

A Study Guide for
MATTHEW'S
GOSPEL



Here is a chance to read the Gospel according to Matthew at your own pace and in your own place. Each of the four Gospel accounts share a lot of the same material about Jesus' earthly life and teachings. The Gospel of Mark, the shortest of the four, was probably written first. Luke contains more information about Jesus' infancy and mentions women the most. The Gospel of John was written last and features a more poetic and reflective style. Even though the Gospel of Matthew was written after Mark, Matthew is placed first in the New Testament. This is probably because it is so comprehensive and is the Gospel account that early Christians mentioned most often.

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions and include the chapter and verse that supports your answer (if it's not already in the question). For example: Q: "Who were Jesus' oldest and most famous ancestors?" A: "Abraham and David. Matt 1:1"

MATTHEW 1 – 4

1. What was miraculous about Jesus' birth?

2. Where do we find the details of what we now call the Christmas story?

3. What was Herod's response to Jesus' birth?

4. How did John the Baptist's preaching prepare people for the coming of Jesus?

5. What was John's reaction when Jesus showed up to be baptized?

6. How long did Jesus fast in the desert?

7. How would you summarize the main focus of Jesus' temptations in the desert?
8. What was Jesus' first preaching message?
9. What specific invitation did Jesus make in his call of Simon Peter and his brother Andrew? What about James and his brother John?
10. How does Matthew summarize Jesus' early miracles?

FOR YOU: After reading about Jesus' ancestors, the "Christmas story," John the Baptist, Jesus' temptation, and the call of the first disciples, what stands out most to you? What surprised you, pleased you, or stays with you?

MATTHEW 5 – 7

1. How many different traits does Jesus call "blessed" in the famous Sermon on the Mount?
2. Which one(s) stand out to you and why?
3. What two metaphors does Jesus use to describe what we disciples should be like?
4. In the Sermon on the Mount, what does Jesus teach about these topics?
 - being angry:
 - adultery:

- divorce:
 - oaths and promises:
 - revenge:
 - enemies:
 - charity/"almsgiving":
 - fasting:
 - priorities:
 - money:
 - worry and stress:
 - judging others:
5. List two things Jesus says about prayer in the Sermon on the Mount.
 6. Which of Jesus' teachings do we call the Golden Rule? Why do you think it got this name?
 7. How does Jesus describe the road that leads to life and the number of people who choose it?
 8. What does he say is a good sign that someone is a disciple?
 9. How does Jesus describe someone who "listens to my words and acts on them"?

FOR YOU: Which of Jesus' teachings do you wish more people would take to heart? Which ones do you need to take to heart—or act on?

MATTHEW 8 – 13

1. What healings did Jesus do immediately after the Sermon on the Mount?
2. Which of these stories include words we say at Mass every day?
3. How does Jesus' call of Matthew compare with his call to Peter, Andrew, James, and John? (see Matthew 4)
4. Why was Jesus' call of Matthew controversial?
5. Jesus words in Matthew 9:36–38 are often quoted today. What is he asking us to do in today's terms?
6. What message did he tell the twelve apostles to spread? How does this compare to the first message he gave after his baptism at the beginning of his ministry?
7. What are five things Jesus says about the cost of following him in Matthew 8:21–22 and again in Matthew 10? How would you summarize his view of discipleship in these passages?
8. In Matthew 10:39 Jesus emphasizes something that is at the heart of discipleship. What do you think he means?

9. What does Jesus say about John the Baptist?

10. What does Jesus say about his own connection to God the Father?

11. What invitation does Jesus make to those who are burdened and overworked?

12. Give three Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah that are presented in this section.

13. What does Jesus say in chapter 12 about our words?

14. Who does Jesus describe as family?

15. Pick three of Jesus' parables and unpack some of the message each story carries.

Title of parable
Location by chapter and verses
Message
Title of parable
Location by chapter and verses
Message
Title of parable
Location by chapter and verses
Message

FOR YOU

What have you read in this Gospel so far that you still have questions about, find difficult, or would like to discuss more?

MATTHEW 14 – 19

1. In the two miracles of loaves and fishes, everyone was fed and there was more left over. What do you think is symbolized by “more left over”?

2. List two teachings Jesus tries to offer the Pharisees, Sadducees, or scribes. Remember to also include the chapter and verse(s) where you find them.

3. Who does Simon Peter say Jesus is? What does Jesus promise him?

4. What does God the Father say about Jesus at both his baptism (see Matthew 3:17) and his Transfiguration?

5. Who does Jesus say is the greatest? What do you think he means?

6. How does Jesus say you should handle it when someone does you wrong?

7. What is his message to the rich young man? How should we apply this to our own lives?

FOR YOU: Based on what you have read so far, come up three different words to describe Jesus:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Of all the titles given to Jesus, which one is most appealing to you?

MATTHEW 20 – 25

1. Two blind men call out to Jesus by mentioning one of his famous ancestors. Which of his ancestors do they mention?
2. There is an incident in which Jesus displays what we call “righteous anger.” What is the incident and why did he get angry?
3. What point do you think Jesus wants to teach us about citizenship and paying taxes?
4. What does he say is the Greatest Commandment? The second commandment?
5. List at least three cautions Jesus gives his disciples.
6. In chapter 24, list two or three things that Jesus teaches about the future.

7. In chapter 25, list three things Jesus tells us about the Final Judgment. "How will we be judged?"

FOR YOU: Look over the seven answers you gave to the questions in this section. Which one most stands out to you and why?

MATTHEW 26 – 28

1. Where exactly do we read of Jesus telling us that the Eucharist is really his body and his blood? Cite the chapter and verse.
2. What prayer does Jesus pray in the Garden on the night before he died?
3. Who helped Jesus carry his cross?
4. What was the name of the place where Jesus was crucified?
5. Who first discovered that Jesus had been raised from the dead?
6. Name three things Jesus told his disciples when they saw him again after his Resurrection
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.

FOR YOU: So why did he do it?

As Catholics, we refer to Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection as the Paschal Mystery. Everyone will experience a similar cycle of pain, loss, and new beginnings. When have you gone through pain, loss, and new life? How did you do with it? What role did your faith play during that time? What will you do the same or differently the next time you experience suffering, in light of the Paschal Mystery? Make yourself some notes here:

GOING FURTHER (OPTIONAL EXERCISES)

The three other Gospel accounts describe or expand on many of the same events you have read about in Matthew.

- a) More about Jesus' birth and childhood can be found in Luke's Gospel. Go to Luke chapters 1 and 2 and list five details or events NOT mentioned in Matthew.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
- b) More about Jesus' Resurrection can be found at the end of the Gospels according to Mark and Luke. Go to Mark 16 and Luke 24 and list three details NOT mentioned in Matthew.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- c) Much more about what Jesus said at the Last Supper can be found in the Fourth Gospel. John chapters 13 through 17 contain important words and actions of Jesus NOT found in Matthew (see Matthew 26:17-30).
 - In John 13 we see that Jesus did something very significant that was NOT mentioned in Matthew. What did Jesus do and what was he trying to teach us about discipleship?

- In John 14, 15, and 16 Jesus teaches us MORE about faith in God the Father, discipleship, and the role of the Holy Spirit. List three of his teachings from EACH chapter that stand out for you.
- From John 14:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- From John 15
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- From John 16
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- John 17 is Jesus' Farewell Prayer where he asks the Father to bless the disciples. Read John 17 and do two things: Come up with a couple of words to describe the way Jesus feels as he prays to his Father. Then list two things he is asking the Father to bestow on the disciples.

He feels: _____ and _____. He asks the Father to:

FOR YOU: Finish this sentence: Completing this study guide has...

