



MATTHEW DEVOTIONALS

Why do daily Bible Readings?

When we read the Bible we are reading the very words of God! The Bible is written by The Spirit, for God's people about the Son, for His Glory. The best way to get to know God, who He is and to grow in our relationship with Him is to listen to Him! As we read God's word, we hear his voice and we can respond to him by talking to him in prayer. This eight week reading guide is a plan to help you dig into God's word yourself. We pray that it would help you grow in your relationship with God.

How to use these readings

1. **PREPARE** by finding a quiet place and ask God to help you understand His word. Ask him to teach you and reveal himself to you through his word.
2. **READ** the part of the Bible allocated for that day.
3. **THINK** about what you've learned and reflect upon this section of the Bible. Use the questions to help you do this.
4. **PRAY**. As a guide you may want to **THANK** God for the good things He has given you and for sending Jesus to die on the cross for us; **SAY SORRY** for the things you have done that you know don't please God; then bring any needs or **REQUESTS** before Him - ask Him to help you obey what you have learned in his word, God loves hearing and answering our prays!
5. **APPLY** what you've learned by living it out in your life.

The Book of Matthew

Matthew is the first Gospel, (the word gospel just means "good news"). Each of the four gospels provide us with a different angle on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Matthew's Gospel is written by the Apostle Matthew who was one of the 12 followers of Jesus, a tax collector, also known as Levi (Matthew 9:9-13). It is thought to be written after Mark's Gospel and the original audience is thought to be the

prominent Church in Antioch of Syria, where Jewish and Gentile Christians attended (Acts 11:19-26).

There are 4 purposes to Matthew's Gospel:

1. To instruct and familiarise
2. To provide an apologetic and evangelistic account to the Church, especially concerning the Jewish people at the time
3. To encourage believers in a hostile world around them
4. To inspire deeper faith in Jesus the Messiah and a mature understanding of Jesus' person, work, and his unique place in redemption history

Structure

Although it may not be obvious in our modern-day Bibles, Matthew is traditionally divided into 5 'books' with an introduction and conclusion bookending them. The end of each of these sections is signified by the phrase "when Jesus finished saying these things..." (7:28, 11:1, 13:53, 19:1, 26:1).

The Prologue (Chapters 1 – 2)

Book 1 – Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 3 – 7)

Book 2 – Jesus sends out His Disciples (Chapters 8 – 10)

Book 3 – Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven (Chapters 11 – 13)

Book 4 – Community in the Kingdom of Heaven (Chapters 14 – 18)

Book 5 – Jesus' Second Coming (Chapters 19 – 25)

The Climax (Chapters 26 – 28)

Thanks

These studies had been adapted from the original series booklet which was made and produced by the Roseville Youth leadership team. Many thanks to them for sharing these for private devotional use among our youth.

Week One | Matthew 3 - 5:30

Day One

Pray + Read Matthew 3

What were the people's reactions to John the Baptist?

How do you think these people valued words compared to John's appearance?

What are people called to do because the Kingdom of Heaven is near?

How is Jesus' baptism different to others that took place?

Using this passage, how could you demonstrate that Jesus is part of the Trinity, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

Prayer: Ask that we can humbly look back at Christians who came before us to learn faithful interpretations of His word. Pray that God would lead us to his will through his Bible and faithful Christians around us.

Day Two

Pray + Read Matthew 4:1-11

What does Satan tempt Jesus with?

How does Jesus use his knowledge of the Scriptures to fight temptation?

What tempts you the most? Write a few examples here.

How do you plan to fight these temptations? Look up some scripture to help fight it and write the corresponding verses below.

Prayer: Ask God for strength, especially when we are tempted.

Ask God to arm us with His truth when we fight our flesh or the Devil.

Praise God that we know that he has defeated death.

Thank the Spirit that he aids us in fighting temptation.

Day Three

Pray + Read Matthew 4:12-25

Do you think the Jews living at the time would have known the prophecies referenced in verses 15-16? Why/Why not?

What happens when Jesus calls people to follow him? When does he call them?

Look back at 3:5. Would you say the events in verses 23-25 are similar or different? How/How not?

Jesus calls disciples and shows the Kingdom of God through his ministry. How will you call disciples and show the Kingdom of God? Write down 3 actionable ways that you will show the Kingdom or call disciples this week.

Prayer: Ask God to help you hear His voice. Use this time to ask God about things you think God is teaching you or plans you are making for your future. Praise God that he already has planned a future for you and that it is the future that gives God the most glory.

Day Four

Pray + Read Matthew 5:1-16

This is the beginning of Jesus' teaching in Matthew. This teaching was considered revolutionary in its time. Looking at the list of beatitudes (v3-12), which ones do you think are revolutionary or you and your friends?

What does Jesus say that the point of good deeds are? Does this surprise you?

What does Jesus mean when he says to be the salt and the light of the world?

The passage says that because of Jesus people will insult us and persecute us (v11) and Jesus says to rejoice, how will you aim to rejoice today?

Prayer: Read Psalm 32. Spend some time rejoicing in God in your heart. Think about what you find hard to rejoice about. Ask God for wisdom on what to rejoice in and what to mourn about.

Day Five

Pray + Read Matthew 5:17-30

What does Jesus teach about anger and settling disputes with brothers and sisters?

What do Jesus' teaching about adultery say about his attitude towards our hearts?

Why do you think it is better to cut off your arm than to be judged and thrown into hell?

Prayer: (This one is a tough one, be prepared to be challenged in ways you weren't expecting). Ask God to reconcile your heart to His will. Ask God to change your heart. Ask God to reveal your sin in your life so you can more clearly repent from when you turn from Him.