



RCCG OCEANIA

Spiritual Disciplines

Learning from Jesus in Matthew 24

At a Glance

BIG IDEA

Jesus is teaching in Matthew 24, and His words are not meant to be ignored. This study helps a group read the chapter with alertness, humility, and practical response. Alongside it, Psalms 1:19 is included as a supporting reference for reflection and personal application.

PRIMARY PASSAGES

Matthew 24

Matthew 24:4-14

Matthew 24:42-44

Psalms 1:19

Key Takeaways

- Treat Matthew 24 as Jesus' active instruction, not distant information.
- Read carefully to distinguish what Jesus says from assumptions readers bring to the text.
- Let Jesus' teaching shape readiness and daily faithfulness, not fear or speculation.
- Return to the passage repeatedly to track Jesus' emphasis and repeated warnings.
- Include Psalms 1:19 as a companion text for meditation and application.

Introduction

Matthew 24 records Jesus' extended teaching that calls listeners to pay attention and respond wisely. This study guides a group to read the chapter carefully, to prioritize Jesus' own words, and to practice readiness expressed through faithful living. The aim is not to fuel speculation but to form steady discipleship shaped by what Jesus emphasizes. Psalms 1:19 is included as a supporting reference to slow down, reflect, and translate learning into prayerful action.

Scripture Reading

- **Matthew 24** — Read the whole chapter in one sitting to follow the flow of Jesus' teaching and the repeated calls to discernment and readiness.
- **Matthew 24:4-14** — Notice Jesus' opening warnings and instructions, including the call not to be led astray and the call to endurance as the message goes forward.
- **Matthew 24:42-44** — Focus on Jesus' direct command to stay awake and be ready, since the timing is not known to the hearer.
- **Psalms 1:19** — Use this as a companion reflection text to encourage meditation, prayer, and a personal response connected back to Matthew 24.

Key Points

1. **Start with Jesus' voice** — Approach Matthew 24 as direct teaching from Jesus. The goal is to hear what He says before reacting with pre-formed conclusions or debates. Practice separating the text from assumptions. When the group discusses the chapter, keep returning to the words and instructions Jesus actually gives, letting the passage set the agenda. A simple discipline helps: read, observe, restate. Summarize Jesus' statements in plain language before moving to interpretation or application.

- Begin by reading Matthew 24 aloud without interruption, then restate what Jesus says in your own words.
- List statements that are clearly commands (what Jesus calls His followers to do).
- When discussion drifts into speculation, return to the question: "What did Jesus instruct us to do here?"
- Pray for humility to be corrected by Scripture rather than using Scripture to confirm assumptions.

Scripture: Matthew 24

2. **Observe the structure and emphasis** — Matthew 24 is not a collection of random sayings; Jesus develops His teaching with repeated themes and warnings. Careful observation helps the group track what Jesus stresses. Pay attention to repeated ideas (for example, warnings about being misled, calls to endurance, and instructions for watchfulness). Note how Jesus moves from describing difficulties to giving practical directives for His followers. Let emphasis guide interpretation. If Jesus repeats a warning or instruction, treat it as central rather than minor.

- Mark repeated words or themes in Matthew 24 (for example: "watch," "ready," "do not be led astray," "endure").
- Create a simple outline of the chapter in your own headings based on natural shifts in Jesus' teaching.
- Identify one repeated warning and one repeated instruction, and discuss why Jesus might repeat them.
- Commit to rereading Matthew 24 during the week to reinforce what Jesus emphasizes.

Scripture: Matthew 24 Matthew 24:4-14

Key Points (cont.)

3. Choose readiness over speculation — Jesus' teaching is meant to shape a faithful posture, not to invite date-setting or arguments. The point of watchfulness is readiness—living in a way that matches trust in Jesus and obedience to His words. Readiness is practical. It shows up in daily faithfulness, steady endurance, and resisting deception. When the unknown timing creates pressure, Jesus directs His followers toward alertness rather than anxiety. Keep the group centered on obedience: What habits, choices, and priorities align with Jesus' call to be ready?

- Name one area where fear or speculation distracts from faithful obedience, and choose a concrete step toward trust and steadiness.
- Practice watchfulness by setting regular times to pray, examine your life, and return to Jesus' words.
- Identify a deception or distraction that commonly pulls attention away from Christ, and plan how to resist it.
- Choose one act of faithfulness to practice consistently as an expression of readiness.

Scripture: Matthew 24:42-44

4. Add a companion reflection — Use Psalms 1:19 as a companion text to slow down and turn observation into prayer and personal application. This step keeps the study from remaining merely analytical. Read the companion reference after engaging Matthew 24, and ask how it supports a responsive posture—listening, meditating, and practicing what has been heard. Keep the connection clear: the companion reading serves the main goal of responding wisely to Jesus' instruction in Matthew 24.

- Read Psalms 1:19 slowly and write a short prayer that asks God to help you respond to Jesus' teaching in Matthew 24.
- Choose one sentence from Matthew 24 to meditate on daily, using Psalms 1:19 as a prompt for reflection.
- Write a one-paragraph personal response: "Because Jesus teaches ___, I will ___ this week."
- Share one application with a trusted believer and ask for accountability.

Scripture: Psalms 1:19

Group Discussion

Tip: Use these questions to guide the group from seeing → understanding → applying.

Observation

- What commands or direct instructions from Jesus do you notice in Matthew 24?
- What repeated warnings or repeated themes appear across the chapter?
- In Matthew 24:4-14, what does Jesus tell His followers to watch for, and what does He tell them to do?
- In Matthew 24:42-44, what is the central command, and what reason does Jesus give for it?
- What words or phrases in Matthew 24 seem most emphasized by repetition or placement?

Interpretation

- Why might Jesus prioritize warnings about being led astray early in Matthew 24?
- How do the themes in Matthew 24:4-14 help shape the purpose of the rest of the chapter?
- What does “watchfulness” mean in Matthew 24:42-44 in practical terms, based on the text itself?
- How does rereading the whole chapter (Matthew 24) protect the group from overemphasizing one detail?
- How can Psalms 1:19 function as a companion reflection that strengthens responsiveness to Jesus’ words?

Application

- What is one assumption you bring to Matthew 24 that you need to hold up to Jesus' actual words?
- What does readiness look like in your daily life (relationships, habits, priorities) as shaped by Matthew 24:42-44?
- Where are you most vulnerable to distraction or deception, and what step will you take to stay alert?
- What practice will help you return to Matthew 24 repeatedly so Jesus' emphasis forms your thinking and choices?
- How will you use Psalms 1:19 this week to pray and apply one specific instruction you observed in Matthew 24?

Prayer Focus

- Help us hear and obey Jesus' words in Matthew 24 with humility.
- Keep us alert, steady, and ready in daily faithfulness.
- Protect us from deception, distraction, and fear.
- Strengthen endurance and trust as we wait on Jesus.

Next Step

Read Matthew 24 aloud, list Jesus' direct instructions, and choose one concrete obedience step to practice consistently while praying it back to God.

Conclusion

Matthew 24 calls for attentive listening to Jesus and a wise response shaped by His own emphasis. The chapter invites careful reading, repeated return to Jesus' words, and a life marked by watchfulness and faithful obedience rather than speculation. Use Psalms 1:19 as a companion reflection to slow down, pray, and ...

Conclusion (cont.)

commit to concrete change that aligns with what Jesus teaches.

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