

# **The Gospel of Matthew**

©BSF

GCT  
Fall 2025–Spring 2026

*Intentionally Blank*

## Table of Contents

<b>Introduction: Our Approach</b> —Important reading for all group members .....	6
<b>Guidelines for Participants in Group Discussions</b> .....	7
<b>Credits</b> .....	8
<b>Lesson 1:</b> <b>Matthew 1:1–25.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 1:21 .....	9
God became a man to enable sinners to live a new life.	
<b>Lesson 2:</b> <b>Matthew 2.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 2:2 .....	12
God sent Jesus as the King of the world.	
<b>Lesson 3:</b> <b>Matthew 3.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 3:2 .....	15
God calls people to repent and turn to Jesus.	
<b>Lesson 4:</b> <b>Matthew 4.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 4:10.....	18
God’s Word is powerful.	
<b>Lesson 5:</b> <b>Matthew 5:1–16.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 5:16.....	22
Jesus’ followers think and live differently because they find their identity in Him.	
<b>Lesson 6:</b> <b>Matthew 5:17–48.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 5:48.....	26
Jesus radically transforms believers to obey from the heart.	
<b>Lesson 7:</b> <b>Matthew 6:1–34.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 6:1.....	30
God radically transforms His children’s motives.	
<b>Lesson 8:</b> <b>Matthew 7.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 7:12.....	34
Godly wisdom requires humble self-examination, persistent prayer, and constant discernment.	
<b>Lesson 9:</b> <b>Matthew 8.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 8:27b.....	38
Jesus demonstrates absolute authority and deserves unreserved devotion.	
<b>Lesson 10:</b> <b>Matthew 9:1–34.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 9:6a.....	41
Jesus’ power to forgive sinners and overcome death proves His authority.	
<b>Lesson 11:</b> <b>Matthew 9:35–10:42.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 10:39 .....	45
Following Christ means sacrificing a comfortable, carefree life for the sake of the gospel.	

<b>Lesson 12:</b>	<b>Matthew 11–12. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 12:50 .....</b>	<b>49</b>
	The truth about Jesus leads some to believe in Him while others refuse to believe.	
<b>Lesson 13:</b>	<b>Matthew 13:1–30, 36–43. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 13:16 .....</b>	<b>53</b>
	God knows who truly follows Jesus and who does not.	
<b>Lesson 14:</b>	<b>Matthew 13:31–35, 44–58. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 13:44.....</b>	<b>57</b>
	Nothing in this life is more important than Christ and His kingdom.	
<b>Lesson 15:</b>	<b>Matthew 14:1–36. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 14:33 .....</b>	<b>61</b>
	Only Jesus can fully satisfy our spiritual needs.	
<b>Lesson 16:</b>	<b>Matthew 15. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 15:8.....</b>	<b>65</b>
	True faith begins in the heart.	
<b>Lesson 17:</b>	<b>Matthew 16:1–28. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 16:15–16.....</b>	<b>69</b>
	True discipleship means following Jesus at any cost.	
<b>Lesson 18:</b>	<b>Matthew 17. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 17:5.....</b>	<b>73</b>
	Jesus reveals His glory through His presence, His words, and His power.	
<b>Lesson 19:</b>	<b>Matthew 18:1–35. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 18:3 .....</b>	<b>77</b>
	God calls His children to reflect His heart toward others.	
<b>Lesson 20:</b>	<b>Matthew 19. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 19:26.....</b>	<b>81</b>
	Jesus' followers surrender to Him and seek His countercultural kingdom values.	
<b>Lesson 21:</b>	<b>Matthew 19:30–21:17. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 20:27–28.....</b>	<b>85</b>
	Jesus came to establish God's kingdom and call His people to humble servanthood.	
<b>Lesson 22:</b>	<b>Matthew 21:18–22:14. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 21:42.....</b>	<b>89</b>
	Jesus brings judgment against those who reject His authority.	
<b>Lesson 23:</b>	<b>Matthew 22:15–23:39. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 23:12 .....</b>	<b>93</b>
	Humble submission to Jesus delivers us from sinful pride and hypocrisy.	
<b>Lesson 24:</b>	<b>Review Matthew 24. Matthew 24:44 .....</b>	<b>97</b>
	Planet Earth and humanity are moving toward Christ's return.	
<b>Lesson 25:</b>	<b>Matthew 25. <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 25:21 .....</b>	<b>101</b>

Jesus' followers are called to anticipate and prepare for His return.

<b>Lesson 26:</b>	<b>Matthew 26:1–46.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 26:28 .....	105
	Jesus faithfully embraced the cross to redeem the unfaithful.	
<b>Lesson 27:</b>	<b>Matthew 26:47–27:31.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 26:56a .....	109
	God's sovereign plans prevail over all opposition and determine all outcomes.	
<b>Lesson 28:</b>	<b>Matthew 27:32–66.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 27:50 .....	113
	Jesus' atoning sacrifice upheld God's perfect justice and met mankind's greatest need.	
<b>Lesson 29:</b>	<b>Matthew 28:1–20.</b> <i>Focus verse:</i> Matthew 28:19-20 .....	117
	The risen Christ empowers believers to reach the world with the good news of salvation.	
<b>Lesson 30:</b>	Review of the year and how it's impacted your life and service to the Lord .....	121

# Introduction: Our Approach

## Our Purpose

Our times together should be informed by study of God's Word. Whether you like to study a passage by reading it multiple times and looking up all the cross-references, by following a study guide of questions such as this one, or by marking it with your colored pencils and inductive study tools, our purpose is to know Him through His Word, to be transformed, and to encourage and strengthen one another to hold fast to our hope in His promises (Hebrews 10:23–25; Eph. 4:11–16; Rom. 12:2; 1:16).

*As believers called to become ever more conformed to the image of Christ, we want the time we invest here to change us.* We have in this resource a structured study tool to get us in the Word together, treasuring the beauties of Christ in unison. This tool is to equip our personal study, so that when we come together there can be rich sharing and discussion. When each of us spends time in the scriptures we bring a depth of conversation we can't get from the facilitator alone. Let's commit to this time together and our personal time in the Word each week in order to work together toward the goal of growing in Christlikeness, understanding God's Word, and unity and fellowship in Christ.

## Weekly Study Guide and Discussion Group

Your weekly homework will focus on a particular segment of Scripture to see what it has to say and how it fits into the greater context. The homework is designed to help you take a closer look at what you are reading. Not all the homework questions will have answers that are immediately clear to you. If you are unsure of an answer, give it your best shot. We'll expand our understanding in the small group discussion. In our weekly meetings we want to focus our time on discussing the passage together in the more broad strokes of the application questions specific to each week's passage, as well as the following questions: What does this passage teach me about God? <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>How does this aspect of God's character change my view of self? What should I do in response? <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

In your personal study time you may find it helpful to mark recurring words in the text as you study. Marking recurring words throughout a book is useful to discover themes and remember the big picture after you've studied. Some may benefit from using colored pencils and symbols in their markings. If you're interested in learning more about this approach, go to [precept.org/our-approach](http://precept.org/our-approach). <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## Storing Up Treasure <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

Some days your study may not move you emotionally or speak to an immediate need. You may not be able to apply a passage at all. But what if ten years from now, in a dark night of the soul, that passage suddenly opens up to you because of the work you have done today? Wouldn't your long-term investment be worth it? Approaching God's Word with a God-centered perspective, with context, and with care takes effort and commitment. It is study for the long-term.

In Matthew 13, we see Jesus begin to teach in parables. He tells seven deceptively simple stories that leave his disciples struggling for understanding. After the last parable he turns to them and asks "Have you understood all these things?" Despite their apparent confusion, they answer out of their earnest desire to understand with "Yes". Jesus tells them that their newfound understanding makes them "like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

A storeroom, as Jesus indicates, is a place for keeping valuables over a long period of time for use when needed. Faithful study of God's Word is a means for filling our spiritual storerooms with truth, so that in our hour of need we can bring

forth both the old and the new as a source of rich provision. We pray that this study would be for you a source of much treasure, and that you would labor well to obtain it.

### **Guidelines for Participants in Group Discussions:**

In order to work together toward our common goal and purpose (see above), we are encouraged to each come prepared to share from our personal time in the study each week, as that brings a depth of conversation we can't get from the facilitator alone.

Our purpose is to know God through His Word, to be transformed, and to encourage and strengthen one another to hold fast to our hope in His promises.

1. **Listen with respect.** Give others the gift of your full attention by not interrupting. When someone else is speaking, resist the urge to plan your response—focus instead on hearing them clearly.
2. **Seek understanding.** Listen actively, with the aim of understanding someone else's perspective. You don't have to agree, but you should seek to appreciate where they're coming from.
3. **Commit to learning, not debating.** Our goal is to grow in wisdom and in love for God and one another—not to win arguments. Speak to share insight or experience, not to persuade or prove a point.
4. **Choose gracious words.** Avoid blame, speculation, or language that could inflame. Let your words build up rather than tear down.
5. **Make room for every voice.** Ensure everyone has the chance to speak. If you notice you've spoken more than others, pause and let someone else contribute. Encouraging quieter members helps us all learn from one another.
6. **Lead with compassion and charitable judgment.** Charitable judgment and compassion should govern our discussions. Do not make assumptions about a person's background, and avoid generalizations about groups of people (for example, "young people," "older people," "men," "women," or particular ethnicities or denominations). Likewise, don't put anyone on the spot by asking them to represent an entire group.
7. **Challenge ideas, not individuals.** It is good to ask hard questions or push back thoughtfully, but do so in a way that critiques ideas—not individuals.
8. **Honor what God honors.** Use edifying words about Christ's bride, the Church, and about marriage. Be careful not to tear down that which God exalts.
9. **Come ready to learn from one another.** If you were unable to read the scriptures and spend time alone with God and the lesson this week, listen to what the Lord taught others who were able to invest that time this week. Our discussion will be enriched by more of us speaking from the time we've spent in the Word. That's not to say those who didn't study aren't permitted to speak, only that the group will all benefit most from the unprepared taking on a learner role and listening more.

## **Credits and Acknowledgements**

This study guide is a compilation of editorial additions by Grace Community Church of Topsail members, works by the following “fellow workers for the truth” (3 John 1:8), various resources we’ve studied over the year, which all converge on these pages including the following:

### **Bible Translation**

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version (ESV).

### **Bible Studies**

Jen Wilkin studies

### **Teaching Resources**

Materials from Precept Scotland (*Precept Ministries International*)

### **Bible Study Fellowship**

Wetherell Johnson, Audrey. Matthew. 1964. Used with written permission.



# Lesson 1 Questions — Matthew 1

## God became a man to enable sinners to live a new life.

*Focus verse:* “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” – Matthew 1:21

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 1:1–17.

*Matthew presents the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah.*

1. Matthew began his book with Jesus’ genealogy. Why might he have done so? What was the importance of including such names as Abraham, Jacob, and David?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What pattern do you see in the way Matthew organized the names in his list?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. a. Give the background of each woman Matthew mentions in Jesus’ genealogy:  
  
Tamar – Genesis 38  
  
  
  
Rahab – Joshua 2; 6:17  
  
  
  
Ruth – Ruth 1; 4:13–17  
  
  
  
“Wife of Uriah” – 2 Samuel 11; 12:15, 18, 24  
  
  
  
Mary – Luke 1:26–56
  
  
  
  
  
- b. Why might Matthew have chosen to include these particular women?

4. How have you experienced God's grace—blessings you do not deserve?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 1:18–25.**

*God reassured Joseph and declared the names of His Son.*

5. a. How did Joseph respond to Mary's pregnancy?

b. What comfort and instructions did God give to Joseph?

6. a. What two names did God give to Mary's Son? What does each name mean?

b. What do both of these aspects of Jesus' character mean to you?

7. Read John 3:17; Acts 4:12; and Romans 10:9. What does the word "saved" mean to you?

8. How did Joseph demonstrate his faith?

**THIRD DAY: Read Luke 1:26–38 to understand God's plan for Mary.**

*While Matthew focuses on Joseph, Luke's account records God's revelation of His plan to Mary.*

9. a. What facts did the angel Gabriel reveal to Mary?

b. Read Job 33:4; Matthew 1:20, 23; and Luke 1:35. Of whom was Jesus born, besides Mary? Why is this important?

10. How did Mary express her faith?

11. How has God worked in your life to build your faith and lead you to surrender to His plan?

**FOURTH DAY: Reread Matthew 1:1–25.**

*Jesus' birth fulfilled prophecy and revealed God's faithfulness.*

12. a. In what ways did Matthew connect Jesus' birth to Old Testament prophecy in this chapter?

b. What does this reveal about God?

13. In what ways would Joseph and Mary's steps of faith and obedience have been costly?

14. When has obeying God been costly for you? How has God met your needs and demonstrated His faithfulness?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 1:1–25.**

*God became a man to enable sinners to live a new life.*

15. What truth about Jesus challenged or inspired you this week?

## Lesson 2 Questions — Matthew 2

### God sent Jesus as the King of the world.

*Focus verse:* “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” – Matthew 2:2

#### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 2:1–8.

*The Magi followed the star in search of the King of the Jews.*

1. List the different people or groups in these verses and their responses to the news of Christ’s birth.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What attitudes toward Christ and the Bible are common in our world today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How has God drawn you to Himself, inviting you to seek Him and know Him?

#### SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 2:9–12.

*The Magi offered worship and gifts to Jesus.*

4. How did the Magi find their way to Jesus? What does this reveal about God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5.
  - a. What do you learn about worship and seeking God from the Magi?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What helps you humble yourself in worship before God?

6. How did God intervene to protect Jesus?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 2:13–18.**

*Joseph took his family to Egypt.*

7. What possibly motivated Herod's hostility against Jesus?
8.       a. How did God lead Joseph, and how did he respond? What do you learn from this?
- b. What is the significance of Jesus' flight to Egypt and Matthew's quotation of Hosea 11:1?
9.       a. What greater sin did Herod commit as a result of his insecurity and fear?
- b. What insecurity or fear do you face today? What truth about God can you cling to? (See Proverbs 21:30.)
10. How does Jeremiah 31:15 relate to these events?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 2:19–23.**

*God directed Joseph to return to Israel.*

11. Why did Joseph not return to Judea?

12. a. What is significant about Jesus growing up in Nazareth? (See John 1:43–46.)

b. How are you helped to know that Jesus came from an unexpected place?

13. In what ways have you experienced God's guidance and protection in your life?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 2.**

*God sent Jesus as the King of the world.*

14. What have you learned this week about obeying God?

15. What have you learned this week about God's care for His people?

# Lesson 3 Questions — Matthew 3

## God calls people to repent and turn to Jesus.

*Focus verse:* “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” – Matthew 3:2

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 3:1–4.

*John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, which fulfilled prophecy.*

1.
  - a. Read Malachi 4:5–6; Luke 1:17; 2 Kings 1:8; Mark 1:6; Matthew 17:9–13. Note words in these verses that stand out about John and fulfilled Malachi’s prophecy.
  - b. In what way did John the Baptist fulfill prophecy from Isaiah? (See Isaiah 40:1–5.)
2. What do you learn from the way God prepares events and circumstances to carry out His will?
3.
  - a. How have the circumstances and events of your life prepared you to serve God?
  - b. How can you “prepare the way for the Lord” today?

### SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 3:5–10.

*John the Baptist prepared the way for the Messiah with his call for Israel’s repentance.*

4. John’s hearers confessed their sins and repented. What is the difference between confession and repentance? (See Acts 3:19; 20:21; 26:20; James 5:16; 1 John 1:9.)

5. How do you recognize true repentance? What human responses fall short of true repentance? (See Joel 2:13; Matthew 3:8; Acts 26:20; Romans 2:4; 2 Corinthians 7:10–11.)

6. a. In what way does your life reveal fruit growing out of repentance?

b. Is there something God is convicting you to repent of right now? Write a prayer confessing it to Jesus and asking for His forgiveness.

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 3:11–12.**

*As the Messiah's forerunner, John prophesied that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit.*

7. Who is the Holy Spirit and what does He do? (See John 15:26; 16:13–14; Romans 8:9; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Galatians 4:6.)

8. What does the Holy Spirit do in the life of a Christian? (See Ezekiel 36:25–27; John 7:37–39; 16:13; Acts 1:5, 7–8.)

9. In what ways has the Holy Spirit revealed truth and drawn you to God?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 3:13–17.**

*Jesus identified Himself with God's people in baptism and was affirmed by His Father.*

10. Why did Jesus decide to be baptized?



11.
  - a. Read John 1:32–34. What did God say would distinguish the Messiah from the other people who John the Baptist would baptize?
  - b. Read Luke 3:21–22. What was Jesus doing when the Holy Spirit came upon Him as He was baptized?
12. God expressed His pleasure in His Son. Why is pleasing God a worthy motivation for a believer?
13. Christ identified with humanity in His baptism. Why is this important to you?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 3.**

*God calls people to repent and turn to Jesus.*

14. What have you learned about Jesus this week that causes you to love Him more?

## Lesson 4 Questions — Matthew 4

# God's Word is powerful.

*Focus verse:* “Jesus said to him, ‘Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.”’” –Matthew 4:10

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 4:1–11.**

*Jesus was tempted by Satan.*

1.
  - a. Where was Jesus, and why was He there?
  - b. What are some reasons Jesus was sent to be tempted? How does that encourage you? (See John 4:34 and Hebrews 2:14–18.)

Read Genesis 3:1–7 with Jesus' temptation in mind.

2.
  - a. How did Jesus' belief in His Father's goodness differ from Eve's attitude to God and His Word?
  - b. List other differences and similarities in the temptation of Adam and Eve in the garden and Jesus in the wilderness.

Differences:

Similarities:

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 4:1–11.**

*Jesus resisted three temptations by Satan.*

3. a. What did Satan suggest to Jesus in each of the three temptations? What deeper compromise was behind each?

Temptation #1:

Temptation #2:

Temptation #3:

- b. How are people today tempted in similar ways?

4. What Old Testament passage did Jesus quote in response to each temptation?

Temptation #1:

Temptation #2:

Temptation #3:

5. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. What specific help do you find for the temptations you face today?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 4:1–11.**

*Jesus' response to temptation has lessons for believers.*

6. Read the following verses and think about how people are tempted in their thinking and lives today.

Deuteronomy 20:1–4

Matthew 6:25–26

Romans 1:21–22

Hebrews 12:1–2

James 1:14–15

1 John 2:15–16

7. How does the truth in God’s Word strengthen you to stand against temptation? (See Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12.)

8. a. In what area of life are you particularly vulnerable to temptation?

b. How have you experienced victory through the power of the Holy Spirit?

9. How did God care for His Son when this temptation ended?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 4:12–25.**

*Jesus began His public ministry in Galilee.*

10. Where did Jesus start His ministry? How did He fulfill the prophecy quoted from Isaiah 9:1–2?

11. How did Jesus’ ministry connect to the ministry of John the Baptist? (See Matthew 3.)

12. a. What do you observe about Jesus' call to His first disciples and their response?

b. What have you learned through God's call to you to follow Christ?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 4.**

*God's Word is powerful.*

13. What has God taught you this week through Jesus' example?

# Lesson 5 Questions—Matthew 5:1–16

**Jesus’ followers think and live differently because they find their identity in Him.**

*Focus verse:* “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 5:16

**FIRST DAY: First skim Matthew 5:1–12, then focus on Matthew 5:1–4.**

*Jesus taught His disciples the kind of character God blesses in a series of statements known as the Beatitudes.*

1. What does it mean to be “blessed”? How do the Beatitudes expand this concept for you?
  
2. How does a right view of God and a realistic view of self contribute to being “poor in spirit”? (See Psalm 51:17 and Isaiah 66:2.)
  
3.
  - a. What causes you to mourn?
  
  - b. Read Isaiah 61:1–3; Romans 7:22–24; James 4:8–10. Why does someone who understands forgiveness in Christ mourn over sin?
  
4. How have you experienced the blessing of being poor in spirit and mourning over sin?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 5:5–8.**

*Jesus taught the countercultural values of God's kingdom.*

5. What do you think of when you hear the word “meek”? What do you think Jesus meant by “the meek”?

6. a. What does it mean to hunger and thirst after righteousness?

b. Read Psalms 19:7–11; 42:1–2, 11. How do these verses expand your thinking?

7. What is the relationship between receiving mercy and extending mercy?

8. How does being “pure in heart” help you “see God”? (See also Psalm 24:4–5.)

9. How has God transformed your thinking so that you value and seek the character traits He rewards?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 5:9–12.**

*Christ called His followers to make peace even when persecuted.*

10. a. Who do you know that is a peacemaker? What does that person do to promote peace?

b. Why are the “children of God” uniquely equipped to be peacemakers? (See 2 Corinthians 5:18–20.)

11.
  - a. What does it mean to be “persecuted because of righteousness”?
  - b. How do you respond to challenges, slander, or opposition that comes because you follow Christ?
12. What hardships do you face within the circle of influence where God has placed you as His representative?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 5:13–16.**

*Christ identified His followers as salt and light.*

13.
  - a. How is salt used, and what does it do?
  - b. How do Christians function as salt in the world?
14.
  - a. How is light used, and what does it do?
  - b. What are some ways Christians can be light?
15. Why is the kind of character Jesus described in the Beatitudes necessary to live as salt and light?



**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 5:1–16.**

*Jesus' followers think and live differently because they find their identity in Him.*

16. Which of the Beatitudes most convicted you this week? Write a prayer asking God to develop it in your life.

## Lesson 6 Questions — Matthew 5:17–48

### Jesus radically transforms believers to obey from the heart.

*Focus verse:* “Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” – Matthew 5:48

#### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 5:17–20.

*Jesus came to fulfill the Law and call people to true righteousness.*

1. a. The “Law and Prophets” refer to the entire Old Testament. What was Jesus’ attitude toward the Old Testament?

b. How do Jesus’ words speak to your experience with and attitude toward the Old Testament?

2. How did Jesus fulfill the Law?

The moral law? (See Hebrews 4:15.)

The ceremonial law of Old Testament sacrifices? (See 1 Peter 1:18–21.)

Old Testament prophecies? (See Luke 24:26–27.)

3. Why must God-pleasing righteousness be different from that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 5:21–30.**

*Jesus exposed the root sins behind murder and adultery.*

4. a. In what ways did Jesus expand the concept of murder in verses 21–22? (See also 1 John 2:7–11; 3:10–15.)

b. What priority did Jesus establish in verses 23–26? (See also Matthew 18:21–35.)

c. How is God leading you to apply Matthew 5:21–26 to your relationships?

5. a. In what ways did Jesus expand the definition of adultery in verses 27–28?

b. How do you live out verses 29–30 in everyday life?

c. How does this teaching relate to a world that makes it easy to indulge sinful sexual imaginations? (See Philippians 4:8.)

6. How would you apply these principles to your personal battle with sin? (See 1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 10:3–5.)

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 5:31–37.**

*Jesus calls for faithfulness in marriage and truthfulness in speech.*

7.
  - a. What did Jesus say about divorce? (See also Mark 10:1–12.)
  - b. How can believers both advocate for God’s design for marriage and share love with those hurt by divorce?
8.
  - a. What did Jesus warn about oaths being needed to validate truthfulness?
  - b. In what ways do you find absolute truthfulness a challenge?
  - c. What helps you love truth and speak truth?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 5:38–48.**

*Jesus calls believers to forsake revenge and love their enemies.*

9. What does Jesus teach about responding to evil and your enemies?
10.
  - a. How do Jesus’ commands stand in stark contrast to the ways of the world?
  - b. What relationship in your life would change if you obeyed Jesus’ words?
11.
  - a. What is your response to Jesus’ words in verse 48?

b. Read Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:22–24; and Philippians 2:12–13. What truth in these verses offer perspective on this command?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 5:17–48.**

*Jesus radically transforms believers to obey from the heart.*

12. How has the Holy Spirit convicted you or prompted obedience in your life this week?

# Lesson 7 Questions — Matthew 6

## God radically transforms His children's motives.

*Focus verse:* “Be careful not to practice your righteousness in front of others to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.” – Matthew 6:1

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 6:1–18.

*Jesus called His people to seek God's rewards, not human approval.*

1.      a. What did Jesus teach in verse 1?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b. What is the main point Jesus taught in His three examples?

About giving to the needy:

About prayer:

About fasting:

2. Compare Matthew 5:14–16 with Matthew 6:1–4. What is the difference between Jesus' commands in the two passages?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what ways are you tempted to care more about other people's opinions than what God thinks?

### SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 6:5–13.

*Jesus taught believers how to pray.*

4. How did Jesus describe the kind of prayer that pleases God?

5. Jesus offered an example of how believers should pray in vs. 9–13. What does each phrase mean to you?

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.”

“Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

“Give us today our daily bread.”

“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”

“And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

6. How does Jesus’ teaching on prayer speak to you about your prayer life?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 6:19–24.**

*Jesus encouraged storing up heavenly treasure.*

7. a. What treasure do people collect or value that can be lost?

b. What heavenly treasures can a Christian store up that can never be lost?

8. What do the following verses say about treasure:

Psalm 119:72

Luke 12:15–21

2 Corinthians 4:17–18

Philippians 3:8

1 Peter 1:4–5

9. What two competing masters do people serve?

10. a. What do your priorities, thoughts, and motives indicate that you treasure most?

b. What is God saying to you through this passage?



**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 6:25–34.**

*Jesus taught that God's children have no reason to worry.*

11. List the things Jesus told us not to worry about.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12.
  - a. What examples did Jesus give to prove that God's children have no cause to worry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What is your greatest source of worry that you need to surrender to God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. State the truth in Matthew 6:33 in your own words.

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 6:1–34.**

*God radically transforms His children's motives.*

14. What is the most meaningful life lesson God taught you this week through Matthew 6?

# Lesson 8 Questions — Matthew 7

## **Godly wisdom requires humble self-examination, persistent prayer, and constant discernment.**

*Focus verse:* “So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.” – Matthew 7:12

### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 7:1–6.**

*Jesus taught about humility in judgment.*

1.
  - a. What does Jesus mean by “do not judge” in this passage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What is the difference between the kind of judgment Jesus describes here and wise discernment? (See Romans 12:2; Philippians 1:9–10; Hebrews 5:14.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How do believers help one another in their struggle with sin in a healthy and loving way? (See Galatians 6:1–5; Ephesians 4:2.)
  
2. Why is Jesus’ call for a believer’s self-examination so important in dealing with someone else’s faults? (See James 2:12–13.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. In what way are you prone to judge others harshly? How do Jesus’ teachings help you?

### **SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 7:7–12.**

*Jesus encouraged disciples to pray to their Father.*

4. What are the three descriptions of prayer in verses 7–8, and what does God promise when you pray this way?
5.
  - a. What does Jesus teach us about God the Father with His illustration of an earthly father?
  - b. How does God work on behalf of His children? (See Romans 8:28, 32.)
6.
  - a. Think about verse 12. What does it look like for you to be as sensitive to others as you would be to yourself?
  - b. How does loving others as you love yourself summarize all the teachings of the Law and the prophets? (See Matthew 22:34–40.)

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 7:13–20.**

*Jesus warned His listeners against spiritual counterfeits.*

7.
  - a. What was Jesus teaching with His illustrations of the narrow and wide gate? (See also John 14:6; Acts 4:12.)
  - b. Why is this truth so distasteful to many people?
8.
  - a. What distinguishes true prophets from false prophets? (See also John 15:16 and Galatians 5:22–23.)

- b. How does the warning in verses 15–20 add balance to what Jesus taught about judging others in verses 1–6?

9. What warning or conviction does this passage have for you today?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 7:21–29.**

*Jesus contrasted wise and foolish choices.*

- 10.
  - a. What truth or lesson did Jesus teach in verses 21–23?
  - b. How does this truth impact you?
- 11.
  - a. How do people build their lives upon the true foundation? (See Isaiah 28:16; 1 Corinthians 3:11.)
  - b. In what ways do people build their lives upon sand?
- 12. How does God’s truth help you withstand the storms of life?
- 13. What really reveals the foundation your life is built upon?

## FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 7.

*Godly wisdom requires humble self-examination, persistent prayer, and constant discernment.*

15.
  - a. What was your greatest discovery and challenge while studying the Sermon on the Mount?
  - b. How may your group pray for you in light of this challenge?

# Lesson 9 Questions — Matthew 8

**Jesus demonstrates absolute authority and deserves unreserved devotion.**

*Focus verse:* “What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!” – Matthew 8:27b

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 8:1–17.**

*Jesus’ healing power demonstrated His authority over disease.*

1. What stands out to you in the healing of the leper in 8:1–4? (See also Leviticus 13:2–3, 44–46.)
2.
  - a. Describe the centurion’s request and what he communicated to Jesus.
  - b. What was commendable about the faith of the centurion?
3. How did Jesus’ healing ministry fulfill prophecy, and what did it reveal about Him? See Isaiah 29:18–19; 35:5–6; 42:6–7.
4. How do these accounts challenge your faith or bring you encouragement?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 8:18–22.**

*Jesus explained the cost of discipleship.*

5. How do the two potential followers of Jesus differ from one another?
6.
  - a. What is the cost Jesus is talking about in His response to the first man?

b. What is the cost Jesus is talking about in His response to the second man?

7. a. In what ways do people try to make following Jesus easy?

b. How have you experienced both the costliness and reward of following Jesus? (See Matthew 10:37–39.)

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 8:23–27.**

*Jesus displayed His power over nature by calming a storm and rescuing His frightened disciples.*

8. What does this passage reveal about Jesus' humanity and His deity?

9. a. What did Jesus' words communicate to the disciples?

b. What did Jesus' actions communicate to the disciples?

10. a. What storm are you facing? How is that storm causing you to fear but calling you to faith?

b. What truth about Jesus offers you needed perspective in that storm?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 8:28–34.**

*Jesus displayed His power over demons.*

11.
  - a. What did the two demonized men do and say?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What did these demons recognize about Jesus? (See also James 2:19.)
  
12. What do Jesus' actions reveal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
13. Why would the townspeople ask Jesus to leave? Why did Jesus leave at their bidding? (See Matthew 10:14; 11:21.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How does the reality of Jesus' unlimited power impact you?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 8.**

*Jesus demonstrates absolute authority and deserves unreserved devotion.*

15. What did you learn about Jesus' power and authority? How will that impact your life this week?



# Lesson 10 Questions — Matthew 9:1–34

## **Jesus’ power to forgive sinners and overcome death proves His authority.**

*Focus verse:* “But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” – Matthew 9:6a

### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 9:1–8.**

*Jesus forgave and healed a paralyzed man.*

1. Whose faith did Jesus acknowledge in this miracle? What lessons might you learn from this? (See Mark 2:3–12.)

2. a. What did Jesus say and do that demonstrated His deity—that He is God?

b. How did the various people in this scene react to Jesus’ words and actions?

The teachers of the law:

The man who was healed:

The watching crowd:

3. What does it mean to you personally that Jesus says, “Your sins are forgiven”?

### **SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 9:9–17.**

*Jesus called Matthew to follow Him and answered questions.*

4. a. What stands out to you in Jesus’ call to Matthew, who wrote this account?

b. Why might Matthew have included his story within his accounts of Jesus' miracles and healing?

5. a. What did the Pharisees ask, and why might they have asked this question?

b. How did Jesus answer? What did He mean? (See Hosea 6:6.)

c. How might Matthew 9:12–13 challenge Christians to go out of their comfort zone—beyond Christian circles? (See also Matthew 28:19–20; John 17:14–19; and 1 Peter 3:13–17.)

6. a. What did John the Baptist's disciples ask?

b. What did Jesus communicate in His answer and the examples He gave? (See Isaiah 43:18–19.)

The wedding guests:

The patched garment and wineskins:

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 9:18–26.**

*Jesus raised a young girl from the dead and healed a suffering woman.*

7. Two miracles are intertwined in these verses. What similarities do you see? What differences?
8. What details about these miracles are particularly significant to you?
9. What do you learn about Jesus and how should you respond?
10. What need in your life is drawing you to Jesus today?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 9:27–34.**

*Jesus healed the blind and mute.*

11.
  - a. What did the blind men call Jesus, and what did they ask of Him? (See also Matthew 1:1; 22:42.)
  - b. How did Jesus respond? What did He ask of them?
12. Read Isaiah 35:3–6. How did Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
13.
  - a. What were the two responses when the demon-possessed man began to speak?

b. Why does the reality of Jesus and His authority create such a dividing line between people today?

c. How do you respond when people speak negatively about Jesus or your faith in Him?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 9:1–34.**

*Jesus' power to forgive sinners and overcome death proves His authority.*

14. What truth about Jesus from this passage will you apply to your life this week?

# Lesson 11 Questions — Matthew 9:35–10:42

**Following Christ means sacrificing a comfortable, carefree life for the sake of the gospel.**

*Focus verse:* “Whoever finds their life will lose it, and whoever loses their life for my sake will find it.” – Matthew 10:39

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 9:35–38.**

*Jesus felt compassion for people following Him.*

1.
  - a. What motivated the compassion Jesus felt for the gathering crowds?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How do the following verses help you understand the great compassion of our Good Shepherd?  
  
Psalm 23:1–3:  
  
  
  
Isaiah 53:6:  
  
  
  
Ezekiel 34:5–16:  
  
  
  
John 10:11–15:  
  
  
  
1 Peter 2:24–25:
  
- c. What moves you toward compassion for the spiritual needs around you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why are there “few” workers if the harvest is “plentiful”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What stands out to you in Jesus’ call to prayer?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 10:1–15.**

*Jesus called His twelve disciples and sent them out with specific instructions.*

4. From verse 1, what did Jesus give the disciples He called to join Him in His work?
5.
  - a. To whom did Jesus send His twelve disciples? Where were they not to go at that time?
  - b. Read Matthew 28:19–20; John 4:22; Acts 1:8; Romans 1:16; 2:9–11. How do these verses help you understand Jesus' command?
6. What other instructions did Jesus give the apostles?
7. Why would those who rejected Jesus' messengers face judgment more unbearable than Sodom and Gomorrah? Read Genesis 18:20; 19:24–25.
8. What lessons can you learn and apply from this passage as you follow and serve Jesus?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 10:16–31.**

*Jesus explained the opposition and persecution awaiting His followers.*

9.
  - a. What kind of trouble should Jesus' followers expect?
  - b. How do Jesus' followers face similar opposition today?

c. In what ways has following Jesus been costly to you?

10. a. What reasons did Jesus give to explain why His followers should not be afraid?

b. How are you personally encouraged by the watchful care of your Heavenly Father?

11. Which command or promise that Jesus gave is particularly meaningful to you?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 10:32–42.**

*Jesus calls His followers to self-denial and promises eternal rewards.*

12. What principles or truths did Jesus teach in these verses?

13. Why must commitment to Christ be stronger than even family bonds?

14. What does it mean for a believer to “take up their cross”? (See also Luke 14:25–35 and John 12:24–26.)

15. How have you experienced that what you counted loss in this world actually brought spiritual gain?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 9:35–10:42.**

*Following Christ means sacrificing a comfortable, carefree life for the sake of the gospel.*

16. How has this week's study challenged your commitment to Christ?



# Lesson 12 Questions — Matthew 11–12

**The truth about Jesus leads some to believe in Him while others refuse to believe.**

*Focus verse:* “For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.” – Matthew 12:50

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 11:1–15.**

*Jesus answered John the Baptist’s honest questions.*

1.
  - a. What life circumstances may have contributed to John the Baptist’s questions? (See Matthew 3:11–12; 14:3–5.)
  - b. What proofs of His identity did Jesus give to help John? (See Isaiah 29:18–19; 35:5–6; 61:1–3.)
  - c. When have your life circumstances tested your faith or caused doubts? What did you learn?
2.
  - a. What did John the Baptist reveal about his trust in God by sending disciples to Jesus with his questions?
  - b. How can believers find answers to their honest questions and genuine doubt today?
3. How did Jesus commend John and his ministry?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 11:16–30.**

*Jesus condemned the unbelieving but called the weary.*

4.
  - a. What attitudes toward Jesus and His teaching did He condemn in the people who had witnessed His ministry?
  - b. Why are these attitudes such a serious matter?
5. For what does Jesus praise the Father regarding those who believe?
6.
  - a. What does Jesus say to the weary and burdened? What does He promise?
  - b. In what ways does Jesus lighten the load or burdens of those who come to Him?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 12:1–21.**

*Jesus declared and proved His authority over the Sabbath.*

7.
  - a. Did the disciples actually break God’s command about the Sabbath? Why or why not? (See Deuteronomy 5:12–15; 23:25.)
  - b. Summarize the points Jesus made to explain His disciples’ actions on the Sabbath. What did He mean? (See also 1 Samuel 21:4–6; Mark 2:23–28.)

8. What did Jesus reveal about Himself when He healed the man on the Sabbath?
9. Why would Jesus withdraw and urge people not to tell others about His miracles of healing?
10. Matthew quoted from Isaiah 42:1–4 in verses 18–21. How do these descriptions of Jesus encourage you?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 12:22–50.**

*Jesus warned unbelievers and welcomed His followers as family.*

11.
  - a. When Jesus healed a demon-possessed man, what did His power to heal the man demonstrate?
  - b. The Pharisees attributed Jesus’ miracle to Beelzebul, or Satan. What did Jesus communicate in His response and illustration of the “strong man”?
12.
  - a. Why would Jesus refuse the Pharisees any additional sign?
  - b. How did Jesus relate His work to “the sign of the prophet Jonah”?
13. How will you apply Jesus’ words in verses 48–50 to yourself?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 11–12.**

*The truth about Jesus leads some to believe in Him while others refuse to believe.*

14. What promise or warning do you receive from these chapters, and how may your group pray for you as you seek to apply it to your life?

## Lesson 13 Questions — Matthew 13:1–30, 36–43

**God knows who truly follows Jesus and who does not.**

*Focus verse:* “But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear.” – Matthew 13:16

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23.**

*Jesus taught the parable of the soils.*

1. What is a parable?

2. In Jesus’ first parable, what do each of the following signify?

The sower:

The seed:

The soil along the path:

The birds that snatch the seed:

The rocky soil:

The thorny soil:

The good soil:

3. a. Which seed accomplished its intended purpose? What evidence demonstrated this?

b. In all four examples, think about the sower, the seed, and the soil. What was the same in all four accounts and what was different?

c. What lessons can you draw from the responses in the different soils?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23.**

*Jesus explained the parable of the soils to His disciples.*

4. Give examples of how the evil one “snatches away” the message of God’s kingdom today.
5. How are you sometimes distracted by the “worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth”?
6. Give reasons why the seed in good soil can produce varying results. (See John 15:5; Philippians 2:12–13.)
7. In your own words, summarize the teaching of the parable of the soils.
8. What is the condition of the “soil” of your heart? How do you know?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 13:10–17; Isaiah 6:9–10.**

*Jesus explained His purpose in teaching in parables to His disciples, not the crowd.*

9.
  - a. What reason did Jesus give for speaking in parables?
  - b. Why might Jesus have changed His approach to His teaching at this point in His ministry?
  - c. How does Jesus' quote from Isaiah explain what Jesus knew about the people who followed Him?
10.
  - a. In what ways are Jesus' followers blessed with the "secrets of the kingdom of heaven"?
  - b. How has God illuminated His truth to bless your life?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43.**

*Jesus taught and explained the parable of the weeds.*

11. What do each of the following signify in this parable?

The two sowers:

The good seed:

The weeds:

The harvest:

The harvesters:

12.
  - a. How does the phrase “while everyone was sleeping” help you understand how Satan opposes Christ’s work?
  - b. Why did the farmer warn the workers not to pull the weeds until the harvest?
  - c. Why is distinguishing between believers and unbelievers difficult for us?
  - d. As a believer, why should you focus more on sowing the seed of the gospel than on “pulling weeds”?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 13:1–30, 36–43.**

*God knows who truly follows Jesus and who does not.*

13. How has this passage helped your understanding of what matters in life and for eternity?



# Lesson 14 Questions — Matthew 13:31–35, 44–58

**Nothing in this life is more important than Christ and His kingdom.**

*Focus verse:* “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.” – Matthew 13:44

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 13:31–35.**

*Jesus taught the parables of the mustard seed and the yeast.*

1.
  - a. To what did Jesus compare the mustard seed and yeast?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What is the common concept or idea in these two parables?
  
2. What possible interpretations do you see? (See also Matthew 16:6–12; Ezekiel 17:23–24; Leviticus 2:11, 23:15–18; and 1 Corinthians 5:6–8.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3.
  - a. Jesus continued to speak in parables and did not always interpret them. Why would He do this?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Understanding spiritual truth can be challenging. How did you benefit from wrestling with these two parables? How will these benefits impact your future study of Scripture?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 13:44–46.**

*Jesus taught the parables of the hidden treasure and the pearl.*

4. a. What are the similarities and differences in these two parables?

Similarities:

Differences:

- b. What is the common concept or idea in these two parables?

5. a. Again, interpretations of these parables vary. What possible interpretation do you see? See Philippians 3:8; Colossians 2:2–3; Psalms 16:5–6; 135:4; and Romans 8:32.

- b. What conclusion seems most helpful or reasonable to you?

6. How are you personally encouraged by these thoughts?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 13:47–50.**

*Jesus taught the parable of the net.*

7. Explain the parable of the net.

The net:

The good fish:

The bad fish:

The fishermen:

The outcomes for both types of fish:

8.
  - a. What similarities do you see between Matthew 13:37–43 and 13:47–50?
  - b. How do people respond to both the warnings and encouragements in Scripture? Why are both important?
  - c. When has a warning in God’s Word helped you?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 13:51–58.**

*Jesus taught the parable of the house owner and was rejected in His hometown.*

9.
  - a. What responsibility does Jesus give to His followers in the parable of the house owner?
  - b. What “old” and “new” treasures does every Christian have?
  - c. What specific treasures has God entrusted to you, and how are you displaying those treasures?
10.
  - a. How did the people of Jesus’ hometown respond to Him?

b. How did Jesus react in light of their response?

c. In what way does the response in Jesus' hometown illustrate what He has taught in the parables of Matthew 13?

11. What questions or doubts keep you from fully surrendering to the truth Jesus has revealed to you?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 13:31–35, 44–58.**

*Nothing in this life is more important than Christ and His kingdom.*

12. What lesson from this week's passage stood out to you? Why? How will you respond to what you have learned?

# Lesson 15 Questions — Matthew 14:1–36

## Only Jesus can fully satisfy our spiritual needs.

*Focus verse:* “Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, ‘Truly you are the Son of God.’” – Matthew 14:33

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 14:1–12 along with Mark 6:12–29.

*Herod executed John the Baptist.*

1. How did Herod respond to reports of Jesus’ fame? Why might he have responded in that way?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2.
  - a. What offense did Herodias hold against John the Baptist, and what did this lead her to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How did Herodias involve her daughter in her bitterness and revenge?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What made Herod keep his foolish oath?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does the progression of sin in Herod’s and Herodias’ lives warn you personally?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What stands out to you in the response of John the Baptist’s disciples?

### SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 14:13–21.

*Jesus multiplied five loaves and two fish to feed thousands.*

5.
  - a. What factors may have led Jesus to withdraw to a solitary, remote place?
  - b. In what way does Jesus' attitude toward the crowd who pursued Him challenge you?
6.
  - a. How did Jesus stretch His disciples' faith?
  - b. What practical lessons can you learn from this miracle?
7. What truth about Jesus stands out in this miracle?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 14:22–24.**

*Jesus sent His disciples onto a boat and into a storm as He spent time alone with His Father.*

8.
  - a. Read John 6:14–15. After the miracle, what happened next?
  - b. What reasons might Jesus have had for His response?

For His disciples:

For the crowd:

For Jesus Himself:

9.
  - a. Jesus intentionally sent His disciples onto a boat and into a storm. What lessons can you learn from this?

- b. What unexpected storm are you facing, and what are you learning?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 14:25–36.**

*Jesus walked on water to His struggling disciples.*

- 10. How did the disciples respond when Jesus approached them on the water? What do you learn from His reply?

- 11.
  - a. What do you learn from Peter’s bold yet faltering faith?

- b. How do you recognize when you are relying on God and when you are not?

- 12.
  - a. What did Jesus’ words and actions in this encounter reveal about Him to His disciples?

- b. How might both miraculous events of this day have contributed to this profound response?

- 13. What situations has God used in your life to draw you to Himself and reveal His presence and power?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 14:1–36. Only Jesus can fully satisfy our spiritual needs.**

14. What have you learned about Jesus and your need to trust Him rather than your own strength?



## Lesson 16 Questions — Matthew 15

**True faith begins in the heart.**

*Focus verse:* “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.” – Matthew 15:8

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 15:1–9 and Mark’s parallel account in Mark 7:1–13.**

*Jesus confronted the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and teachers of the law.*

1.
  - a. What did the religious leaders ask Jesus?
  - b. How did Jesus answer their question?
2. Read Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:11–13; and Ephesians 6:1–3. What misuse of God’s law did Jesus expose?
3.
  - a. What was Jesus’ primary message to the Pharisees and teachers when He quoted Isaiah 29:13?
  - b. In what ways do you ignore or excuse hypocrisy in your own life?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 15:10–20.**

*Jesus taught the crowd and the disciples about the root of sin in the human heart.*

4. What principle did Jesus teach to the crowd in verse 11?

5.
  - a. About what did the disciples warn Jesus?
  - b. How did Jesus respond?
6.
  - a. Explain Jesus' words about what defiles a person in God's sight.
  - b. What external activities do people depend on as a means to be right with God?
  - c. What warning or lesson did you receive from this teaching?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 15:21–28.**

*Jesus healed the Canaanite woman's daughter in response to her persistent faith.*

7.
  - a. Why might Jesus have taken His disciples outside the boundaries of Israel at this time?
  - b. How did the Canaanite woman address Jesus, and why is this significant?
8.
  - a. Describe the interchange between this woman, Jesus, and the disciples.

b. Why might Jesus have responded as He did?

9. a. What stands out to you about this woman?

b. What lessons might you learn about faith and prayer from her example?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 15:29–39.**

*Jesus fed a crowd of 4,000.*

10. Compare the feeding of 4,000 here in Matthew 15 and the feeding of 5,000 in Matthew 14:13–21.

What is similar?

What is different?

11. a. How might this repeated miracle have benefitted the disciples?

b. What is significant about Jesus feeding a large crowd in Gentile territory? (See Mark 7:31; 8:1.)

12. What need do you face today that only Jesus can satisfy?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 15.**

*True faith begins in the heart.*

13. What did you learn this week about Jesus and yourself?

# Lesson 17 Questions — Matthew 16

## True discipleship means following Jesus at any cost.

*Focus verse:* “‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’” – Matthew 16:15–16

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 16:1–12.

*The Pharisees and Sadducees demanded a sign.*

1.
  - a. What were the Pharisees and Sadducees asking from Jesus? Why would Matthew say it was a “test”?
  - b. How did Jesus answer, and what did His answer reveal?
  - c. Why was the “sign of Jonah” sufficient? (See Matthew 12:38–42.)
2.
  - a. What was Jesus’ warning to the disciples?
  - b. Explain the confusion of the disciples.
  - c. How did Jesus address their confusion?
3. In what ways do we often miss spiritual meaning like the disciples did?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 16:13–16.**

*Jesus asked His disciples the ultimate question, and Peter answered.*

4. What two questions did Jesus ask, and why is the progression between these two questions important?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5.
  - a. How did the disciples answer the first question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some ways people answer that first question today?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6.
  - a. How did Peter answer the second question? What did his answer reveal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Why is Jesus' second question the ultimate question in life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. How do you answer this question?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 16:17–20.**

*Jesus introduced the importance of His Church.*

7. How did Jesus commend Peter and explain the source of his confession?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8.
  - a. What is Jesus' role in regard to His Church?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How does Jesus describe His Church and its influence?

9.      a. In what ways does verse 19 express the power of the gospel?
- b. How have you experienced the power of the gospel in your life or the lives of others?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 16:21–28.**

*Jesus predicted His death.*

10. What four points did Jesus reveal to His disciples about His future?
11.      a. How did Peter respond?
- b. What do you learn from Jesus' reply?
- c. Peter quickly went from Jesus' commendation (16:17) to His rebuke (16:23). How do you relate to this?
12.      a. What is Jesus' call to His disciples and those who follow Him today?
- b. How does this contradict human expectations?
- c. In what current situation is God calling you to deny yourself and trust Him?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 16:1–28.**

*True discipleship means following Jesus at any cost.*

13. How has this lesson challenged you to boldly commit to Christ and follow Him regardless of the cost?



## Lesson 18 — Matthew 17

**Jesus reveals His glory through His presence, His words, and His power.**

*Focus verse:* “While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’” – Matthew 17:5

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 17:1–5.**

*Peter, James, and John witnessed Jesus' glory at His transfiguration.*

1.
  - a. Describe what the disciples saw when Jesus was transfigured before them.
  - b. Read 2 Peter 1:16–19. How did Peter later describe the transfiguration?
2. What is the significance of Moses and Elijah appearing and speaking with Jesus? (See Deuteronomy 18:15; 34:5–6; 2 Kings 2:2–11; Matthew 5:17; Luke 9:30–31.)
3. Describe Peter’s immediate response to this scene. Why might he have made this suggestion?
4.
  - a. Why did God the Father interrupt Peter, and what did He say?
  - b. What does following God’s command of “Listen to him!” look like for you today?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 17:6–13.**

*Jesus tenderly responded to His bewildered disciples.*

5.
  - a. How did the disciples respond to what they heard?
  - b. What does Jesus' response to the disciples reveal?
  - c. When or how has the Lord revealed truth that humbled or unsettled you? How has He gently encouraged you and led you forward from that point?
6.
  - a. In what way did John the Baptist fulfill Malachi's prophecy? (See Malachi 4:5 and Luke 1:17.)
  - b. How did John the Baptist's ministry foreshadow future events in Jesus' life? (See Matthew 14:1–12.)
  - c. What phrase did Jesus use that seems to indicate that Elijah's coming is, in one sense, still future to us?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 17:14–21.**

*Jesus healed a demon-possessed boy.*

7.
  - a. How did the boy's father demonstrate faith?
  - b. Why had Jesus' disciples been unable to heal this boy? (See Mark 9:28–29.)

8. a. What did Jesus teach about faith?

b. How does His teaching challenge or inspire you?

9. What is the difference between the “little faith” Jesus rebuked and the “small faith” He promised to bless?

10. a. For what do you need faith?

b. What lessons about faith will you apply to your life this week?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 17:22–27.**

*Jesus predicted His death again and paid the temple tax.*

11. a. What did Jesus’ disciples begin to understand about His future?

b. What showed they lacked full understanding of Jesus’ words and purpose?

c. How have you experienced grief because you did not fully understand God’s higher purpose?

12. What truths did Jesus teach through this miraculous provision involving a fish?

13. How has God met a need in your life in a way that specifically encouraged your faith?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 17.**

*Jesus reveals His glory through His presence, His words, and His power.*

14. What attribute of Jesus stood out to you in Matthew 17, and how do you want to know Him better in this way?

# Lesson 19 Questions — Matthew 18

## God calls His children to reflect His heart toward others.

*Focus verse:* “And he said: ‘Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.’” – Matthew 18:3

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 18:1–5.

*Jesus honored childlike humility and explained true greatness.*

1. What question did the disciples ask, and what visual example did Jesus offer as an answer?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What did Jesus say was necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3.
  - a. How did Jesus describe true greatness? What do you think He meant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In what ways is His standard different from that of the world?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. In what ways do you struggle with humility or accepting a lowly position? Why is it so hard?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. What little ones (not only children) has God placed in your life to welcome and nurture? (See Romans 15:1–2.)

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 18:6–14.**

*Jesus explained the seriousness of causing others or yourself to stumble and taught the parable of the wandering sheep.*

5. How did Jesus explain the seriousness of causing one of His “little ones” to stumble?
  
  
  
  
  
6.
  - a. What drastic action did Jesus suggest in avoiding personal sin? What do you think He meant?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In what ways have you underestimated the destruction caused by personal sin or temptation?
  
  
  
  
  
7. What lessons do you learn from Jesus’ parable of the wandering sheep?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 18:15–20.**

*Jesus taught believers how to deal with sin and conflict among believers.*

8.
  - a. List the process Jesus gives for dealing with sin within the church.
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How do individuals and the corporate body of the church benefit when these instructions are followed?
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What do you find challenging about these instructions?
  
  
  
  
  
9.
  - a. When and why should someone else’s sin and spiritual health be your concern?

b. What is the right attitude in every step of dealing with sin both personally and with others? What is the ultimate goal?

10. What authority and responsibility did Jesus delegate to the Church in verses 18–20? How does this connect to verses 15–17?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 18:21–35.**

*Jesus calls believers to forgive others as they have been forgiven.*

11. a. What might Peter's question in verse 21 reveal?

b. How did Jesus respond with His answer in verse 22?

c. What is the main point of Jesus' parable in verses 23–35?

12. a. How does gratitude for Christ's forgiveness change your perspective in your most challenging situation or relationship?

b. Name some situations where you find it hard to forgive others. Why is it difficult?

- c. Who is God calling you to forgive? What is God asking you to do?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 18:1–35.**

*God calls His children to reflect His heart toward others.*

13. What lesson about yourself, others, or the Lord stood out to you this week?



# Lesson 20 Questions — Matthew 19

**Jesus' followers surrender to Him and seek His countercultural kingdom values.**

*Focus verse:* “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’” – Matthew 19:26

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 19:1–6.**

*Jesus explained God's intention for marriage.*

1. What did the Pharisees ask Jesus? What are some reasons they may have asked this question?
  
  
  
  
  
2.
  - a. Read Genesis 1:27–28 and 2:23–25. Why might Jesus have answered this question by quoting Genesis?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Describe God's intention for the covenant of marriage.
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is it important to consider first God's perfect plan as the context for challenging, real-life questions?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 19:7–12.**

*Jesus answered questions about divorce and the single life.*

4.
  - a. What follow-up question did the Pharisees ask in response to Jesus' first answer?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How did Jesus reply?

5. What do Malachi 2:13–16; 1 Corinthians 7:10–16; and Ephesians 5:21–33 teach about marriage, separation, and divorce?

6. As a Christian, how would you encourage someone who has been hurt by the pain of divorce?

7. What did the disciples say in response to Jesus' teaching? How did Jesus answer them?

8. Name some ways the Christian community can accept and encourage people who are not married.

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 19:13–15.**

*Jesus welcomed little children.*

9. a. Why did people bring children to Jesus?

b. Why do you think the disciples responded as they did?

c. What do you learn from Jesus' response?

10. a. How do Christians hinder children from coming to Jesus?

- b. Who are the “little ones,” those the world fails to value, God has brought to you? What is God asking you to do?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 19:16–30.**

*Jesus challenged the rich, young ruler.*

- 11. How did Jesus reveal this man’s wrong thinking about eternal life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 12.
  - a. What do you see in Jesus’ gentle but firm invitation for the man to acknowledge the truth?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What did the man love more than his neighbor?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What do you learn from Jesus about refusing to weaken the gospel in order to make it acceptable to people?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 13. Give the important truths Jesus explained to His disciples:
  - About riches and entering God’s kingdom:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - About “who then can be saved?”:
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - About the rewards awaiting those who give up this world’s treasures to follow Him:

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 19.**

*Jesus' followers surrender to Him and seek His countercultural kingdom values.*

14. How did reading Matthew 19 challenge your commitment to Christ and what He values?

## Lesson 21 Questions — Matthew 19:30–21:17

**Jesus came to establish God’s kingdom and call His people to humble servanthood.**

*Focus verse:* “And whoever wants to be first must be your slave – just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Matthew 20:27–28

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 19:30–20:16.**

*Jesus taught the parable of the vineyard workers.*

1.
  - a. Briefly describe the events in this parable.
  - b. How does this parable help demonstrate the truth taught in Matthew 19:30 and 20:16?
  - c. How does the landowner demonstrate the sovereignty and grace of God?
  - d. Name the ways you see that this parable illustrates the way people receive the gospel.
2. Jesus said that the “last will be first, and the first will be last.” How does this compare to this world’s values?
3. Tell about a time when you have received God’s undeserved grace.

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 20:17–34.**

*Jesus predicted His death and called His followers to humble service.*

4. Why might Jesus have repeated the coming reality of His death and resurrection to His disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5.
  - a. What request did James and John’s mother make of Jesus? Why might she have asked this? (See Psalm 110:1–2; Matthew 19:28–29.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How did Jesus respond? Explain what you think He meant.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Describe the reaction of the other disciples.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - d. In what way had they misunderstood Jesus’ mission and teaching?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
6. How does Jesus’ message about serving others challenge you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
7.
  - a. How does the healing of the blind men confirm the truth Jesus had just been teaching?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What will you apply to your life this week from this account of healing?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 21:1–11.**

*Jesus entered Jerusalem and was praised by crowds of people.*

8. a. What do you learn about Jesus from His specific instructions and acquisition of the donkey and colt?

b. How is this detail significant as God's plan for His Son unfolds? (See Zechariah 9:9.)

10. a. Describe the various responses when Jesus entered Jerusalem.

The crowds:

The disciples:

b. What truths about Jesus are revealed in His triumphant entry into Jerusalem?

11. Share with your group how this scene impacts your wonder and worship of Jesus.

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 21:12–17.**

*Jesus cleansed the temple.*

12. Describe Jesus' actions. What did He say about the purpose of the temple and its misuse?

13. a. What does this scene teach you about Jesus? Does anything surprise you?

b. Why is God concerned with purity in His people's hearts and worship? (See Psalm 51:10–12, 15–17; 2 Corinthians 7:1; Philippians 4:8.)

14. a. Read Titus 3:5–6 and 1 John 1:7–9. How does God cleanse His people today?

b. What cleansing needs to take place in your heart today?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 19:30–21:17.**

*Jesus came to establish God's kingdom and call His people to humble servanthood.*

15. What have you learned this week that causes you to love Jesus more?



## Lesson 22 Questions — Matthew 21:18–22:14

### Jesus brings judgment against those who reject His authority.

*Focus verse:* “Jesus said to them, ‘Have you never read in the Scriptures: “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes”?’” – Matthew 21:42

#### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 21:18–22.

*Jesus and His disciples encountered a fig tree as they traveled from Bethany.*

1. Why did Jesus approach the fig tree, and what happened as a result?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Read Mark 11:12–14 and Luke 13:6–9. Keep in mind that a fig tree with leaves was expected to have fruit.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3.
  - a. Why do you think Jesus responded as He did to the fig tree?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Given the context of this account, how did the fruitless tree relate to the chief priests and teachers of the law? Quickly review Matthew 21:12–17 and scan Matthew 21:13–22:14.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4.
  - a. What did Jesus say to His amazed disciples? How did He encourage them? (See also Matthew 6:5–8; 7:7–11; John 15:7–8.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How do Jesus’ words challenge or help you?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 21:23–32.**

*The religious leaders questioned Jesus, and Jesus told the parable of two sons.*

5.
  - a. What questions did the leaders ask of Jesus? How did He respond?
  - b. What did the religious leaders reveal in the way they answered?
6.
  - a. In what intentional or unintentional ways have you questioned Jesus and His authority?
  - b. How might this passage change your perspective of Jesus' authority over your life and this world?
7. Explain the parable of the two sons and what it means.
8. Which of the two sons do you most identify with? Why?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 21:33–46.**

*Jesus pressed the leaders further with the parable of the tenants.*

9. Think about this parable considering Israel's history up to the time of the early Church. (See Isaiah 5:7.)

Who is the landowner?

The tenants?

The servants?

The heir?

What does the vineyard represent?

10.
  - a. What did Jesus mean when He spoke of the cornerstone in verse 42? (See also 1 Peter 2:7–8; Romans 9:32–33; 1 Corinthians 1:23.) How do His comments relate to the parable and to Israel and her religious leaders?
  - b. Describe ways this cornerstone is rejected today.
11. How are you personally impacted by the way people around you resist and reject Jesus?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 22:1–14.**

*Jesus made His final point to the leaders with the parable of the wedding banquet.*

12. Describe the events in this parable.
13.
  - a. What do the wedding clothes symbolize? Why are they so important? (See Isaiah 61:10; 64:6.)
  - b. How does this parable show an increase of the intensity and urgency of Jesus' plea to the leaders?

14. How have you experienced the blessing of being clothed in Christ's righteousness and not your own? (See Revelation 19:78.)

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 21:18–22:14.**

*Jesus brings judgment against those who reject His authority.*

15. What did you learn this week about Jesus and His authority?

## Lesson 23 Questions — Matthew 22:15–23:39

### **Humble submission to Jesus delivers us from sinful pride and hypocrisy.**

*Focus verse:* “For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” — Matthew 23:12

#### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 22:15–33.**

*Jesus was questioned by the Pharisees and the Sadducees.*

1. What question did the Pharisees ask Jesus? How might their motives have played into the question they asked?
  
  
  
  
  
2.
  - a. What do these verses say about why Jesus responded as He did?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What are some things you “owe to Caesar”? What are some things you “owe to God”? (See Romans 13.)
  
  
  
  
  
3.
  - a. What did the Sadducees ask Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. According to Jesus, what error did the Sadducees reveal with their question?
  
  
  
  
  
4. What do Jesus’ replies reveal about Him? Did anything surprise or amaze you?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 22:34–40.**

*Jesus responded to another question by a legal expert.*

5.
  - a. Which commandments did Jesus say are the greatest?
  - b. What does it look like to love God in the way Jesus described?
  - c. Describe what it means to love your neighbor as yourself.
6. What heart changes must be made in you to obey these commandments? What practical actions will you take?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 22:41–23:12.**

*Jesus asked three piercing questions and then instructed His disciples and the crowd.*

7.
  - a. What questions did Jesus ask the Pharisees?
  - b. What deeper truth was Jesus leading these religious leaders to acknowledge?
  - c. In what ways has God revealed deeper truth to you about who Jesus really is?
8.
  - a. How did Jesus instruct His disciples to behave in contrast with the Pharisees?

b. What motivated the Pharisees' behavior?

c. What often motivates your behavior?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 23:13–39.**

*Jesus declared woeful judgment on Israel's hypocritical religious leaders.*

9. a. List the “woes” or declarations of judgment Jesus spoke to the crowd and against the religious leaders.

b. How might each woe apply to people today?

10. a. Who and what do you think Jesus was referring to in verses 33–36? (See John 15:18–16:4; Acts 8:2–4.)

b. What do you learn about Jesus from verses 37–39?

11. How do Jesus' words in Chapter 23 impact you? Why?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 22:15–23:39.**

*Humble submission to Jesus delivers us from sinful pride and hypocrisy.*

12. What did God reveal to you about His judgment and His compassion this week? How will you respond?



# Lesson 24 Questions — Matthew 24

## **Planet Earth and humanity are moving toward Christ's return.**

*Focus verse:* “So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.” – Matthew 24:44

### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 24:1–14.**

*Jesus prophesied the destruction of the temple and the signs that will precede His return.*

1.
  - a. What did Jesus say would happen to the temple buildings?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What questions did this prompt from His disciples?
  
2.
  - a. In verse 4, what general warning did Jesus offer, and why is this caution so important? (See John 8:44.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. List the specific trouble that Jesus described would come before He returned.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Which of these things are evident in our world today?
  
3. Christians do not agree on the timeline of Jesus' return but should recognize its certainty. How does it help you to know what Jesus revealed in these verses?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 24:15–26.**

*Jesus warned believers of terrible events prior to His return foretold by the prophet Daniel.*

4.
  - a. What event did Jesus foretell in Matthew 24:15?
  - b. What did Jesus tell people to do when this terrible event happened?
  - c. What additional information about this event do you learn in Daniel 9:27; 11:31; and 12:11?
5.
  - a. Give phrases that indicate the extreme and unique distress associated with this warning.
  - b. How should God's people receive and respond to these warnings?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 24:27–31.**

*Jesus described His glorious second coming.*

6.
  - a. From these verses, what happens when Jesus, the Son of Man, returns?
  - b. What do you learn from these verses about the Lord's return:

Zechariah 12:10

1 Thessalonians 4:16–17

Revelation 1:7

7. How do these truths specifically encourage you?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 24:32–51.**

*Jesus called believers to watch, wait, and work until He returns.*

8. What lessons did Jesus teach through His illustration of the fig tree in verses 32–35?

9. a. How will the people living before Jesus returns compare with the people of Noah's day? (See Genesis 6–7.)

b. What does verse 36 teach about the date and exact time of Jesus' second coming?

10. What lessons did Jesus teach through the example of the thief in verses 42–44?

11. What is the message for believers today from Jesus' illustration of the faithful and unfaithful servants in verses 45–51?

12. How can you cultivate healthy watchfulness for Jesus' certain return into your daily life?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 24.**

*Planet Earth and humanity are moving toward Christ's return.*

13. What warnings or encouragement have you received from Matthew 24? How will you respond?

# Lesson 25 Questions — Matthew 25

## Jesus' followers are called to anticipate and prepare for His return.

*Focus verse:* “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’” – Matthew 25:21

### FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 25:1–13.

*Jesus taught the parable of the ten virgins.*

1.
  - a. Explain the similarities and differences between the wise and foolish virgins.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Who do the wise virgins and the foolish virgins represent today?
  
2.
  - a. What do the following verses indicate about being prepared for Jesus to return?  
  
Matthew 7:24–27  
  
  
1 Thessalonians 5:4–8  
  
  
1 Thessalonians 5:23–24
  
  - b. In Scripture, oil is often used as a picture of the Holy Spirit. What do these verses teach about the Holy Spirit?  
  
John 3:5–8  
  
  
Romans 8:9  
  
  
Ephesians 1:13–14

3. How does this parable challenge or assure you regarding your relationship to the Bridegroom, Jesus Christ?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 25:14–30.**

*Jesus taught the parable of the bags of gold.*

4.      a. What did the master give to each servant, and what might this represent?
- b. Describe the attitude and actions of the servants in response to the master's allotment of treasure and describe the master's response to each servant.
- c. What was wrong with the response of the servant who received one bag of gold?
5. What is the primary lesson Jesus taught in this parable?
6. What spiritual treasure has God allotted to you, and how are you responding to His gracious gifts?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 25:31–46.**

*Jesus taught about His return and the separation of the sheep from the goats.*

7. Describe the scene when the Son of Man comes in His glory.
8.      a. How did Jesus specifically commend the sheep—the ones He placed on His right hand?

b. How did Jesus specifically condemn the goats—the ones He placed on His left hand?

c. What do you learn from Jesus' personal connection with His children?

d. No one is saved on the basis of good deeds, but how do a person's deeds reflect what is within their heart?  
(See Luke 6:45; James 2:14–17; and 1 John 3:16–18.)

9. What opportunities has God given you to show Jesus' love to "the least of these"?

**FOURTH DAY: Review Matthew 24 and 25.**

*Jesus calls people to readiness by teaching in parables about the end of the age and His return.*

10. What was the most important lesson you learned from Matthew 24?

11. What is the most important lesson you learned from Matthew 25?

12. What verses or thoughts in chapters 24 and 25 help you to worship and love the Lord Jesus Christ?

**FIFTH DAY: Read Matthew 25.**

*Jesus' followers are called to anticipate and prepare for His return.*

13. As you reflect on the certainty of Jesus' second coming, how can your group pray for you?



# Lesson 26 Questions — Matthew 26:1–46

## **Jesus faithfully embraced the cross to redeem the unfaithful.**

*Focus verse:* “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.” – Matthew 26:28

### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 26:1–16.**

*Jesus was anointed at Bethany and betrayed by Judas.*

1. How are you challenged or inspired by the love and faith of this woman?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2.
  - a. What do you learn from the resentment of the disciples?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What do you learn from Jesus’ response?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What have you offered to the Lord that was costly or even misunderstood by others?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is the amount Judas was paid for His betrayal significant? (See Exodus 21:32; Zechariah 11:12–13.)

### **SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 26:17–30.**

*Jesus celebrated Passover with His disciples.*

4. Read Exodus 12:1–16 and 1 Corinthians 5:7–8 with Jesus’ life and upcoming death on the cross in mind.

5.
  - a. What Jewish feast did Jesus and His disciples prepare to celebrate, and what did that feast commemorate?
  - b. List ways Jesus fulfilled the symbolism of this important event in Israel's history.
6.
  - a. In celebrating this feast with His disciples, Jesus established the Lord's Supper, or Communion, as a practice for His people. How do the following verses help you understand the symbolism of that celebration?

Luke 22:19–20

John 6:51–58

1 Peter 1:19

1 Peter 2:24

1 John 1:7
  - b. Read 1 Corinthians 11:23–26. How does this Christian celebration relate to Jesus' return?
  - c. How could these verses deepen your worship?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 26:31–35.**

*Jesus predicted Peter’s betrayal.*

7. What surprising news did Jesus reveal to His disciples?
- 8
  - a. How did Peter respond to Jesus’ announcement?
  - b. What lessons can you learn from the response of Peter and the other disciples?
  - c. In what ways might you overestimate your own strength, even as you desire to obey the Lord?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 26:36–46.**

*Jesus prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane.*

9. Consider Jesus’ deep sorrow as He faced the “cup” He was about to drink—His death on the cross.
10.
  - a. What contributed to Jesus’ intense sorrow?
  - b. What and how did Jesus pray?
  - c. How did He respond when His closest human companions fell asleep?

11. In what ways does Jesus' struggle in the garden reveal both His humanity and His deity?

12. a. What do you learn from the way Jesus embraced His Father's will?

b. Write a sentence that expresses your gratitude to Jesus for His unswerving commitment to go to the cross.

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 26:1–46.**

*Jesus faithfully embraced the cross to redeem the unfaithful.*

13. What attribute of Jesus in this week's study most amazes or encourages you?

## Lesson 27 Questions — Matthew 26:47–27:31

**God’s sovereign plans prevail over all opposition and determine all outcomes.**

*Focus verse:* “But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” – Matthew 26:56a

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 26:47–56.**

*Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane.*

1. Describe the various actions and responses during Jesus’ arrest.

Judas:

The Roman soldiers:

Jesus’ disciples:

Jesus:

2. What stands out to you regarding Jesus’ character and God’s plan for His Son?

3. What can you learn about facing difficulties in your life?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 26:57–68.**

*Jesus appeared before the Jewish religious leaders.*

4. Where was Jesus taken, and who was present?

5.
  - a. Describe the process of finding witnesses to testify against Jesus.
  - b. How did Jesus respond to the first question of the high priest? What do you learn from His response?
6.
  - a. What did the high priest ask Jesus in verse 63? Why is this question so important?
  - b. What do you learn from Jesus' reply to Caiaphas? (See Psalm 110:1; Daniel 7:13–14; and Revelation 1:7.)
  - c. How did the religious leaders respond to Jesus' answer?
7. What does Jesus' revelation of Himself mean to you and your life today?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 26:69–27:10.**

*Peter denied Jesus, and Judas suffered remorse.*

8.
  - a. Describe the three times Peter denied Jesus.
  - b. What did Peter know that He ignored or forgot?

9.
  - a. What did Judas realize, and how did he respond?
  - b. How did the reaction of the chief priests to Judas' admission reveal their hearts?
  - c. Read Acts 2:23. Why does God hold people responsible for events He plans, like Jesus' death?
10.
  - a. Compare the attitudes, actions, and responses of Peter and Judas.
  - b. How have you experienced the Holy Spirit's purifying work when you have sinned?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 27:11–31.**

*Jesus appeared before Pilate.*

11.
  - a. What did Pilate ask Jesus and how did Jesus respond?
  - b. Give the warnings Pilate received and the pressures he faced regarding Jesus.
  - c. What steps did Pilate take to avoid condemning Jesus? What does this reveal about Pilate?

12. What lessons do you learn from Pilate and his response to Jesus?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 26:47–27:31.**

*God's sovereign plans prevail over all opposition and determine all outcomes.*

13. What attributes of God shine forth in Jesus' arrest and trials? How do they apply to your life today?



## Lesson 28 Questions — Matthew 27:32–66

**Jesus' atoning sacrifice upheld God's perfect justice and met mankind's greatest need.**

*Focus verse:* "And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit." – Matthew 27:50

**FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 27:32–37.**

*Jesus proceeded to Golgotha, where He was crucified.*

1.
  - a. Try to imagine what Simon of Cyrene saw, heard, and thought as He carried Jesus' cross.
  - b. Why is it significant that Jesus was led outside the city to die? (See Leviticus 4:12, 21; Hebrews 13:11–13.)
2. Why would Jesus have refused the drink offered to Him? (See Psalm 69:19–21.)
3.
  - a. How do the following verses help you understand what Jesus' crucifixion means for us?  
  
Romans 5:6–8  
  
2 Corinthians 5:21  
  
1 Peter 1:18–19  
  
1 Peter 2:24  
  
1 John 4:10–11

- b. Which of these thoughts comforted or challenged you?

**SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 27:38–44.**

*Jesus was taunted by onlookers as He hung on the cross.*

- 4.
  - a. What groups of people mocked Jesus while He hung on the cross? What did each group say?
  - b. How did this public scorn add to Jesus' suffering? In what ways did Satan tempt Jesus through their words? (See Matthew 4:1–11.)
- 5.
  - a. Read Psalm 22. Pick three verses that help you appreciate Jesus' suffering on the cross.
  - b. What is your foremost thought as you ponder Jesus' sacrifice?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 27:45–56.**

*God demonstrated His power as Jesus yielded to death.*

- 6. What did the darkness that covered the earth signify? (See Isaiah 13:9–10 and Acts 2:20.)
- 7. Describe the painful reality expressed by Jesus' cry in verse 46.

8.
  - a. What additional supernatural events occurred when Jesus gave up His spirit to death?
  - b. What is the spiritual significance of each miracle?
9.
  - a. What might have led the centurion to speak as he did?
  - b. Who else was present at Jesus' death, and what might their presence indicate?
10. What does Jesus' death on the cross say to you about the seriousness of sin and the costliness of redemption?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 27:57–66.**

*Jesus was buried by friends.*

11. What stands out to you about Jesus' burial? (See also John 19:38–42.)
12.
  - a. Why did Jesus' enemies seek to have His tomb guarded?
  - b. Why is the guarding of Jesus' tomb significant?

13. Jesus' dead body lay in a sealed and guarded tomb. What situation do you face that appears hopeless and awaits victory only God can give?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 27:32–66.**

*Jesus' atoning sacrifice upheld God's perfect justice and met mankind's greatest need.*

14. What has your study of Jesus' death and burial revealed to you this week?

# Lesson 29 Questions — Matthew 28

## **The risen Christ empowers believers to reach the world with the good news of salvation.**

*Focus verse:* “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” – Matthew 28:19–20

### **FIRST DAY: Read Matthew 28:1–10.**

*Loyal women encountered the angel and the risen Christ.*

1.
  - a. Describe the scene and the experiences of those at Jesus’ tomb. (See also Mark 16:1–8 and Luke 24:1–8.)
  - b. In what ways do these facts validate Jesus’ bodily resurrection?
2.
  - a. What did the angel say to the women?
  - b. How did the women respond to the angel?
  - c. How did they respond to the risen Jesus?
3. Describe a time when Jesus’ presence brought you joy even in the midst of a fearful situation.

### **SECOND DAY: Read Matthew 28:11–15.**

*Jesus' enemies spread lies about His resurrection.*

4. How did the following groups respond to the facts about Jesus' resurrection:

The guards:

The Jewish leaders:

The Jewish people:

5. What lessons can you learn from the opposition Jesus faced from His enemies?

6. When have you rejected, dismissed, or ignored something about the Lord that was true? What was the result?

**THIRD DAY: Read Matthew 28:1–15 with 1 Corinthians 15:1–19.**

*Jesus' resurrection provides the foundation for Christian faith.*

7. What points from 1 Corinthians 15:1–19 stand out to you about Jesus' resurrection?

8. From the following verses, why is Jesus' physical resurrection important?

John 10:17–18

Acts 2:31 with Psalm 16:10

Acts 17:30–31

Romans 6:4

Ephesians 1:18–23

1 Thessalonians 4:13–14

1 Peter 1:3–6

9.
  - a. What truth about Jesus’ resurrection has impacted you the most this week? Why?
  - b. What difference does this make in your life?

**FOURTH DAY: Read Matthew 28:16–20.**

*Jesus commissioned His disciples with His authority to make disciples of all nations.*

10. Identify Jesus’ important words in these verses.

His claim:

His command:

His promise:

11.
  - a. What does “authority” mean? Why is it important to recognize the nature and breadth of Jesus’ authority?
  - b. List the specific points of emphasis and action involved in fulfilling Jesus’ call to “make disciples”?

c. Why does Jesus' authority and presence encourage you in light of His command?

d. How has God called you to act on this truth in your present situation?

**FIFTH DAY: Review Matthew 28:1–20.**

*The risen Christ empowers believers to reach the world with the good news of salvation.*

12. What difference has the study of the resurrection made in your life this week? How have you been challenged?



# Lesson 30 Questions

*Review of the year and how it's impacted your life and service to the Lord.*

## FIRST DAY

1. How did the study of the resurrection change your thinking? How does the reality of Jesus' victory over Satan, sin, and death impact your life?

## SECOND DAY

2. a. As you think of the overarching lessons you learned through the study of Matthew, what stands out? Why is that observation or lesson significant to you?

b. As you think about the words, actions, miracles, and other glimpses of Jesus Himself in Matthew, what was most meaningful to you?

## THIRD DAY

3. What principles from the lessons most impacted you this year? How have you applied this truth to your life?

## FOURTH DAY

4. If you had children in the Preschool Program, how has their participation been a blessing to you? Your family? Your child or student's development?

5. What specific blessings did you experience within the community of your group?

#### **FIFTH DAY**

6. How has God used your participation in this Bible study to propel you to greater service in your family, church, community, business/school, or the world?

#### **SIXTH DAY**

7.
  - a. How has the study of Matthew changed your understanding of Scripture and God's character?
  - b. How has this study helped you grasp and appreciate God's plan for the world? His will for you?
8.
  - a. Pick one word that best describes your experience with the Lord and His Word this year.
  - b. Write a short prayer, expressing your gratitude and giving God glory for His work in your life.