



EXPLORE **THE BIBLE.**

Adults

Matthew 1-13

Personal Study Guide (CSB)

Winter 2025-26



THE POWER OF ONE

The teacher writes the essay prompt on the board, and you stare at it blankly: “Name the person who has made the single greatest impact on your life and why.” You sense various levels of confusion assault you at the same time. One minute, you wonder if anyone has really made that big of a difference in your life. The next minute, you’ve got a list of candidates that seems impossible to whittle down.

And even if you could eliminate every name but one, surely the last person standing deserves more attention than you could ever offer in a few hundred words. Someone like that would make such an indelible impression that you wouldn’t know where to start, what to include, or what to leave out. Such a transformational figure requires the word count of a novel, not a few pages filled with the snatches of collected memories.

Naming the most influential person in your life? On the surface, it might seem like an impossible task for you and me. But, for a former tax collector named Matthew, the choice was easy: Jesus. See, it was Jesus who had found him at his tax booth, and it was Jesus who had called him in a new direction. It was Jesus who had seen past the social and spiritual stigma that hung on first-century tax collectors like barnacles on a boat. And it was Jesus who taught him what it really means to have a personal relationship with God.

Matthew, the cultural outcast, had met Jesus, and Jesus had made all the difference. That’s why Matthew wrote an entire book of the Bible dedicated to the words and actions of Jesus. Thankfully, Jesus is still in the business of transforming lives today. He still accepts outcasts and social pariahs. He still makes room for them in His kingdom. And He still teaches us what it really means to have a personal relationship with God.

Honestly, Jesus has the single greatest impact on the lives of all who come to Him. If you’ve never met Him, now is the time. Like Matthew, all you have to do is hear His call and respond by following Him in faith. If you’re ready to take that step, here’s what you need to do . . .

- **Admit** to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning from your sin.
- **By faith receive** Jesus as God’s Son and accept His gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross. Jesus also rose from the dead, making a new, eternal life possible for us.
- **Confess** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: “Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In the name of Jesus I pray, amen.”

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.

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*Evangelistic Emphasis

MEET THE WRITER



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FROM **THE TEAM LEADER**



“Delivery delayed. Now arriving November 9.” How well do you wait? When a package you’ve been anxiously awaiting is delayed, for example, do you respond with patient anticipation or irritated frustration? Personally, one-day shipping, DoorDash®, and streaming TV shows have spoiled me. When unexpected circumstances require me to wait, it’s a needed exercise for me to practice patience.

Jesus’s birth in Bethlehem was a long-awaited event. For centuries, God’s people waited for the promised One. Old Testament prophets spoke of a Deliverer. This news of a coming Messiah was especially meaningful to those who persevered year after year with no deliverance in sight. “She will give birth to a son, and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21). Matthew’s gospel recounts the story of Jesus’s life. This quarter, we will study Jesus’s teachings, witness His miraculous power, and examine His earthly ministry.

May this study stir anew within you a deep appreciation for our Savior, the One who delivers us from our sins. We no longer have to wait; those days are over. Our King has come!

In Him,

Amber Vaden

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Explore

Discover





Terms listed here are identified in the Bible commentary with a dot (•).

Bethsaida [beth-SAY ih duh]—means “house of fish”; town on the northeast side of the Sea of Galilee; hometown of Philip, Andrew, and Peter (John 1:44); one of the cities Jesus censured because of the unbelief of its inhabitants (Matt. 11:21)

Capernaum [kuh PUHR nay uhm]—Jesus’s base of operations (Matt. 9:1); home of Andrew, Peter, James, and John; economic center of Galilee

Chorazin [koh RAY zin]—a city located in Galilee; one of the cities Jesus censured because of the unbelief of its inhabitants (Matt. 11:21)

Decapolis [dih KAP oh liss]—place name meaning “ten cities”; mentioned only in Matthew and Mark in the Bible (Matt. 4:25; Mark 5:20; 7:31)

Galilee [GAL ih lee]—small region in the northern part of Israel where Jesus did much of His ministry (Matt. 3:13; 4:18,23,25)

Hades [HAY deez]—the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew term “Sheol”; refers to the place of the dead

Judea [joo DEE uh]—the area including Jerusalem and the territory immediately surrounding it; formerly called Judah in the Old Testament, was given the name Judea following the Babylonian exile

Naphtali [NAF tuh ligh]—region north of the Sea of Galilee; named after one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Gen. 30:3-8; Matt. 4:13)

Nazareth [NAZ uh reth]—Jesus’s hometown (Matt. 2:23); located in Galilee about halfway between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea

Sidon [SIGH duhn]—ancient city on the Phoenician coast; often associated with Tyre (Matt. 11:21-22)

Sodom [SAHD uhm]—a city renowned for its wickedness during the time of Abraham (Gen. 18:20)

Syria [SIHR ih uh]—ancient region located north of Israel; played an important role in the early spread of the gospel; Damascus (Acts 9:1-9) and Antioch (Acts 11:26; 13:1-3) were located in Syria

Tyre [TIGHR]—ancient city on the Phoenician coast; often associated with Sidon (Matt. 11:21-22)

Zebulun [ZEB yoo luhn]—name of Jacob’s tenth son (Gen. 30:20), the tribe named for him, and the area they settled west of the Sea of Galilee (Matt. 4:13)

BIBLE READING PLAN



DECEMBER

- ☐ 1. Matthew 1:1-6
- ☐ 2. Matthew 1:7-11
- ☐ 3. Matthew 1:12-17
- ☐ 4. Matthew 1:18-21
- ☐ 5. Matthew 1:22-25
- ☐ 6. Matthew 2:1-4
- ☐ 7. Matthew 2:5-8
- ☐ 8. Matthew 2:9-12
- ☐ 9. Matthew 2:13-15
- ☐ 10. Matthew 2:16-18
- ☐ 11. Matthew 2:19-23
- ☐ 12. Matthew 3:1-6
- ☐ 13. Matthew 3:7-10
- ☐ 14. Matthew 3:11-12
- ☐ 15. Matthew 3:13-17
- ☐ 16. Matthew 4:1-4
- ☐ 17. Matthew 4:5-7
- ☐ 18. Matthew 4:8-11
- ☐ 19. Matthew 4:12-17
- ☐ 20. Matthew 4:18-22
- ☐ 21. Matthew 4:23-25
- ☐ 22. Matthew 5:1-10
- ☐ 23. Matthew 5:11-12
- ☐ 24. Matthew 5:13-16
- ☐ 25. Matthew 5:17-20
- ☐ 26. Matthew 5:21-26
- ☐ 27. Matthew 5:27-30
- ☐ 28. Matthew 5:31-32
- ☐ 29. Matthew 5:33-37
- ☐ 30. Matthew 5:38-42
- ☐ 31. Matthew 5:43-48

JANUARY

- ☐ 1. Matthew 6:1-4
- ☐ 2. Matthew 6:5-8
- ☐ 3. Matthew 6:9-15
- ☐ 4. Matthew 6:16-18
- ☐ 5. Matthew 6:19-24
- ☐ 6. Matthew 6:25-34
- ☐ 7. Matthew 7:1-6
- ☐ 8. Matthew 7:7-12
- ☐ 9. Matthew 7:13-14
- ☐ 10. Matthew 7:15-20
- ☐ 11. Matthew 7:21-23
- ☐ 12. Matthew 7:24-29
- ☐ 13. Matthew 8:1-4
- ☐ 14. Matthew 8:5-13
- ☐ 15. Matthew 8:14-17
- ☐ 16. Matthew 8:18-22
- ☐ 17. Matthew 8:23-27
- ☐ 18. Matthew 8:28-34
- ☐ 19. Matthew 9:1-8
- ☐ 20. Matthew 9:9-13
- ☐ 21. Matthew 9:14-17
- ☐ 22. Matthew 9:18-26
- ☐ 23. Matthew 9:27-31
- ☐ 24. Matthew 9:32-34
- ☐ 25. Matthew 9:35-38
- ☐ 26. Matthew 10:1-4
- ☐ 27. Matthew 10:5-15
- ☐ 28. Matthew 10:16-20
- ☐ 29. Matthew 10:21-25
- ☐ 30. Matthew 10:26-31
- ☐ 31. Matthew 10:32-39

FEBRUARY

- ☐ 1. Matthew 10:40-42
- ☐ 2. Matthew 11:1-6
- ☐ 3. Matthew 11:7-10
- ☐ 4. Matthew 11:11-15
- ☐ 5. Matthew 11:16-19
- ☐ 6. Matthew 11:20-24
- ☐ 7. Matthew 11:25-30
- ☐ 8. Matthew 12:1-8
- ☐ 9. Matthew 12:9-14
- ☐ 10. Matthew 12:15-21
- ☐ 11. Matthew 12:22-29
- ☐ 12. Matthew 12:30-32
- ☐ 13. Matthew 12:33-37
- ☐ 14. Matthew 12:38-42
- ☐ 15. Matthew 12:43-45
- ☐ 16. Matthew 12:46-50
- ☐ 17. Matthew 13:1-9
- ☐ 18. Matthew 13:10-15
- ☐ 19. Matthew 13:16-17
- ☐ 20. Matthew 13:18-23
- ☐ 21. Matthew 13:24-30
- ☐ 22. Matthew 13:31-33
- ☐ 23. Matthew 13:34-35
- ☐ 24. Matthew 13:36-43
- ☐ 25. Matthew 13:44-46
- ☐ 26. Matthew 13:47-50
- ☐ 27. Matthew 13:51-52
- ☐ 28. Matthew 13:53-58

BIBLICAL BACKGROUND



“When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, because he was teaching them like one who had authority, and not like their scribes” (Matt. 7:28-29). Sprinkled throughout the Gospel of Matthew are nine references to the authority of Jesus. Matthew’s emphasis on Jesus’s authority, or power, served his purpose of proving that Jesus was God’s long-awaited Messiah.

To back up that claim, the Gospel is filled with numerous prophecies showing how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament concerning the coming Messiah. In addition, Matthew interspersed the teachings of Jesus with numerous miracles attesting to Jesus’s divine nature. His intent was to show through the narration of teachings and miracles that Jesus was indeed God’s Messiah and that response to Him brought either blessing or judgment.

While there is no direct reference to the writer of this Gospel as the disciple named Matthew, early church tradition and references from several church leaders in the early second century point to Matthew the apostle as the writer.

At first appearance, the Gospel might be thought of as a chronological summary of the life and ministry of Jesus. It is more than that. The book is a carefully constructed collection of the key teachings of Jesus. While it begins with the genealogy and birth of Jesus, and closes with His death

by crucifixion and resurrection, the central part of the book contains five sections of the collected teachings of Jesus. These five sections are found in chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18; and 23-25. Each section closes with a formulaic statement, “when Jesus had finished” these teachings (7:28; 11:1; 13:53; 19:1; 26:1). Between each of these sections of teachings, Matthew narrated the actions of Jesus in healing, casting out demons, raising the dead, and feeding thousands with only a small amount of food.

A second organizing principle in the Gospel was the separate ministries of Jesus in Galilee (Matt. 4:12-14:12) and in Judea (17:22-28:20). In the interval between these two sections was a brief journey into the region of Tyre and Sidon. The climatic section of the book is the final week of Jesus in Jerusalem, culminating in His arrest, crucifixion, burial, and resurrection.

In the pages of this Gospel, Matthew the tax-collector-turned-disciple, presents to us a snapshot of the life and teachings of Jesus. This certainly is not a complete biography nor an exhaustive collection of Jesus’s teachings. Instead, it is a reliable glimpse into the period of time when God came to earth in flesh and bone to bring about salvation for all who place their trust in Him.

OUTLINE



MATTHEW

- I. Birth and Infancy of Jesus** (1:1-2:23)
- II. Beginning of Jesus's Ministry in Galilee** (3:1-4:25)
- III. Discourse One: The Sermon on the Mount** (5:1-7:29)
- IV. Jesus's First Miracles** (8:1-9:38)
- V. Discourse Two: Ministry of Jesus's Disciples** (10:1-42)
- VI. Responses to Jesus's Ministry** (11:1-12:50)
- VII. Discourse Three: Parables about the Kingdom** (13:1-58)
- VIII. Close of Jesus's Ministry in Galilee** (14:1-17:27)
- IX. Discourse Four: Character of Jesus's Disciples** (18:1-35)
- X. Jesus's Ministry on the Way to Jerusalem** (19:1-20:34)
- XI. Jesus's Ministry in Jerusalem** (21:1-23:39)
- XII. Discourse Five: Olivet Discourse** (24:1-25:46)
- XIII. Betrayal, Crucifixion, and Burial** (26:1-27:66)
- XIV. Resurrection and Commission** (28:1-20)