

A People of the Book
8-Year Curriculum
Year 1, Quarter 1

**A Study of
Selected Texts from**

The Gospel
According to
Matthew

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Introduction

The most important and influential man to ever walk the face of this earth was Jesus. But Jesus was more than just a man – He was Emmanuel or “God with us” (Matthew 1:23). No one in the history of the world has made more of a lasting impact than the Lord. There is relatively little revealed concerning the life of Christ in the Scriptures, but those things that are revealed are important for us to study. The aim of this class will be to examine some of the things revealed by Matthew, one of the Lord's apostles.

Recommended Study Aids

J. W. McGarvey, *A Commentary on Matthew and Mark*

J. W. McGarvey and Philip Y. Pendleton, *The Fourfold Gospel* (www.studylight.org/com/tfg)

James Burton Coffman, *Matthew* (southernhills.searchgodsword.org/com/bcc/)

H. Leo Boles, *A Commentary on the Gospel According to Matthew*

Guy N. Woods, *Questions and Answers, Vol. 1 & Vol. 2*

The schedule for this class is listed below. Students are encouraged to read the texts prior to class and study the worksheets provided.

Schedule

- 1) January 7 – The Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1-2)
- 2) January 14 – The Work of John and the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (Matthew 3-4)
- 3) January 21 – The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7)
- 4) January 28 – The Apostles Sent Out (Matthew 10)
- 5) February 4 – The Purpose of Parables (Matthew 13)
- 6) February 11 – Miracles (Matthew 8; 14)
- 7) February 18 – Peter's Confession and the Transfiguration (Matthew 16:13-20; 17:1-13)
- 8) February 25 – If Your Brother Sins Against You (Matthew 18:15-35)
- 9) March 4 – Jesus Teaches on Marriage (Matthew 19:1-12)
- 10) March 11 – Questioned by the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 22:15-46)
- 11) March 18 – “What Shall Be the Sign of Thy Coming, and of the End of the World?” (Matthew 24)
- 12) March 25 – The Last Supper and In The Garden (Matthew 26)
- 13) April 1 – The Death and Resurrection of Jesus (Matthew 27-28)

The Birth of Jesus

Read: Matthew 1 & 2

Review of the Reading

- 1) How many generations were between Abraham and David, between David and the Babylonian captivity, and between the Babylonian captivity and Christ?

- 2) What was Joseph’s initial reaction to the news that Mary was pregnant?

- 3) What does “Immanuel” mean?

- 4) What did Herod tell the wise men he wanted to do to Jesus?

- 5) How old were the children that Herod killed?

Thought Questions

- 1) Why did Matthew begin his inspired account of Jesus’ genealogy with Abraham? Consider Matthew’s target audience in the first century, and refer to Genesis 12:7 (KJV), Genesis 13:15 (KJV), Genesis 24:7 (KJV), and Galatians 3:16-18.

- 2) Why is Joseph identified as Mary’s husband (1:16), rather than saying “Joseph begot Jesus” like the other names are listed?

- 3) Several prophets are quoted by Matthew in these first two chapters. Using your Bible’s footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in each of the following verses.
 - a) Matthew 1:23 _____
 - b) Matthew 2:6 _____
 - c) Matthew 2:15 _____
 - d) Matthew 2:18 _____

- 4) Why do you think Matthew quoted so extensively from the Old Testament prophets? (Hint: think about his target audience.)

- 5) Can you identify any “Christmas” traditions that are contradictory to Matthew’s account?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

***The Work of John the Baptizer
& The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry***

Read: Matthew 3 & 4

Review of the Reading

- 1) What did John wear and what did he eat?
- 2) What did John call the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to see him baptizing people?
- 3) What did God say after Jesus was baptized by John?
- 4) How many days and nights did Jesus fast in the wilderness prior to being tempted?
- 5) Who were the two sets of brothers that Jesus called away from fishing to follow Him?

Thought Questions

- 1) Both John and Jesus preached, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (3:2; 4:17). What does "at hand" mean? How would you answer someone that claims the kingdom has not been established, and that it is still in the future (also known as the doctrine of premillennialism)?
- 2) John said that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (3:11). How many people were baptized with the Holy Spirit? Refer to Acts 1:26-2:4.
- 3) Why was Jesus baptized? How is this different from the reason God commands people to be baptized today? Refer to Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, and I Peter 3:21.

4) John and Jesus both refer to the Old Testament in chapters 3 and 4, and Matthew again applies prophecy to the Lord. Even Satan quoted from the Scriptures, misapplying the meaning. Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in each of the following verses, and who quoted each one.

- a) Matthew 3:3 _____
- b) Matthew 4:4 _____
- c) Matthew 4:6 _____
- d) Matthew 4:7 _____
- e) Matthew 4:15-16 _____

5) What did Jesus mean when He told Peter and Andrew that He would make them "fishers of men"?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Sermon on the Mount

Read: Matthew 5-7

Review of the Reading

- 1) Who should receive the glory for our good works?
- 2) Jesus did not come to destroy the law and the prophets, but to _____ them.
- 3) What will happen when one tries to serve two masters?
- 4) What should we seek first?
- 5) “Because _____ is the gate and _____ is the way which leads to life, and there are _____ who find it.”
- 6) What does Jesus say one must do to enter the kingdom of heaven?

Thought Questions

- 1) What should our attitude be toward persecution? What are the reasons for this attitude? Refer to James 1:2-4 and Romans 5:3-5.
- 2) Do you think Jesus is using literal or figurative language in 5:29-30? If literal, why don't people obey? If figurative, what does it mean?
- 3) Is there any part of the model prayer (6:9-13) that we cannot say and mean the same thing Jesus did in the first century? Refer to Matthew 4:17 and Colossians 1:13.

- 4) Jesus says in 7:1, “Judge not, that you be not judged.” But we are forced to make judgments every day. What does Jesus mean in this context? Refer to Matthew 7:2-6 and John 7:24.

- 5) Read Matthew 7:21-23 again. What is wrong with those who claim they perform miracles “in Jesus’ name” today? Refer to I Corinthians 13:8-12.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Apostles Sent Out

Read: Matthew 10

Review of the Reading

- 1) What powers did Jesus give to the apostles?
- 2) Where were the apostles told *not* to go?
- 3) What were the apostles told to preach?
- 4) The apostles were sent “as _____ in the midst of _____” and were told to be “wise as _____ and harmless as _____.”
- 5) Who is not worthy of Christ?
- 6) “He who finds his _____ will lose it, and he who loses his _____ for My sake will find it.”

Thought Questions

- 1) What was the reaction of the Pharisees when they saw Jesus eating with tax collectors in 9:9-13? What do you think their reaction was to seeing Matthew, a tax collector, as one of the Lord’s apostles?
- 2) Why do you think the apostles were given these powers to work miracles? Refer to Mark 16:20.
- 3) Why do you think the apostles were told to preach, “The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (10:7)?

- 4) The apostles were told not to worry about what they would say when they appeared before their persecutors, and that the Spirit of the Father would give them the words to speak (10:19-20). Does this mean that we do not have to prepare for teaching opportunities today? Consider I Corinthians 13:8-12 as you answer.

- 5) How important is it to respect and support those who teach the truth? Refer to Matthew 10:40 and II John 9-11.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Purpose of Parables

Read: Matthew 13

Review of the Reading

- 1) What happened to the seed that...
 - a) ...fell by the wayside?
 - b) ...fell on stony places?
 - c) ...fell among thorns?
 - d) ...fell on good ground?

- 2) What did Jesus say the prophets and righteous men desired?

- 3) What did the man tell the reapers to do at harvest time with the tares and the wheat?

- 4) In the parable of the wheat and the tares, what is represented by the following:
 - a) He who sows the good seed?
 - b) The field?
 - c) The good seeds?
 - d) The tares?
 - e) The enemy?
 - f) The harvest?
 - g) The reapers?

- 5) Jesus said, “A _____ is not without _____ except in his own _____ and in his own _____.”

Thought Questions

- 1) Why did Jesus speak in parables?

- 2) Matthew continues to refer to the Old Testament in this chapter. Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in each of the following verses.
 - a) Matthew 13:14-15 _____
 - b) Matthew 13:35 _____

- 3) What lessons can be learned from the parable of the merchant man and the pearl of great price (13:45-46)?

- 4) What passage in this chapter could be used to refute the false doctrine of "the perpetual virginity of Mary"?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Miracles

Read: Matthew 8, 14

Review of the Reading

- 1) Why did the centurion not want Jesus to come to his house to heal his servant?
- 2) While in Gergesenes, Jesus cast demons out of two men and into what?
- 3) How many men (not including women and children) were fed with five loaves of bread and two fish?
- 4) What did the disciples think Jesus was when they saw him walking on the sea?
- 5) What was their response when Jesus got on the boat?

Thought Questions

- 1) Why did Jesus tell the leper to show himself to the priest? Refer to Leviticus 14.
- 2) Was it permissible for an apostle of Christ to have a wife? Consider Matthew 8:14 and I Corinthians 9:5 in your answer. What does this do to the Catholic supposition that Peter was the first “Pope”?
- 3) Why do you think the people of Gergesenes begged Jesus to leave their region?

4) Why did Peter begin to sink while walking on water?

5) What are some things that cause “little faith” (8:26; 14:31)?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

***Peter's Confession
& The Transfiguration***

Read: Matthew 16:13-20 & 17:1-13

Review of the Reading

- 1) Who did people say Jesus was?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)
 - d)

- 2) Who answered that Jesus is “the Christ, the Son of the living God”?

- 3) What Old Testament figures appeared with Jesus on the mountain?

- 4) What was the disciples’ reaction when they heard the voice out of the cloud?

- 5) Who did the scribes say must first come?

Thought Questions

- 1) In Matthew 16:18, what was the “rock” upon which Jesus would build His church?

- 2) Was the church in existence at this time? Explain your answer.

- 3) What did Jesus mean when He told the apostles, “Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven”? Consider John 16:13 as you answer.

- 4) What is the significance of God saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!” in response to Peter's suggestion in Matthew 17:4-5?

- 5) Concerning John the Baptizer, Jesus said that people "did to him whatever they wished." What had happened to John in Matthew 14:1-12?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

If Your Brother Sins Against You

Read: Matthew 18:15-35

Review of the Reading

- 1) What are the three steps you must take in attempting to seek the repentance of an individual who has sinned against you?
 - a)
 - b)
 - c)

- 2) “But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a _____ and a _____.”

- 3) How many times should one forgive his brother?

- 4) How much did the servant owe the king? How much did the fellow servant owe the servant?

- 5) What happened when the king was told about the servant’s lack of compassion?

Thought Questions

- 1) Do Jesus’ instructions in Matthew 18:15-17 apply to public sins such as false teaching or open sin? Explain your answer.

- 2) Does Matthew 18:20 give Christians the authority to neglect the services of the local congregation and worship at home?

- 3) What does your Bible have in the footnotes as to the value of “ten thousand talents” (18:24) or “a hundred denarii” (18:28)?

- 4) What is the point of the parable Jesus tells in Matthew 18:23-35?

- 5) Can you forgive someone who refuses to repent?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Jesus Teaches on Marriage

Read: Matthew 19:1-12

Review of the Reading

- 1) Who came to Jesus, and what was their purpose in asking Him questions on this occasion?
- 2) “So then, they are no longer two but _____ flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let _____ man separate.”
- 3) Why did Moses permit divorce in the Old Testament?
- 4) “And I say to you, _____ shall divorces his wife, _____ for _____, and marries another, commits adultery; and _____ marries her who is divorced commits adultery.”
- 5) What did His disciples say in response to this teaching?

Thought Questions

- 1) What is “the beginning” to which Jesus refers in Matthew 19:4 and 19:8?
- 2) The Lord teaches against at least three (maybe more) sinful practices in this passage either directly or indirectly. Name as many as you can.
- 3) What is the one exception Christ names for a divorce and subsequent marriage that is acceptable in God’s sight?

- 4) What does Jesus mean when He says, “All cannot accept this saying, but only those to whom it has been given,” and, “He who is able to accept it, let him accept it”?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

Questioned by the Pharisees and Sadducees

Read: Matthew 22:15-46

Review of the Reading

- 1) What was the Pharisees' first question to Jesus?
- 2) What was the Sadducees' belief concerning the resurrection?
- 3) "God is not the God of the _____, but of the _____."
- 4) What are the two commandments upon which "hang all the law and the prophets"?
 - a)
 - b)
- 5) The Pharisees answered that Christ is whose son?

Thought Questions

- 1) Why does Jesus call the Pharisees "hypocrites"? What was their general attitude toward Him? Did all Pharisees have this attitude? Consider John 3 as you answer.
- 2) Why did Jesus use the word "am" instead of "was" in Matthew 22:32?

- 3) How do “all the law and the prophets” hang on the two commands Jesus cited in Matthew 22:37-39? Consider what Paul writes in Romans 13:8-10.
- 4) Christ referred to several Old Testament passages as He answered His questioners. Using your Bible’s footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in each of the following verses, and who quoted each one.
- a) Matthew 22:32 _____
 - b) Matthew 22:37 _____
 - c) Matthew 22:39 _____
 - d) Matthew 22:44 _____
- 5) Why do you think the Pharisees and Sadducees stopped asking questions (Matthew 22:46)?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

***"What Shall Be the Sign of Thy Coming,
and of the End of the World?"***

Read: Matthew 24

Review of the Reading

- 1) What questions did the disciples ask Jesus?

- 2) "For _____ will rise against _____, and _____ against _____. And there will be _____, _____, and _____, in various places."

- 3) The disciples were warned that false _____ and false _____ would rise in those days.

- 4) "_____ and _____ will pass away, but My _____ will by no means pass away."

- 5) Who knows the day and hour of the Lord's coming?

Thought Questions

- 1) There are generally two accepted interpretations of Matthew 24 by sound brethren. The first, that the chapter is divided into two sections, the first part dealing with the destruction of Jerusalem and the second part dealing with the end of the world. The second interpretation is that the entire chapter deals with the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 AD. Which interpretation do you take and why?

- 2) Read Matthew 24:14. Was this accomplished by the time Jerusalem was destroyed? Consider Matthew 28:19, Mark 16:15, and Colossians 1:23.

- 3) Jesus speaks of “the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet.” Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, and any other tools at your disposal such as *Strong's Concordance*, how many references can you find to “the abomination of desolation” in the book of Daniel?

- 4) How do we know that at least the first part of Matthew 24 does not deal with the end of the world? Consider Matthew 24:34 as you answer.

- 5) How are the days of Noah similar to the coming of the Son of man?

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Last Supper & In The Garden

Read: Matthew 26:17-56

Review of the Reading

- 1) What feast was being observed when Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper?
- 2) How did Jesus identify His betrayer in verse 23?
- 3) Where did Jesus say He would go before the apostles after His resurrection?
- 4) How many times did Jesus pray to the Father in the garden?
- 5) How many angels did Jesus say His Father would provide if He had asked?

Thought Questions

- 1) When Christ announced that He would be betrayed by one of the twelve, each asked if they could be the one? How was Judas' question different from the others?
- 2) Does the bread and fruit of the vine literally become Jesus' body and blood when we observe the Lord's Supper?
- 3) For what purpose was Jesus' blood shed? What is the significance of this?

- 4) In the garden, why did Jesus pray for the cup to pass from Him? Was it possible for God's will to be accomplished any other way?

- 5) Jesus refers to prophecy when telling His followers of their impending denial. Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in Matthew 26:31.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

The Death & Resurrection of Jesus

Read: Matthew 27-28

Review of the Reading

- 1) What did Judas do when he realized his error?

- 2) The Jews were given the option of releasing either Jesus or another prisoner. Who was that other prisoner?

- 3) In whose tomb was Jesus buried?

- 4) Who were the women that came to the tomb on the first day of the week?

- 5) Where did the disciples meet Jesus after His resurrection?

Thought Questions

- 1) Why did Jesus remain silent while on trial before Pilate?

- 2) Matthew continues to refer to Old Testament prophecies in connection with the events surrounding Jesus' death. Using your Bible's footnotes or center-column references, identify the passage being quoted in each of the following verses, and who quoted each one.
 - a) Matthew 27:9-10 _____
 - b) Matthew 27:35 _____
 - c) Matthew 27:46 _____

- 3) Joseph of Arimathea is called in the other accounts of the gospel "a prominent council member" (Mark 15:43), "a good and just man" (Luke 23:50), and "a disciple of Jesus, but secretly" (John 19:38). Why do you think Joseph chose this moment to reveal his belief?

- 4) How important is it for us today to continue teaching as the Lord told His apostles after His resurrection? Consider II Timothy 2:2.

Your Questions...

What questions do you have from the reading? Write them below, leaving space to answer each based on class discussions.

A People of the Book

8-Year Curriculum

	January - March	April - June	July - September	October - December
2007	<i>Matthew</i>	Genesis	Galatians & Ephesians	Isaiah
2008	I & II Timothy, Titus	Exodus	Hebrews	Minor Prophets I (Hosea-Obadiah)
2009	Mark	Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy	Romans	Jeremiah & Lamentations
2010	I & II Thessalonians	Joshua, Judges, Ruth	James, I & II Peter	Minor Prophets II (Jonah-Habakkuk)
2011	Luke	Samuel, Kings, Chronicles	I, II, III John & Jude	Daniel
2012	Acts	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther	I Corinthians	Minor Prophets III (Zephaniah-Malachi)
2013	John	Job	II Corinthians	Psalms
2014	Philippians, Colossians & Philemon	Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon	Revelation	Ezekiel

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