



## The Burn — Week 2 Reading Plan

### Matthew 1:18–25 — Immanuel: God With Us

#### Discipleship Pathway | Emmaus Walk Framework | Kingdom Focus

This week in **The Burn**, we move from genealogy to incarnation.

Last week we saw that Jesus is the promised King in the line of Abraham and David.

Now Matthew shows us *how* the King enters the story — through divine conception, prophetic fulfillment, and the reality of **Immanuel: God with us** (Matthew 1:23).

Like the disciples on the Emmaus road (Luke 24:27, 32), we are learning to see how the Old Testament Scriptures point to Jesus — not only in His first coming, but ultimately toward His reign and Kingdom.

This week's readings connect:

- The virgin birth
- The name Immanuel
- The faithfulness of God to covenant promises
- The presence of God among His people
- The hope of redemption that begins at His first coming and culminates at His return

### Weekly Big Idea

Jesus is Immanuel — God with us — fulfilling prophecy, keeping covenant promises, and initiating the Kingdom that will be fully realized at His return.

### Key Question

How does knowing that God is truly “with us” reshape the way we trust, obey, and follow Jesus as disciples?



# Weekly Reading Plan (Week 2)

## Monday — The Context of the Miracle

### Read:

- Matthew 1:18–19
- Deuteronomy 22:23–29 (Jewish betrothal laws context)

Matthew introduces the birth of Jesus within the framework of Jewish law, culture, and righteousness. Joseph's response is not impulsive — it is Torah-informed, compassionate obedience.

This reminds us that God often works through real cultural and historical settings, not outside of them.

### Emmaus Reflection Questions:

1. How does understanding Jewish betrothal customs deepen your reading of Matthew 1:18–19?
2. What does Joseph's righteousness (mercy + obedience) reveal about God's character?
3. Where is God calling you to respond with quiet obedience even when the situation is unclear?

## Tuesday — The Promise of Immanuel (Isaiah's Prophecy)

### Read:

- Matthew 1:20–23
- Isaiah 7:10–14
- Isaiah 8:8–10



Matthew directly quotes Isaiah to show that Jesus' birth fulfills prophecy.

In Isaiah's original context, God promised His presence to Israel during the crisis. Matthew reveals the ultimate fulfillment: not symbolic presence — but **God in the flesh**.

This is both a first coming fulfillment and a Kingdom promise that God will ultimately dwell with His people forever (cf. Revelation 21:3).

### **Emmaus Reflection Questions:**

1. What did "Immanuel" mean in Isaiah's time, and how does Matthew expand that meaning?
2. How does Jesus being "God with us" confirm God's covenant faithfulness?
3. How would your daily faith change if you truly lived aware that God is with you?

## **Wednesday — The Name Jesus (Yeshua: The Lord Saves)**

### **Read:**

- Matthew 1:21
- Psalm 130:7–8
- Isaiah 53:4–6

The angel declares Jesus' mission:  
"He will save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

This connects directly to the prophetic expectation of a suffering yet saving Messiah.

His first coming brings salvation from sin.  
His second coming will bring full redemption and restoration.

### **Emmaus Reflection Questions:**

1. How do Isaiah 53 and Matthew 1:21 connect the Messiah's mission to salvation?



2. Why is salvation from sin foundational before the full Kingdom is established?
3. Where do you need to personally trust Jesus as Savior, not just teacher?

## **Thursday — God Dwelling Among His People (Biblical Theme)**

### **Read:**

- Exodus 29:45–46
- Ezekiel 37:26–28
- John 1:14

From the Tabernacle to the Temple, Scripture consistently reveals God's desire to dwell with His people.

Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of this theme — God not just near His people, but physically present among them.

Messianic scholars often note that Matthew presents Jesus as the living Temple presence of God.

### **Emmaus Reflection Questions:**

1. How does the theme of God dwelling with His people run from Exodus to Matthew?
2. What does Jesus' incarnation reveal about God's heart toward humanity?
3. How can you practice daily awareness of God's presence this week?

## **Friday — Covenant Faithfulness: God Keeps His Promises**

### **Read:**

- Genesis 15:1–6



- 2 Samuel 7:12–16
- Matthew 1:22–23

The virgin birth is not random — it is covenant fulfillment.

God is keeping His promises to Abraham (blessing to nations) and David (eternal King).

As we discussed in Session 1 of The Burn:

God's promises are not rushed — but they are never forgotten.

### **Emmaus Reflection Questions:**

1. How does Matthew 1 show continuity with the Abrahamic and Davidic Covenants?
2. What does the incarnation teach us about God's long-term faithfulness?
3. Where in your life are you waiting on a promise of God?

## **Weekend — Emmaus Re-Reading & Discipleship Practice**

### **Read Slowly:**

- Matthew 1:18–25
- Luke 24:25–27, 32

Re-read the passage as if you are walking with Jesus on the Emmaus road, asking Him to open the Scriptures to you.

Focus on:

- God's presence
- Fulfilled prophecy
- Obedient discipleship (Joseph)



- The reality of Immanuel

### **Final Reflection Questions:**

1. What new Old Testament connections did you notice this week?
2. How does Jesus as Immanuel shape your understanding of discipleship?
3. In what area of your life do you need to trust that God is truly “with you” right now?

### **Prayer Focus This Week**

Ask Jesus to help you:

- Recognize His presence daily
- Trust His promises
- Walk in obedient discipleship like Joseph
- See Scripture as one unified story pointing to Him

### **Weekly Discipleship Challenge (The Burn Practice)**

Each day, pause for 2 minutes and pray:

*“Jesus, open the Scriptures to me and help my heart burn as I walk with You.”*

*Next Week in The Burn:*

**Matthew 2 — The King is Revealed: The Magi, Micah’s Prophecy, and the Response to the True King**