesus' kingly authority ([Matt. 28:18](#)) and promised presence ([Matt. 28:20](#)) motivate us on this mission?

## **Taking it in**

In pairs: Take a moment to write a prayer reflecting on the passage. Tell God how it makes you feel, if you have been convicted of sin again, or made thankful, what new thing you appreciate about Jesus and what he has done for us.

## **Going out**

What is one thing you want to take into the week?

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