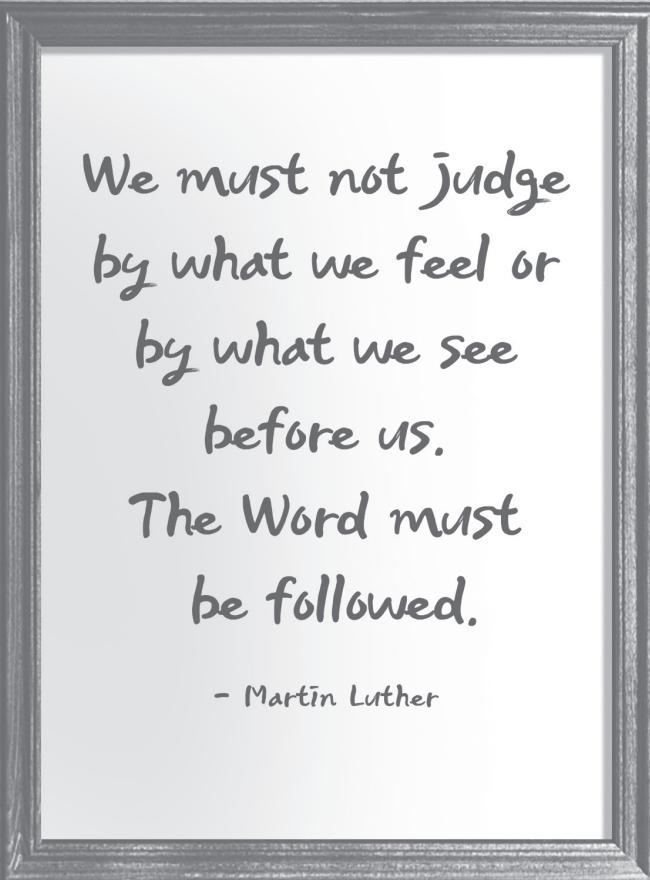


Experience the Truth!

Bible Time®

Bible
Experiencing Era





- I will commit to reading the Bible times throughout my life.
(I have read it times so far.)
- Time
- Place

Bible Pledge

- I will read the Bible every day.
- I will read the entire Bible each year.
- I will obey the Word of God for the rest of my life.

Signature



"BibleTime is Enough."

How to use BibleTime?

Every Word

If you follow our pages everyday you can read through the entire Bible in a year. George Muller who has received 50,000 answers to his prayers is famous for reading the Bible 200 times. We shouldn't just take portions of the Scriptures but integrate the living Word throughout our entire lives.

One Verse

Learning one verse and doing what it says will help you fight Satan with God's Word, the way Jesus did.

Questions

Jesus asked his disciples many questions. Answering questions helps you think about God's Word and what it means in your life.

Thank Offerings

We tell the three things of today's thanksgiving so that we can thank God in all situations I experience in meditating and obeying the Word.

BT Small Group

Through the small group section, you can utilize prayer topics, praise, sharing time, intercessory prayer along with commentary.

Stickers

When you finish the daily portion of the passage, you can reward yourself with a sticker. As for the leaders, you can encourage your fellow members with a weekly crown sticker and a monthly medal sticker.

Devotion

Spend time with God each day reading His Word. The Holy Spirit will show you new things and help you to understand. Keep thinking about what you have learned during the day.

BibleTime 200% Manual

Reading through the entire Bible!

① Set a reading time

Set a time to read alone quietly on a regular basis, such as every morning or evening. If you set apart a time, then you can determine the priority of life. Going before the Lord on a regular basis is important for the training of godliness.

② Hymn and prayer

BibleTime contains lyrics of hymns for each day. First, try opening the door of your heart through singing a hymn. And pray shortly that you would understand the Word of God before reading the Bible. Focus all your senses on the Word of God.

③ How should I read?

Read each paragraph, then summarize the contents of that paragraph with a sentence, or write down some keywords. Also, try underlining key verses or verses that touched your heart. You can also create your own symbols for each verse. An exclamation point for verses that you understood, a question mark for verses that you did not understand, and a light bulb for verses that touched your heart. Read through the passage this way and examine the verses that you marked once again.

④ Memorize One Verse

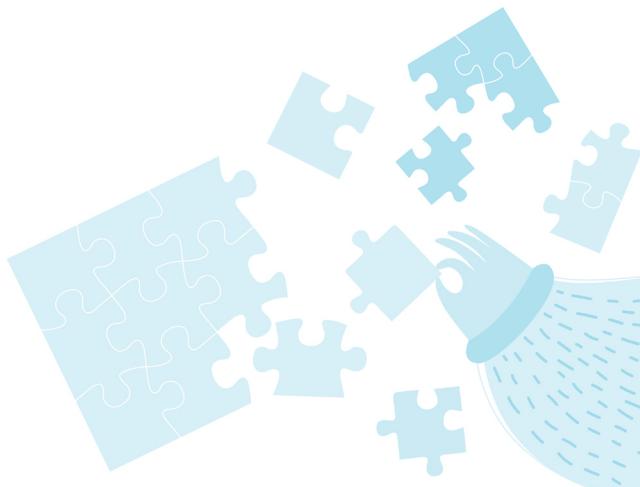
The original meaning of the word, meditation, means "to utter," "to think deeply," or "to concentrate." It is also a good idea to make One Verse cards to help you think and utter your One Verse throughout the day.

⑤ End like this

Sharing your One Verse with your close friends through a txt msg or SNS can help and motivate you to read through the entire Bible and meditate consistently.

The Ology of God

When you put together a jigsaw puzzle, you have to figure out how all the different pieces fit together to make a picture. God can be like that. The truths that the Bible tells us about God are a little bit like pieces of a puzzle. The more we learn about God, the clearer our picture of him will be, the more amazing he becomes to us, and the more we love him.



God Is All-Powerful

When God created the world,¹⁹ he did something no one else can do: he created everything out of nothing at all. God is so powerful that when the time came for him to create the universe, all he used was his words. God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. How’s that for powerful? With just a few words God created light, heavens, earth, sun, moon, stars, oceans, plants, fish, birds, and animals.

When God spoke, “It was so.” So when God said, “Let there be light,” he didn’t have to wait for the light to turn on. When he said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures,” he didn’t have to wait for them to be born, they appeared instantly. Imagine a forest, empty one moment and the next teeming with lions, lizards, gorillas, grasshoppers, snakes, mice, snails, butterflies, and giraffes. The Bible tells us that we can know God is real and powerful just by looking at what he created.

God Is Perfect

When something is perfect, there is nothing bad about it. Period. A perfectly white shirt has no spots or stains. A perfect shot hits the very center of the target.

Our God is perfect in every way. If he were an archer, his arrows would hit the exact center of the target every time. God always tells the truth. God is perfectly just—that means he knows when people are wrong and he knows exactly what to do about it. God is perfectly holy and good—that means he is against everything that is wrong, bad, and evil.

The most wonderful perfection of God is his love. Baking a cake requires mixing together ingredients like flour, sugar, oil, eggs, and water. God’s perfect love is like that; it is a mix of faithfulness, grace, forgiveness, kindness, generosity, sacrifice, humility, truth, patience, and hope.

Did you know that you are a part of God’s grand design? Before God placed a single star in the sky, he thought of you. He planned the color of your hair, how tall you would be, and the exact place where you would live. Color your thumb with a marker, press it onto paper, and notice how the lines swirl. Your fingerprint is unique to you! No one else in the whole world has your exact fingerprint. God designed it especially for you.

CHARACTER

Creativity

Approaching a need, a task, or an idea from a new perspective

Thinking

No other animal is curious and creative like raccoon. Raccoon is famous for the ability to open the door of a barn.



Bible Verses

"All the skilled workers among you must come. They must make everything the Lord has commanded" (Ex 35:10)

Practice

1. Search for solutions to difficult problems.
2. Try new things that never experienced before.
3. Visit new places or travel.

Bible Time®

Matthew 1 - 21



"Praying, doing, and living with thank offerings based on the Word"

The Family Line of Jesus

Matthew 1

Historical Background

In Jewish society, the promise to get married was very serious. This promise could not be broken except for the case of adultery and showed a married status. A woman who was promised to be married was already called a "wife." Matthew uses the title of "husband" and "wife" for Joseph and Mary, who were not yet married. (Mt 1:18-20)

Matthew

Author Matthew who was a tax-collector

Setting A.D. 60, Judea

Features It tells about the life of Jesus in the point of view of a devout Jew. It also portrays how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament.

The Family Line of Jesus the Messiah

1 ¹This is the written story of *the family line of Jesus the Messiah. He is the son of David. He is also the son of Abraham.

2Abraham was the father of Isaac. Isaac was the father of Jacob. Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers. **3**Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah. Tamar was their mother. Perez was the father of Hezron. Hezron was the father of Ram.

4 Ram was the father of Amminadab. Amminadab was the father of Nahshon. Nahshon was the father of Salmon. **5**Salmon was the father



the family line of Jesus the Messiah
(1:1)

of Boaz. Rahab was Boaz's mother. Boaz was the father of Obed. Ruth was Obed's mother. Obed was the father of Jesse.

6And Jesse was the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon. Solomon's mother had been Uriah's wife. **7**Solomon was the father of Rehoboam.

Rehoboam was the father of Abijah. Abijah was the father of Asa.

8Asa was the father of Jehoshaphat. Jehoshaphat was the father of Jehoram. Jehoram was the father of Uzziah. **9**Uzziah was the father of Jotham. Jotham was the father of Ahaz. Ahaz was the father of Hezekiah.

10Hezekiah was the father of Manasseh. Manasseh was the father of Amon. Amon was the father of Josiah. **11**And Josiah was the father of Jeconiah and his brothers. At that time, the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon.

12After this, the family line continued. Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel. Shealtiel was the father of Zerubbabel. **13**Zerubbabel was the father of Abihud. Abihud was the father of Eliakim. Eliakim was the father of Azor.

14Azor was the father of Zadok. Zadok was the father of Akim. Akim was the father of Elihud. **15**Elihud was the father of Eleazar. Eleazar was the father of Matthan. Matthan was the father of Jacob. **16**Jacob was the father of Joseph. Joseph was the husband of Mary. And Mary was the mother of Jesus, who is called the Messiah.

17So there were 14 generations from Abraham to David. There were 14 from David until the Jewish people were forced to go away to Babylon. And there were 14 from that time to the Messiah.

Joseph Accepts Jesus as His Son

18This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She

BibleClip

the family line

Matthew begins with a list of Jesus's family line to show that Jesus is the Messiah that the Israelites have been waiting for. (Mt 1:1)

became pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit.

19Her husband Joseph was *faithful to the law. But he did not want to put her to shame in public. So he planned to divorce her quietly. **20**But as Joseph was thinking about this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. The angel said,

"Joseph, son of David, don't be afraid to take Mary home as your wife. The baby inside her is from the Holy Spirit. **21**She is going to have a son. You must give him the name Jesus. That's because he will save his people from their sins."

22All this took place to bring about what the Lord had said would happen. He had said through the prophet, **23**"The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called *Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) The name Immanuel means "God with us."

24 Joseph woke up. He did what the angel of the Lord commanded him to do. He took Mary home as his wife. **25**But he did not sleep with her until she gave birth to a son. And Joseph gave him the name Jesus.

BibleClip

faithful to the law

It refers to "a person who is fair, just, and obeys the law of God." (Mt 1:19)

BibleClip

Immanuel

It means "God is with us." It is the name prophesied of the Son (Isa 7:14) that Matthew explains to be Jesus. The promise of God in "Immanuel" does not only concern the salvation of those in distress, but ~~not~~ describes the gospel truth of God's presence in the world with us. (Mt 1:23)

Bible Questions

✳ This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about. His mother Mary and Joseph had promised to get married. But before they started to live together, it became clear that she was going to have a baby. She became pregnant by the power of the ______. (Mt 1:18)

✳ The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called _____. The name _____ means "God with us." (Mt 1:23)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Mission Accomplished 

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

Matthew 2

Historical Background

The wise men from the East were counselors to the king and fortune-tellers who worshiped foreign gods. However, they worshiped and bowed down before Jesus like one would do with a god or a king. Although they were pagans, God used the wise men from the East to show Himself. After the wise men came, baby Jesus and his parents fled to Egypt to avoid the killing of baby boys, and would later return to Nazareth. (Mt 2:1-17)

The Wise Men Visit Jesus

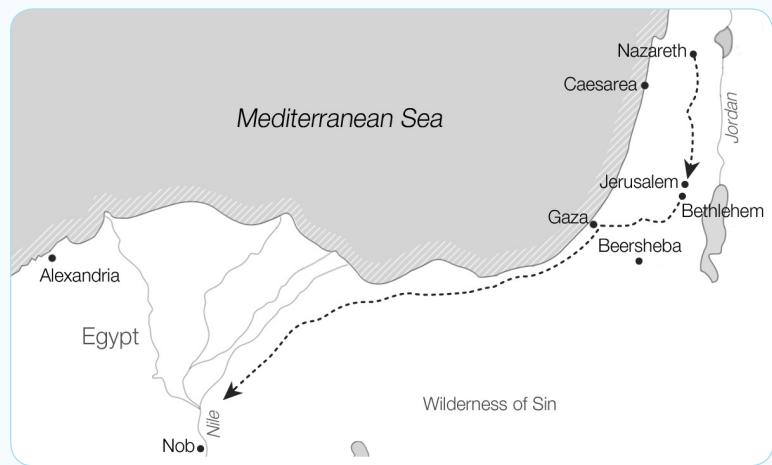
2 ¹Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea. This happened while Herod was king of Judea. After Jesus' birth, Wise Men from the east came to Jerusalem. ²They asked, "Where is the child who has been born to be king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose. Now we have come to worship him."

³When King Herod heard about it, he was very upset. Everyone in Jerusalem was troubled too. ⁴So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the Messiah was going to be born.

"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied. "This is what the prophet has written. He said, ⁶ 'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are certainly not the least important among the towns of Judah. A ruler will come out of you. He will rule my people Israel like a shepherd.' "(Micah 5:2)

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the Wise Men. He found out from them exactly when the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem. He said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report it to me. Then I can go and worship him too."

⁹After the Wise Men had listened to the king, they went on their way.



The birth of Jesus and the escape to Egypt (Mt 2)

The star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them. It finally stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were filled with joy.

¹¹The Wise Men went to the house.

There they saw the child with his mother Mary. They bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures. They gave him gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they returned to their country on a different road.



gold, frankincense and myrrh
(2:11)

Jesus' Family Escapes to Egypt

¹³When the Wise Men had left, Joseph had a dream. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph. "Get up!" the angel said. "Take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you

to come back. Herod is going to search for the child. He wants to kill him."

14 So Joseph got up. During the night, he left for Egypt with the child and his mother Mary. **15** They stayed there until King Herod died. So the words the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt." (Hosea 11:1)

16 Herod realized that the Wise Men had tricked him. So he became very angry. He gave orders about Bethlehem and the area around it. He ordered all the boys two years old and under to be killed. This agreed with the time when the Wise Men had seen the star.

17 In this way, the words Jeremiah the prophet spoke came true. He had said, **18** "A voice is heard in Ramah. It's the sound of crying and deep sadness. Rachel is crying over her children. She refuses to be comforted, because they are gone." (Jeremiah 31:15)

Jesus' Family Returns to Nazareth

19 After Herod died, Joseph had a dream while he was still in Egypt. In the dream an angel of the Lord appeared to him. **20** The angel said, "Get up! Take the child and his mother. Go to the land of Israel. The people who were trying to kill the child are dead."

21 So Joseph got up. He took the child and his mother Mary back to the land of Israel. **22** But then he heard that Archelaus was king of Judea. Archelaus was ruling in place of his father Herod. This made Joseph afraid to go there.

Joseph had been warned in a dream. So he went back to the land of Galilee instead. **23** There he lived in a town called Nazareth. So what the prophets had said about Jesus came true. They had said that he would be called a Nazarene.

BibleClip

Nazareth

It means "a watchman." It is a belittling title for Jesus Christ who grew up in Nazareth (Ac 10:38). When Nathaniel was introduced to Jesus by Philip, he says, "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" His statement shows the opinion that people had during the time of Jesus. (Mt 2:23)

Bible Questions

* So Herod called together all the chief priests of the people. He also called the teachers of the law. He asked them where the _____ was going to be born. (Mt 2:4)

* They stayed there until King Herod died. So the _____ the Lord had spoken through the prophet came true. He had said, "I brought my son out of Egypt." (Mt 2:24)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Prepare the Way

Matthew 3

Historical Background

John the Baptist's call to repentance shows that Israel, just as history reveals, had failed to live worthy of God's call as His chosen people. In today's passage, John the Baptist's call and Jesus's baptism show the start of the age of the Messiah. (Mt 3)

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

3 ¹In those days John the Baptist came and preached in the Desert of Judea. ²He said, "Turn away from your sins! The kingdom of heaven has come near."

³John is the one Isaiah the prophet had spoken about. He had said, "A messenger is calling out in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord. Make straight paths for him.'" (Isaiah 40:3)

⁴John's clothes were made out of camel's hair. He had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea. They also came from the whole area around the Jordan River. ⁶When they confessed their sins, John baptized them in the Jordan.

⁷John saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing. He said to them, "You are like a nest of poisonous snakes! Who warned you to escape the coming of God's anger? ⁸Live in a way that shows you have turned away from your sins.

⁹Don't think you can say to yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you, God can raise up children for Abraham even from these stones. ¹⁰The ax is ready to cut the roots of the trees. All the trees that don't

produce good fruit will be cut down. They will be thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water, calling you to turn away from your sins. But after me, someone is coming who is more powerful than I am. I'm not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

¹²His pitchfork is in his hand to clear the straw from his threshing floor. He will gather his wheat into the storeroom. But he will burn up the husks with fire that can't be put out."

Jesus Is Baptized

¹³Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan River. He wanted to be baptized by John. ¹⁴But John tried to stop him. So he told Jesus, "I need to be baptized by you. So why do you come to me?" ¹⁵Jesus replied, "Let it be this way for now. It is right for us to do this. It carries out God's holy plan." Then John agreed.

¹⁶As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened. Jesus saw the Spirit of God coming down on him like a dove. ¹⁷A voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him."

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* The LORD God made _____ for Adam and his wife to wear. (Ge 3:21)

* So the LORD God drove the man out of _____. He sent the man to farm the ground he had been made from. (Ge 3:23)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

4
JAN

Temptation in the Desert

Matthew 4

Historical Background

The people of old days wanted Jesus to perform miracles like turning rocks to bread to satisfy the expectations of people. However, Jesus overcame these temptations with the Word of God. (Mt 4:1-11)

Jesus Is Tempted in the Desert

4 ¹The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. There the devil tempted him. ²After 40 days and 40 nights of going without eating, Jesus was hungry. ³The tempter came to him. He said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.”

⁴Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” (Deuteronomy 8:3)

⁵Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city. He had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. It is written, ‘The Lord will command his angels to take good care of you. They will lift you up in their hands. Then you won’t trip over a stone.’” (Psalm 91:11,12)

⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written, ‘Do not test the Lord your God.’” (Deuteronomy 6:16) ⁸Finally, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain. He showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹“If you bow down and worship me,” he said,

BibleClip

the highest point of the temple

In the Herodian temple, there is a place called Solomon's porch. ~~X~~ the porch is the highest point of the temple. It is the perfect place to see the entire temple as well as all of Jerusalem. (Mt 4:5)

"I will give you all this."

10Jesus said to him, "Get away from me, Satan! It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Deuteronomy 6:13) **11**Then the devil left Jesus. Angels came and took care of him.

Jesus Begins to Preach

12John had been put in prison. When Jesus heard about this, he returned to Galilee. **13**Jesus left Nazareth and went to live in the city of Capernaum. It was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali.

14In that way, what the prophet Isaiah had said came true. He had said, **15**"Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali! Galilee, where Gentiles live! Land along the Mediterranean Sea! Territory east of the Jordan River!"

16The people who are now living in darkness have seen a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light has shined on them."(Isaiah 9:1,2) **17**From that time on Jesus began to preach. "Turn away from your sins!" he said. "The kingdom of heaven has come near."

Jesus Chooses His First Disciples

18One day Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee. There he saw two brothers, Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. They were throwing a net into the lake, because they were fishermen. **19**"Come and follow me," Jesus said. "I will send you out to fish for people." **20**At once they left their nets and followed him.

21Going on from there, he saw two other brothers. They were James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee. As they were preparing their nets, Jesus called out to them. **22**Right away they left the boat and their father and followed Jesus.

BibleClip

Galilee

It is a mountainous region in northern Canaan that borders the lake of Galilee. It means "ring, circle, loop." Because it bordered foreign nations (2Ch 15:20), the people often married Gentiles. Therefore, it was a region that was hated and looked down upon by the Jews, just like Samaria. (Mt 4:18)

Jesus Heals Sick People

23Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught in the synagogues. He preached the good news of God's kingdom. He healed every illness and sickness the people had.

24News about him spread all over Syria. People brought to him all who were ill with different kinds of sicknesses. Some were suffering great pain. Others were controlled by demons. Some were shaking wildly. Others couldn't move at all. And Jesus healed all of them.

25Large crowds followed him. People came from Galilee, from the area known as the Ten Cities, and from Jerusalem and Judea. Others came from the area across the Jordan River.

BibleClip

the synagogues

It was a place where Jews came together to worship. With 10 Jewish adults, a synagogue could be started. Therefore, wherever there was a group of Jewish people, there was always a synagogue. (Mt 4:23)

Mission Accomplished



Bible Questions

* Jesus answered, "It is written, 'Man must not live only on bread. He must also live on _____ that comes from the mouth of God.'" (Mt 4:4)

* Jesus went all over Galilee. There he taught in the synagogues. He preached the _____ of God's kingdom. He healed every illness and sickness the people had. (Ge 4:26)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

5
JAN

Jesus Gives Blessings

Matthew 5:1–26

Historical Background

In New Testament times, those who read Scripture would stand up in front of the congregation, but the rabbis who interpreted the text would sit like Jesus as seen in verse 1. The people sat by his side. (Mt 5:1)

Jesus Teaches the Disciples and Crowds

5 ^{the}Jesus saw the crowds. So he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him. 2Then he began to teach them.

Jesus Gives Blessings

He said, 3“Blessed are those who are spiritually needy. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them. 4Blessed are those who are sad. They will be comforted.

5Blessed are those who are humble. They will be given the earth. 6Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for what is right. They will be filled. 7Blessed are those who show mercy. They will be shown mercy. 8Blessed are those whose hearts are pure. They will see God.

9Blessed are those who make peace. They will be called children of God. 10Blessed are those who suffer for doing what is right. The kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

11“Blessed are you when people make fun of you and hurt you because of me. You are also blessed when they tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. 12Be joyful and glad. Your reward in heaven is great. In the same way, people hurt the prophets who lived long ago.

Salt and Light

13“You are the salt of the earth. But suppose the salt loses its saltiness. How can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything. It will be thrown out. People will walk all over it.

14“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill can’t be hidden. **15**Also, people do not light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand. Then it gives light to everyone in the house. **16**In the same way, let your light shine so others can see it. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will bring glory to your Father who is in heaven.

Jesus Fulfills the Law

17“Do not think I have come to get rid of what is written in the Law or in the Prophets. I have not come to do this. Instead, I have come to fulfill what is written. **18**What I’m about to tell you is true. Heaven and earth will disappear before the smallest letter disappears from the Law. Not even the smallest mark of a pen will disappear from the Law until everything is completed.

19Do not ignore even one of the least important commands. And do not teach others to ignore them. If you do, you will be called the least important person in the kingdom of heaven. Instead, practice and teach these commands. Then you will be called important in the kingdom of heaven.

20Here is what I tell you. You must be more godly than the Pharisees and the teachers of the law. If you are not, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.

Murder

21“You have heard what was said to people who lived long ago. They were told, ‘Do not commit murder. (Exodus 20:13) Anyone who murders will be judged for it.’

22But here is what I tell you. Do not be angry with a brother or sister. Anyone who is angry with them will be judged. Again, anyone who says

to a brother or sister, ‘Raca,’ must stand trial in court. And anyone who says, ‘You fool!’ will be in danger of the fire in hell.

23“Suppose you are offering your gift at the altar. And you remember that your brother or sister has something against you. **24**Leave your gift in front of the altar. First go and make peace with them. Then come back and offer your gift.

25“Suppose someone has a claim against you and is taking you to court. Settle the matter quickly. Do this while you are still together on the way. If you don’t, you may be handed over to the judge. The judge may hand you over to the officer to be thrown into prison. **26**What I’m about to tell you is true. You will not get out until you have paid the very last penny!

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

✿ Enoch lived a total of 365 years. Enoch _____ God. And then he couldn’t be found, because God took him from this life. (Ge 5:23-24)

✿ “He will _____ us when we are working. He’ll comfort us when our hands work so hard they hurt. We have to work hard because the LORD put a curse on the ground.” (Ge 5:29)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Be Perfect

Matthew 5:27–48

Historical Background

The poor in the Roman empire would usually own one shirt and coat each. The coat would also serve as a blanket for sleeping at night. Jesus teaches the people to even give their coats if they are asked for the shirt. (Mt 5:38-42)

Adultery

5 ²⁷“You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ (Exodus 20:14) ²⁸But here is what I tell you. Do not even look at a woman in the wrong way. Anyone who does has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

29If your right eye causes you to sin, poke it out and throw it away. Your eye is only one part of your body. It is better to lose an eye than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.

30If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. Your hand is only one part of your body. It is better to lose a hand than for your whole body to go into hell.

Divorce

31“It has been said, ‘Suppose a man divorces his wife. If he does, he must give her a letter of divorce.’ (Deuteronomy 24:1) **32**But here is what I tell you. Anyone who divorces his wife makes her a victim of adultery. And anyone who gets married to the divorced woman commits adultery. A man may divorce his wife only if she has not been faithful to him.

Promises

33“Again, you have heard what was said to your people long ago. They were told, ‘Do not break the promises you make to the Lord. Keep your promises to the Lord that you have made.’ **34**But here is what I tell you. Do not make any promises like that at all. Do not make them in the name of heaven. That is God’s throne.

35Do not make them in the name of the earth. That is the stool for God’s feet. Do not make them in the name of Jerusalem. That is the city of the Great King.

36And do not make a promise in your own name. You can’t make even one hair of your head white or black. **37**All you need to say is simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No.’ Anything more than this comes from the evil one.

Be Kind to Others

38“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye must be put out for an eye. A tooth must be knocked out for a tooth.’ (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20; Deuteronomy 19:21)

39But here is what I tell you. Do not fight against an evil person. Suppose someone slaps you on your right cheek. Turn your other cheek to them also. **40**Suppose someone takes you to court to get your shirt. Let them have your coat also.

41Suppose someone forces you to go one mile. Go two miles with them.

42Give to the one who asks you for something. Don’t turn away from the one who wants to borrow something from you.

Love Your Enemies

43“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor. (Leviticus 19:18) Hate your enemy.’ **44**But here is what I tell you. Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you.

45Then you will be children of your Father who is in heaven. He causes his sun to shine on evil people and good people. He sends rain on those who do right and those who don’t.

46If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Even the tax collectors do that.

47If you greet only your own people, what more are you doing than others? Even people who are ungodly do that. **48**So be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.

BibleClip

perfect

It refers to the flawless animal offered during sacrifice, and it means to be worthy in God's sight. It means purely devoted, set apart, and having sins forgiven. (Mt 5:48)

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

✳️ But the Lord was _____ with Noah. (Ge 6:8)

✳️ Here is the story of Noah's family line. Noah was a godly man. He was without _____ among the people of his time. He walked faithfully with God. (Ge 6:9)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

7
JAN

Giving to Needy People

Matthew 6:1-18

⊗ Historical Background

✗ The Jews were devoted to fast by not drinking water for two days every week during the dry season. This was considered very praiseworthy. However, the Lord is not delighted by fasting for such worldly reasons. (Mt 6:17-18)

Giving to Needy People

6 **1**“Be careful not to do good deeds in front of other people. Don't do those deeds to be seen by others. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you.

2“When you give to needy people, do not announce it by having trumpets blown. Do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They announce what they do in the synagogues and on the streets. They want to be honored by other people. What I'm about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.

3When you give to needy people, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing. **4**Then your giving will be done secretly. Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.

Prayer

5“When you pray, do not be like those who only pretend to be holy. They love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners. They want to be seen by other people. What I'm about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.

6When you pray, go into your room. Close the door and pray to your Father, who can't be seen. Your Father will reward you, because he sees

what you do secretly.

7When you pray, do not keep talking on and on. That is what ungodly people do. They think they will be heard because they talk a lot. **8**Do not be like them. Your Father knows what you need even before you ask him.

9"This is how you should pray. "Our Father in heaven, may your name be honored. **10**May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.

11Give us today our daily bread. **12**And forgive us our sins, just as we also have forgiven those who sin against us. **13**Keep us from sinning when we are tempted. Save us from the evil one.'

14Forgive other people when they sin against you. If you do, your Father who is in heaven will also forgive you. **15**But if you do not forgive the sins of other people, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Fasting

16"When you go without eating, do not look gloomy like those who only pretend to be holy. They make their faces look very sad. They want to show people they are fasting. What I'm about to tell you is true. They have received their complete reward.

17But when you go without eating, put olive oil on your head. Wash your face. **18**Then others will not know that you are fasting. Only your Father, who can't be seen, will know it. Your Father will reward you, because he sees what you do secretly.

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* Then the LORD said to Noah, "Go into the ark with your whole family. I know that you are _____ among the people of today. (Ge 7:1)

* All of them came to Noah and entered the ark. Everything happened just as God had _____ Noah. (Ge 7:9)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Gather Riches in Heaven

Matthew 6:19–34

Historical Background

The wealthy Jews during this time hid their wealth in a safe place in the temple, underground or in a cave to protect it. However, clothes would be eaten by moths and coins would corrode and lose value after some time. Jesus said to gather riches in heaven instead. (Mt 6:19-20)

Gather Riches in Heaven

6 ¹⁹“Do not gather for yourselves riches on earth. Moths and rats can destroy them. Thieves can break in and steal them. ²⁰Instead, gather for yourselves riches in heaven. There, moths and rats do not destroy them. There, thieves do not break in and steal them. ²¹Your heart will be where your riches are.

²²“The eye is like a lamp for the body. Suppose your eyes are healthy. Then your whole body will be full of light. ²³But suppose your eyes can't see well. Then your whole body will be full of darkness. If the light inside you is darkness, then it is very dark!

²⁴“No one can serve two masters at the same time. You will hate one of them and love the other. Or you will be faithful to one and dislike the other. You can't serve God and money at the same time.

Do Not Worry

²⁵“I tell you, do not worry. Don't worry about your life and what you will eat or drink. And don't worry about your body and what you will wear.

Isn't there more to life than eating? Aren't there more important things for the body than clothes?

²⁶Look at the birds of the air. They don't plant or gather crops. They don't put away crops in storerooms. But your Father who is in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth much more than they are?

²⁷Can you add even one hour to your life by worrying? ²⁸“And why do you worry about clothes? See how the wild flowers grow. They don't work or make clothing.

²⁹But here is what I tell you. Not even Solomon in all his royal robes was dressed like one of these flowers. ³⁰If that is how God dresses the wild grass, won't he dress you even better? Your faith is so small! After all, the grass is here only today. Tomorrow it is thrown into the fire.

³¹So don't worry. Don't say, ‘What will we eat?’ Or, ‘What will we drink?’ Or, ‘What will we wear?’ ³²People who are ungodly run after all those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them.

³³But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you. ³⁴So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

BibleClip

make clothing

It refers to women making clothes in their houses. In the text, making clothes is used to refer to how wild flowers "don't work or make clothing." (Mt 6:28)

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

- * In the evening the dove returned to him. There in its beak was a freshly picked _____! So Noah knew that the water on the earth had gone down. (Ge 8:11)
- * Then Noah built an altar to honor the LORD. He took some of the "clean" animals and birds. He sacrificed them on the altar as _____. (Ge 8:20)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

9
JAN

Good Fruit

Matthew 7

Historical Background

The final parts of the Sermon on the Mount command applying the words of Jesus because ~~the~~ the final judgment to come. After speaking of salvation and the importance of works, Jesus warns with judgment to emphasize applying the gospel message. (Mt 7:15-26)

Be Fair When You Judge Other People

7 ¹"Do not judge other people. Then you will not be judged. ²You will be judged in the same way you judge others. You will be measured in the same way you measure others.

³"You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend's eye. But you pay no attention to the piece of wood in your own eye. ⁴How can you say to your friend, 'Let me take the bit of sawdust out of your eye'? How can you say this while there is a piece of wood in your own eye?

⁵You pretender! First take the piece of wood out of your own eye. Then you will be able to see clearly to take the bit of sawdust out of your friend's eye. ⁶"Do not give holy things to dogs. Do not throw your pearls to pigs. If you do, they might walk all over them. They might turn around and tear you to pieces.

Ask, Search, Knock

⁷"Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. ⁸Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. The door will be opened to the one who knocks.

⁹"Suppose your son asks for bread. Which of you will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or suppose he asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake?

11Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! **12**In everything, do to others what you would want them to do to you. This is what is written in the Law and in the Prophets.

The Large and Small Gates

13"Enter God's kingdom through the narrow gate. The gate is large and the road is wide that leads to ruin. Many people go that way. **14**But the gate is small and the road is narrow that leads to life. Only a few people find it.

True and False Prophets

15"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you pretending to be sheep. But on the inside they are hungry wolves. **16**You can tell each tree by its fruit. Do people pick grapes from bushes? Do they pick figs from thorns?

17In the same way, every good tree bears good fruit. But a bad tree bears bad fruit. **18**A good tree can't bear bad fruit. And a bad tree can't bear good fruit. **19**Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down. It is thrown into the fire. **20**You can tell each tree by its fruit.

True and False Disciples

21"Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven. Only those who do what my Father in heaven wants will enter. **22**Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord! Lord! Didn't we prophesy in your name? Didn't we drive out demons in your name? Didn't we do many miracles in your name?' **23**Then I will tell them clearly, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who do evil!'

The Wise and Foolish Builders

24"So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the rock. **25**The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. But it does not fall. It is built on the rock.

26But everyone who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man. He builds his house on sand.

27The rain comes down. The water rises. The winds blow and beat against that house. And it falls with a loud crash."

28Jesus finished saying all these things. The crowds were amazed at his teaching.

29That's because he taught like one who had authority. He did not speak like their teachers of the law.

BibleClip

builds his house on sand

This phrase refers to the wadi region in Palestine. This region is usually dry land, but it overflows with water and turns into a river when rain starts falling in this region. (Mt 7:26)

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Bible Questions

* "You look at the bit of sawdust in your friend's eye. But you pay no attention to the _____ in your own eye." (Mt 7:3)

* "So then, everyone who hears my words and puts them into practice is like a wise man. He builds his house on the _____. (Mt 7:24)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Jesus Heals a Man

Matthew 8:1-17

Historical Background

Capernaum is located close to the borders of the region that Philip was ruling. Herod Antipas kept a group of Gentile soldiers there. The commander of Capernaum is known to have been the post's Gentile general. (Mt 8:5-13)



Jesus Heals a Man Who Had a Skin Disease

8 ¹Jesus came down from the mountainside. Large crowds followed him. ²A man who had a skin disease came and got down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, "Lord, if you are willing to make me 'clean,' you can do it."

³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing to do it," he said. "Be 'clean'!" Right away the man was healed of his skin disease.

⁴Then Jesus said to him, "Don't tell anyone. Go and show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift Moses commanded. It will be a witness to everyone."

A Roman Commander Has Faith

⁵When Jesus entered Capernaum, a Roman commander came to him. He asked Jesus for help. ⁶"Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home and can't move. He is suffering terribly." ⁷Jesus said, "Shall I come and heal him?"

⁸The commander replied, "Lord, I am not good enough to have you co-

BibleClip

skin disease

It is also known as leprosy, and it refers to a series of diseases that appear on the skin. The Law of Moses declared such skin disease as unclean. Only the priests could say a person had leprosy or that it was fully healed. (Mt 8:3)

me into my house. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹I myself am a man under authority. And I have soldiers who obey my orders. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes. I tell that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

¹⁰When Jesus heard this, he was amazed. He said to those following him, "What I'm about to tell you is true. In Israel I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong. ¹¹Say to you that many will come from the east and the west. They will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of heaven. They will sit with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

¹²But those who think they belong in the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness. There they will weep and grind their teeth."

¹³Then Jesus said to the Roman commander, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that moment.

Jesus Heals Many People

¹⁴When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law. She was lying in bed. She had a fever. ¹⁵Jesus touched her hand, and the fever left her. She got up and began to serve him.

¹⁶When evening came, many people controlled by demons were brought to Jesus. He drove out the spirits with a word. He healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This happened so that what Isaiah the prophet had said would come true. He had said, "He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the sicknesses that should have been ours." (Isaiah 53:4)

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Sticker



I have not found anyone whose faith is so strong. (8:10)

Bible Questions

- * Here is _____ of Shem, Ham and Japheth. They were Noah's sons. After the flood, they also had sons. (Ge 10:1)
- * These are the tribes of Noah's sons. They are listed by their family lines within their nations. From them the nations spread out over the earth after _____. (Ge 10:32)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

11
JAN

Jesus Calms the Storm

Matthew 8:18-34



Historical Background

Disciples during this time learned the teachings of their rabbi and acted as personal servants to the rabbi by carrying out the commands related to their teacher's work and school. (Mt 8:18-20)

The Cost of Following Jesus

8 ¹⁸Jesus saw the crowd around him. So he gave his disciples orders to go to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. ¹⁹Then a teacher of the law came to him. He said, "Teacher, I will follow you no matter where you go."

²⁰Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens. Birds have nests. But the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." ²¹Another follower said to him, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." ²²But Jesus told him, "Follow me. Let the dead bury their own dead."

Jesus Calms the Storm

²³Jesus got into a boat. His disciples followed him. ²⁴Suddenly a terrible storm came up on the lake. The waves crashed over the boat. But Jesus was sleeping. ²⁵The disciples went and woke him up. They said, "Lord! Save us! We're going to drown!"

²⁶He replied, "Your faith is so small! Why are you so afraid?" Then Jesus got up and ordered the winds and the waves to stop. It became completely calm. ²⁷The disciples were amazed. They asked, "What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey him!"

Jesus Heals Two Men Controlled by Demons

28 Jesus arrived at the other side of the lake in the area of the Gadarenes. Two men controlled by demons met him. They came from the tombs. The men were so wild that no one could pass that way.

29 "Son of God, what do you want with us?" they shouted. "Have you come here to punish us before the time for us to be judged?" 30 Not very far away, a large herd of pigs was feeding. 31 The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs."

32 Jesus said to them, "Go!"

So the demons came out of the men and went into the pigs. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank. They ran into the lake and drowned in the water.

33 Those who were tending the pigs ran off. They went into the town and reported all this. They told the people what had happened to the men who had been controlled by demons. 34 Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. When they saw him, they begged him to leave their area.



Ministry of Jesus in Galilee (Mt. 8)

BibleClip

the time

It refers to a short period of time or a moment in time. This is a specific moment in God's redemptive plan that shows the beginning of Christ's authority to stop the power of Satan. (Mt 8:29)

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Bible Questions

* Come on! Let us go down and mix up their _____. Then they will not be able to understand one other." (Ge 11:7)

* There the LORD mixed up the language of the whole world. That's why the city was called _____. From there the LORD scattered them over the whole earth. (Ge 11:9)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Mercy and Not Sacrifice

Matthew 9:1–13

Not Sacrifice but Mercy

Historical Background

Matthew repeats the report of Mark concerning the man who could not walk. However, he omits the part about the man being lowered down from the roof of the house. (Mt 9:1)

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Man Who Could Not Walk

9 ¹Jesus stepped into a boat. He went over to the other side of the lake and came to his own town. ²Some men brought to him a man who could not walk. He was lying on a mat. Jesus saw that they had faith. So he said to the man, “Don’t lose hope, son. Your sins are forgiven.”

³Then some teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is saying a very evil thing!” ⁴Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said, “Why do you have evil thoughts in your hearts?

⁵Is it easier to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven’? Or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? ⁶But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he spoke to the man who could not walk. “Get up,” he said. “Take your mat and go home.”

⁷The man got up and went home. ⁸When the crowd saw this, they were filled with wonder. They praised God for giving that kind of authority to a human being.

Jesus Chooses Matthew and Eats With Sinners

⁹As Jesus went on from there, he saw a man named Matthew. He was sitting at the tax collector’s booth. “Follow me,” Jesus told him. Matthew got up and followed him. ¹⁰Later Jesus was having dinner at Ma-

thew’s house. Many tax collectors and sinners came. They ate with Jesus and his disciples.

¹¹The Pharisees saw this. So they asked the disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” ¹²Jesus heard this. So he said, “Those who are healthy don’t need a doctor. Sick people do.”

¹³Go and learn what this means, ‘I want mercy and not sacrifice.’ (Hosea 6:6) I have not come to get those who think they are right with God to follow me. I have come to get sinners to follow me.”

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Bible Questions

✿ “I will make you into a great nation. And I will bless you. I will make your name great. You will be _____ to others.” (Ge 12:2)

✿ The LORD appeared to Abram at Shechem. He said, “I will give this land to your family who comes after you.” So Abram built an altar there to _____ the LORD, who had appeared to him. (Ge 12:7)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

BibleClip

The Tax Collector’s Booth

Just like a toll stop, this was a place where tax collectors sat and gathered tax. (Mt 9:9)

His Harvest Field

Matthew 9:14–38

Historical Background

The celebration of Jewish marriage lasted for a whole week. The friends of the groom led the groom to his marriage room on the last night of celebration. Until then they did not have to fast, even if it was a season for fasting. In today's passage, Jesus compares the culture of his days with the problem of his disciples not fasting. (Mt 9:15)

Jesus Is Asked About Fasting

9 ¹⁴One day John's disciples came. They said to Jesus, "We and the Pharisees often go without eating. Why don't your disciples go without eating?"

¹⁵Jesus answered, "How can the guests of the groom be sad while he is with them? The time will come when the groom will be taken away from them. Then they will fast. ¹⁶"People don't sew a patch of new cloth on old clothes. The new piece will pull away from the old. That will make the tear worse.

¹⁷People don't pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst. The wine will run out, and the wineskins will be destroyed. No, people pour new wine into new wineskins. Then both are saved."

Jesus Heals a Dead Girl and a Suffering Woman

¹⁸While Jesus was saying this, a synagogue leader came. He got down on his knees in front of Jesus. He said, "My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her. Then she will live again."

¹⁹Jesus got up and went with him. So did his disciples. ²⁰Just then a woman came up behind Jesus. She had a sickness that made her bleed. It had lasted for 12 years. She touched the edge of his clothes. ²¹She

thought, "I only need to touch his clothes. Then I will be healed."

²²Jesus turned and saw her. "Dear woman, don't give up hope," he said. "Your faith has healed you." The woman was healed at that moment. ²³When Jesus entered the synagogue leader's house, he saw the noisy crowd and people playing flutes. ²⁴He said,

"Go away. The girl is not dead. She is sleeping." But they laughed at him. ²⁵After the crowd had been sent outside, Jesus went in. He took the girl by the hand, and she got up. ²⁶News about what Jesus had done spread all over that area.

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men

²⁷As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him. They called out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" ²⁸When Jesus went indoors, the blind men came to him. He asked them, "Do you believe that I can do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied.

²⁹Then he touched their eyes. He said, "It will happen to you just as you believed." ³⁰They could now see again. Jesus strongly warned them, "Be sure that no one knows about this." ³¹But they went out and spread the news. They talked about him all over that area.

³²While they were going out, another man was brought to Jesus. A demon controlled him, and he could not speak. ³³When the demon was driven out, the man spoke. The crowd was amazed. They said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." ³⁴But the Pharisees said, "He drives out demons by the power of the prince of demons."

There Are Only a Few Workers

³⁵Jesus went through all the towns and villages. He taught in their synagogues. He preached the good news of the kingdom. And he healed every illness and sickness.

BibleClip

sickness that made her bleed

It means "discharge of blood," and it refers to a sickness that makes someone bleed irregularly regardless of her period. For the Jews, the sickness of bleeding was ceremonially unclean. (Mt 9:20)

36When he saw the crowds, he felt deep concern for them. They were treated badly and were helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

37Then Jesus said to his disciples, "The harvest is huge. But there are only a few workers. **38**So ask the Lord of the harvest to send workers out into his harvest field."

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

❖ The people of Sodom were evil. They were sinning greatly _____ the LORD. (Ge 13:13)

❖ So Abram went to live near the large trees of Mamre at Hebron. There he pitched his tents and built _____ to honor the LORD. (Ge 13:18)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

14
JAN

The Twelve Disciples

Matthew 10:1–25

Historical Background

"Apostle" means "the one who is sent" or "the commissioned representative". "The one who is sent" did the work of his sender and could use the authority of the sender. (Mt 10:1)

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve Disciples

10 ¹Jesus called for his 12 disciples to come to him. He gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every illness and sickness. ²Here are the names of the 12 apostles.

First there were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew. Then came James, son of Zebedee, and his brother John. ³Next were Philip and Bartholomew, and also Thomas and Matthew the tax collector. Two more were James, son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus.

⁴The last were Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot. Judas was the one who was later going to hand Jesus over to his enemies.

⁵Jesus sent these 12 out with the following orders. "Do not go among the Gentiles," he said. "Do not enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Instead, go to the people of Israel. They are like sheep that have become lost. ⁷As you go, preach this message, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'

⁸Heal those who are sick. Bring those who are dead back to life. Make those who have skin diseases 'clean' again. Drive out demons. You have received freely, so give freely. ⁹"Do not get any gold, silver or copper to take with you in your belts. ¹⁰Do not take a bag for the journey. Do

not take extra clothes or sandals or walking sticks. A worker should be given what he needs.

11When you enter a town or village, look for someone who is willing to welcome you. Stay at their house until you leave. **12**As you enter the home, greet those who live there. **13**If that home welcomes you, give it your blessing of peace. If it does not, don't bless it.

14Some people may not welcome you or listen to your words. If they don't, leave that home or town, and shake the dust off your feet. **15**What I'm about to tell you is true. On judgment day it will be easier for Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

16"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. So be as wise as snakes and as harmless as doves. **17**Watch out! You will be handed over to the local courts. You will be whipped in the synagogues.

18You will be brought to governors and kings because of me. You will be witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. **19**But when they arrest you, don't worry about what you will say or how you will say it. At that time you will be given the right words to say. **20**It will not be you speaking. The Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

21"Brothers will hand over brothers to be killed. Fathers will hand over their children. Children will rise up against their parents and have them put to death. **22**You will be hated by everyone because of me. But anyone who remains strong in the faith will be saved.

23When people attack you in one place, escape to another. What I'm about to tell you is true. You will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes. **24**"The student is not better than the teacher. A slave is not better than his master.

25It is enough for students to be like their teachers. And it is enough for slaves to be like their masters. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebul, what can the others who live there expect?

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

- ✿ Give praise to the _____. He gave your enemies into your hand." Then Abram gave Melchizedek a tenth of everything. (Ge 14:20)
- ✿ But Abram said to the king of Sodom, "I have raised my hand to make a promise to the LORD. He is the Most High God. He is the _____ of heaven and earth. (Ge 14:22)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

A Prophet's Reward

Matthew 10:26–42

Historical Background

There was religious persecution during the time of Matthew's writing. It was experienced by most believers in the early church. Jesus's words would have been comfort to them. (Mt 10:26–42)

10 ²⁶“So don't be afraid of your enemies. Everything that is secret will be brought out into the open. Everything that is hidden will be uncovered. ²⁷What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight. What is whispered in your ear, shout from the rooftops.

²⁸Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

²⁹Aren't two sparrows sold for only a penny? But not one of them falls to the ground outside your Father's care. ³⁰He even counts every hair on your head! ³¹So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows.

³²“What if someone says in front of others that they know me? I will also say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I know them. ³³But what if someone says in front of others that they don't know me? I will say in front of my Father who is in heaven that I don't know them.

³⁴“Do not think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I didn't come to bring peace. I came to bring a sword. ³⁵I have come to turn “sons against their fathers. Daughters will refuse to obey their mothers. Daughters-in-law will be against their mothers-in-law.

BibleClip

sparrows *Sold*

It refers to the animal ~~✓~~ with least value ~~✓ was sold~~ during this time. (Mt 10:29)

³⁶A man's enemies will be the members of his own family.’(Micah 7:6)

³⁷“Anyone who loves their father or mother more than me is not worthy of me. Anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

³⁸Whoever does not pick up their cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹Whoever finds their life will lose it. Whoever loses their life because of me will find it.

⁴⁰“Anyone who welcomes you welcomes me. And anyone who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. ⁴¹Suppose someone welcomes a prophet as a prophet. They will receive a prophet's reward. And suppose someone welcomes a godly person as a godly person. They will receive a godly person's reward.

⁴²Suppose someone gives even a cup of cold water to a little one who follows me. What I'm about to tell you is true. That person will certainly be rewarded.”

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* Some time later, Abram had a vision. The LORD said to him, “Abram, do not be afraid. I am like a shield to you. I am your very great _____.” (Ge 15:1)

* Abram believed the LORD. The LORD was pleased with Abram because he believed. So Abram's _____ made him right with the LORD. (Ge 15:6)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

16
JAN

John the Baptist

Matthew 11

Historical Background

In Jewish society, the Jews used the phrase "carry my load and learn from me" to show the relationship between a teacher and a disciple. In Palestine, a load was never carried by one person, but in pairs. The load always meant two people working together. The load given by Jesus in the passage means a load carried together with Jesus. (Mt 11:29)

Jesus and John the Baptist

11 ¹Jesus finished teaching his 12 disciples. Then he went on to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee. ²John the Baptist was in prison. When he heard about the actions of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to him. ³They asked Jesus, “Are you the one who is supposed to come? Or should we look for someone else?”

⁴Jesus replied, “Go back to John. Report to him what you hear and see. ⁵Blind people receive sight. Disabled people walk. Those who have skin diseases are made ‘clean.’ Deaf people hear. Those who are dead are raised to life. And the good news is preached to those who are poor. ⁶Blessed is anyone who does not give up their faith because of me.”

⁷As John’s disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John. He said, “What did you go out into the desert to see? Tall grass waving in the wind? ⁸If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No. People who wear fine clothes are in kings’ palaces. ⁹Then what did you go out to see? A prophet?

Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰He is the one written about in Scripture. It says, “I will send my messenger ahead of you. He will prepare your way for you.”(Malachi 3:1)

11What I'm about to tell you is true. No one more important than John the Baptist has ever been born. But the least important person in the kingdom of heaven is more important than he is.

12Since the days of John the Baptist, the kingdom of heaven has been under attack. And violent people are taking hold of it. **13**All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came. **14**If you are willing to accept it, John is the Elijah who was supposed to come. **15**Whoever has ears should listen.

16"What can I compare today's people to? They are like children sitting in the markets and calling out to others. They say, **17**"We played the flute for you. But you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song. But you didn't become sad.'

18When John came, he didn't eat or drink as you do. And people say, 'He has a demon.' **19**But when the Son of Man came, he ate and drank as you do. And people say, 'This fellow is always eating and drinking far too much. He's a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."' By wise actions wisdom is shown to be right."

Towns That Do Not Turn Away From Sin

20Jesus began to speak against the towns where he had done most of his miracles. The people there had not turned away from their sins. So he said,

21"How terrible it will be for you, Chorazin! How terrible for you, Bethsaida! Suppose the miracles done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon. They would have turned away from their sins long ago. They would have put on clothes for mourning. They would have sat down in ashes.

22But I tell you this. On judgment day it will be easier for Tyre and Sidon than for you. **23**And what about you, Capernaum? Will you be lifted to

BibleClip

under attack

It refers to the use of force to break through or use strength to violently ~~the~~ attack. ^{however} It does not mean ~~that~~ heaven is under attack. Instead it shows that heaven is now open to many. Gentiles, tax collectors, and even prostitutes can have access to Heaven. (Mt 11:12)

the heavens? No! You will go down to the place of the dead. Suppose the miracles done in you had been done in Sodom. It would still be here today. **24**But I tell you this. On judgment day it will be easier for Sodom than for you."

Rest for All Who Are Tired

25At that time Jesus said, "I praise you, Father. You are Lord of heaven and earth. You have hidden these things from wise and educated people. But you have shown them to little children. **26**Yes, Father. This is what you wanted to do.

27"My Father has given all things to me. The Father is the only one who knows the Son. And the only ones who know the Father are the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to make him known.

28"Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. **29**Become my servants and learn from me. I am gentle and free of pride. You will find rest for your souls. **30**Serving me is easy, and my load is light."

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Bible Questions

* The angel of the LORD also said to her, "You are now pregnant and will have a son. You will name him Ishmael, because the LORD has heard about your _____." (Ge 16:11)

* She gave a name to the LORD who spoke to her. She called him "You are the God who _____. That's because she said, "I have now seen the One who _____. (Ge 16:13)

BibleClip Capernaum

Capernaum is a village by the sea of Galilee and was the center of Jesus's early ministry. Most of his miracles and sermons were done here. (Mt 11:23)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

17
JAN

The Sabbath Day

Matthew 12:1–21



Historical Background

1 The Pharisees during this time did not have any political powers, so they could only make plans together. However, the Pharisees did not stop there. (Mt 12:14) ↗

↗ 跟这些??

Jesus Is Lord of the Sabbath Day

12 1One Sabbath day Jesus walked through the grainfields. His disciples were hungry. So they began to break off some heads of grain and eat them.

2The Pharisees saw this. They said to Jesus, “Look! It is against the Law to do this on the Sabbath day. But your disciples are doing it anyway!”

3Jesus answered, “Haven’t you read about what David did? He and his men were hungry. 4So he entered the house of God. He and his men ate the holy bread. Only priests were allowed to eat it.

5Haven’t you read the Law? It tells how every Sabbath day the priests in the temple have to do their work on that day. But they are not considered guilty. 6I tell you that something more important than the temple is here.

7Scripture says, ‘I want mercy and not sacrifice.’ (Hosea 6:6) You don’t know what those words mean. If you did, you would not bring charges against those who are not guilty. 8The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath day.”

9Going on from that place, Jesus went into their synagogue. 10A man with a weak and twisted hand was there. The Pharisees were trying to

accuse Jesus of a crime. So they asked him, “Does the Law allow us to heal on the Sabbath day?”

11He said to them, “What if one of your sheep falls into a pit on the Sabbath day? Won’t you take hold of it and lift it out? **12**A person is worth more than sheep! So the Law allows us to do good on the Sabbath day.”

13Then Jesus said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” So he stretched it out. It had been made as good as new. It was just as good as the other hand. **14**But the Pharisees went out and planned how to kill Jesus.

God’s Chosen Servant

15Jesus knew all about the Pharisees’ plans. So he left that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were sick. **16**But he warned them not to tell other people about him. **17**This was to make what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah come true. It says,

18“Here is my servant. I have chosen him. He is the one I love. I am very pleased with him. I will put my Spirit on him. He will announce to the nations that everything will be made right.

19He will not argue or cry out. No one will hear his voice in the streets.

20He will not break a bent twig. He will not put out a dimly burning flame. He will make right win over wrong. **21**The nations will put their hope in him.”(Isaiah 42:1–4)

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Bible Questions

✿ I will greatly increase the number of your children after you. Nations and _____ will come from you. (Ge 17:6)

✿ That will be the _____ between me and you. (Ge 17:11)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

Jesus and Beelzebul

Matthew 12:22–50

Historical Background

Honoring and obeying one's family was important to Jews. Wife and children needed to obey the father, who was the head of the household. This helps us understand what Jesus means when Jesus defines his "brother or sister or mother" as "anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants". (Mt 12:46-50)

Jesus and Beelzebul

12 ²²A man controlled by demons was brought to Jesus. The man was blind and could not speak. Jesus healed him. Then the man could speak and see. ²³All the people were amazed. They said, "Could this be the Son of David?"

²⁴The Pharisees heard this. So they said, "This fellow drives out demons by the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons."

²⁵Jesus knew what they were thinking. So he said to them, "Every kingdom that fights against itself will be destroyed. Every city or family that is divided against itself will not stand. ²⁶If Satan drives out Satan, he fights against himself. Then how can his kingdom stand?

²⁷You say I drive out demons by the power of Beelzebul. Then by whose power do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. ²⁸But suppose I drive out demons by the Spirit of God. Then the kingdom of God has come to you.

²⁹"Or think about this. How can you enter a strong man's house and just take what the man owns? You must first tie him up. Then you can rob his house. ³⁰"Anyone who is not with me is against me. Anyone who does not gather sheep with me scatters them.

31So here is what I tell you. Every kind of sin and every evil word spoken against God will be forgiven. But speaking evil things against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

32Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven. But anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. A person like that won't be forgiven either now or in days to come.

33"If you make a tree good, its fruit will be good. If you make a tree bad, its fruit will be bad. You can tell a tree by its fruit. **34**You nest of poisonous snakes! How can you who are evil say anything good? Your mouths say everything that is in your hearts.

35A good man says good things. These come from the good that is stored up inside him. An evil man says evil things. These come from the evil that is stored up inside him.

36But here is what I tell you. On judgment day, everyone will have to account for every empty word they have spoken. **37**By your words you will be found guilty or not guilty."

The Sign of Jonah

38Some of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law came to Jesus. They said, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from you."

39He answered, "Evil and unfaithful people ask for a sign! But none will be given except the sign of the prophet Jonah.

40Jonah was in the belly of a huge fish for three days and three nights. Something like that will happen to the Son of Man. He will spend three days and three nights in the grave.

BibleClip

[the sign of the prophet Jonah](#)

It is the sign that Jesus would rise from the dead in three days. (Mt 12:39)

41The men of Nineveh will stand up on judgment day with the people now living. And the Ninevites will prove that these people are guilty. The men of Nineveh turned away from their sins when Jonah preached to them. And now something more important than Jonah is here.

42The Queen of the South will stand up on judgment day with the people now living. And she will prove that they are guilty. She came from very far away to listen to Solomon's wisdom. And now something more important than Solomon is here.

43"What happens when an evil spirit comes out of a person? It goes through dry areas looking for a place to rest. But it doesn't find it. **44**Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives there, it finds the house empty. The house has been swept clean and put in order.

45Then the evil spirit goes and takes with it seven other spirits more evil than itself. They go in and live there. That person is worse off than before. That is how it will be with the evil people of today."

Jesus' Mother and Brothers

46While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside. They wanted to speak to him. **47**Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside. They want to speak to you."

48Jesus replied to him, "Who is my mother? And who are my brothers?"

49Jesus pointed to his disciples. He said, "Here is my mother! Here are my brothers! **50**Anyone who does what my Father in heaven wants is my brother or sister or mother."

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

✿ "I have chosen him. He must direct his children to live in the way that pleases me. And he must direct the members of his family after him to do the same. So he must guide all of them in doing what is right and fair. Then I, the Lord, will do for Abraham what I have _____ him." (Ge 18:19)

✿ The LORD said, "If I find 50 _____ in the city of Sodom, I will spare it. I will spare the whole place because of them." (Ge 18:26)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

The Story of the Farmer

Matthew 13:1–30

Historical Background

Most residents of the Roman Empire farmed in the rural regions or grew livestock. The educated and privileged few ignored the common people. Jesus's parables show that He ministered for and to the common people. (Mt 13:1–9)

The Story of the Farmer

13 ¹That same day Jesus left the house and sat by the Sea of Galilee. ²Large crowds gathered around him. So he got into a boat and sat down. All the people stood on the shore.

³Then he told them many things using stories. He said, “A farmer went out to plant his seed. ⁴He scattered the seed on the ground. Some fell on a path. Birds came and ate it up.

⁵Some seed fell on rocky places, where there wasn’t much soil. The plants came up quickly, because the soil wasn’t deep.

⁶When the sun came up, it burned the plants. They dried up because they had no roots.

⁷Other seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up and crowded out the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil. It produced a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than what was planted. ⁹Whoever has ears should listen.”

¹⁰The disciples came to him. They asked, “Why do you use stories when you speak to the people?” ¹¹He replied, “Because you have been given

BibleClip

fell on a path

In Palestine, when people planted wheat and barley, they ~~sow~~ scattered the seeds by hand. However, some seeds were blown by the wind and ended up falling on a path. (Mt 13:4)

the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven. It has not been given to outsiders.

¹²Everyone who has this kind of knowledge will be given more knowledge. In fact, they will have very much. If anyone doesn’t have this kind of knowledge, even what little they have will be taken away from them. ¹³Here is why I use stories when I speak to the people. I say, “They look, but they don’t really see. They listen, but they don’t really hear or understand.”

¹⁴In them the words of the prophet Isaiah come true. He said, “You will hear but never understand. You will see but never know what you are seeing.

¹⁵The hearts of these people have become stubborn. They can barely hear with their ears. They have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes. They might hear with their ears. They might understand with their hearts. They might turn to the Lord, and then he would heal them.’(Isaiah 6:9,10)

¹⁶But blessed are your eyes because they see. And blessed are your ears because they hear. ¹⁷What I’m about to tell you is true. Many prophets and godly people wanted to see what you see. But they didn’t see it. They wanted to hear what you hear. But they didn’t hear it.

¹⁸“Listen! Here is the meaning of the story of the farmer. ¹⁹People hear the message about the kingdom but do not understand it. Then the evil one comes. He steals what was planted in their hearts. Those people are like the seed planted on a path.

²⁰The seed that fell on rocky places is like other people. They hear the message and at once receive it with joy. ²¹But they have no roots. So they last only a short time. They quickly fall away from the faith when trouble or suffering comes because of the message.

²²The seed that fell among the thorns is like others who hear the message. But then the worries of this life and the false promises of wealth crowd it out. They keep the message from producing fruit. ²³But the seed that falls on good soil is like those who hear the message and understand it. They

produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted.”

The Story of the Weeds

²⁴Jesus told the crowd another story. “Here is what the kingdom of heaven is like,” he said. “A man planted good seed in his field. ²⁵But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came. The enemy planted weeds among the wheat and then went away. ²⁶The wheat began to grow and form grain. At the same time, weeds appeared.

²⁷“The owner’s slaves came to him. They said, ‘Sir, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸“An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The slaves asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?’

²⁹“No,’ the owner answered. ‘While you are pulling up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat with them. ³⁰Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the workers what to do. Here is what I will say to them. First collect the weeds. Tie them in bundles to be burned. Then gather the wheat. Bring it into my storeroom.’”

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Bible Questions

* Lot didn’t move right away. So the men grabbed him by the hand. They also took hold of the hands of his wife and two daughters. They led all of them safely out of the city. The LORD had _____ on them. (Ge 19:16)

* “Look, here’s a town near enough to run to. It’s small. Let me run to it. It’s very small, isn’t it? Then my life will be _____. ”
(Ge 19:20)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

The Kingdom of Heaven

Matthew 13:31–58

Historical Background

During the time that Jesus grew up in Nazareth, the demand for carpenters in the region grew. Nazareth had about 1,600 to 2,000 people living ~~in it~~ and was considered a small town. Because of this, most of the people knew Jesus very well. (Mt 13:53–58)

The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

13 ³¹Jesus told the crowd another story. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Someone took the seed and planted it in a field. **32**It is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is the largest of all garden plants. It becomes a tree. Birds come and rest in its branches.”

33Jesus told them still another story. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast,” he said. “A woman mixed it into 60 pounds of flour. The yeast worked its way all through the dough.”

34Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd using stories. He did not say anything to them without telling a story. **35**So the words spoken by the prophet came true. He had said, “I will open my mouth and tell stories. I will speak about things that were hidden since the world was made.”(Psalm 78:2)

Jesus Explains the Story of the Weeds

36Then Jesus left the crowd and went into the house. His disciples came to him. They said, “Explain to us the story of the weeds in the field.”

BibleClip

mustard seed

A mustard seed is very small, but ¹³the tree grows to be 3 meters high. Jesus was helping people understand the great influence that the kingdom of God has. (Mt 13:31)

37He answered, “The one who planted the good seed is the Son of Man. **38**The field is the world. The good seed stands for the people who belong to the kingdom. The weeds are the people who belong to the evil one.

39The enemy who plants them is the devil. The harvest is judgment day. And the workers are angels. **40**“The weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire. That is how it will be on judgment day.

41The Son of Man will send out his angels. They will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin. They will also get rid of all who do evil. **42**They will throw them into the blazing furnace. There people will weep and grind their teeth. **43**Then God’s people will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. Whoever has ears should listen.

The Stories of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.

45“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. **46**He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.

The Story of the Net

47“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net. It was let down into the lake. It caught all kinds of fish. **48**When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and gathered the good fish into baskets. But they threw the bad fish away.

49This is how it will be on judgment day. The angels will come. They will separate the people who did what is wrong from those who did what is right. **50**They will throw the evil people into the blazing furnace. There the evil ones will weep and grind their teeth.

BibleClip

The Son of Man

It means “son of a man” and refers to someone who does not live forever and changes, unlike God (Nu 23:19). When Jesus used this expression, it was a title that emphasized humanity. (Mt 13:37)

L 39 29 32 46 22

⁵¹“Do you understand all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. ⁵²He said to them, “Every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house. He brings new treasures out of his storeroom as well as old ones.”

A Prophet Without Honor

⁵³Jesus finished telling these stories. Then he moved on from there. ⁵⁴He came to his hometown of Nazareth. There he began teaching the people in their synagogue. They were amazed. “Where did this man get this wisdom? Where did he get this power to do miracles?” they asked.

⁵⁵“Isn’t this the carpenter’s son? Isn’t his mother’s name Mary? Aren’t his brothers James, Joseph, Simon and Judas? ⁵⁶Aren’t all his sisters with us? Then where did this man get all these things?”

⁵⁷They were not pleased with him at all. But Jesus said to them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own town and in his own home.” ⁵⁸He did only a few miracles in Nazareth because the people there had no faith.

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Bible Questions

* The _____ is like treasure that was hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went and sold everything he had. And he bought that field. (Mt 13:44)

* He did only a few miracles in Nazareth because the people there had _____. (Mt 13:58)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

21

JAN

Herod's Birthday

Matthew 14:1–21

Historical Background

Bread and fish are the basic diet in Palestine. Meat was too expensive, and people only ate it during feast times. In general, a teacher was not responsible to feed his disciples. (Mt 14)

John the Baptist's Head Is Cut Off

14 ¹At that time Herod, the ruler of Galilee and Perea, heard reports about Jesus. ²He said to his attendants, "This is John the Baptist. He has risen from the dead! That is why he has the power to do miracles."

³Herod had arrested John. He had tied him up and put him in prison because of Herodias. She was the wife of Herod's brother Philip. ⁴John had been saying to Herod, "It is against the Law for you to have her as your wife." ⁵Herod wanted to kill John. But he was afraid of the people, because they thought John was a prophet.

⁶On Herod's birthday the daughter of Herodias danced for Herod and his guests. She pleased Herod very much. ⁷So he promised to give her anything she asked for. ⁸Her mother told her what to say. So the girl said to Herod, "Give me the head of John the Baptist on a big plate."

⁹The king was very upset. But he thought of his promise and his dinner guests. So he told one of his men to give her what she asked for. ¹⁰He-

BibleClip

Herod, the ruler of Galilee and Perea

This title is also known as "tetrarch", which means "someone who rules 1/4 of a nation". It refers to a regional king who ruled a part of Roman colony. The Herod in this passage is Herod Antipas, who ruled after Herod the Great and ruled over Galilee and Perea. (Mt 14:1)

rod had John's head cut off in the prison.

¹¹His head was brought in on a big plate and given to the girl. She then carried it to her mother. ¹²John's disciples came and took his body and buried it. Then they went and told Jesus.

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

¹³Jesus heard what had happened to John. He wanted to be alone. So he went in a boat to a quiet place. The crowds heard about this. They followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus came ashore, he saw a large crowd. He felt deep concern for them. He healed their sick people.

¹⁵When it was almost evening, the disciples came to him. "There is nothing here," they said. "It's already getting late. Send the crowds away. They can go and buy some food in the villages."

¹⁶Jesus replied, "They don't need to go away. You give them something to eat." ¹⁷"We have only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered. ¹⁸"Bring them here to me," he said.

¹⁹Then Jesus directed the people to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up to heaven and gave thanks. He broke the loaves into pieces. Then he gave them to the disciples. And the disciples gave them to the people.

²⁰All of them ate and were satisfied. The disciples picked up ¹²baskets of leftover pieces. ²¹The number of men who ate was about 5,000. Women and children also ate.

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Bible Questions

* Then God spoke to him in the dream. He said, "Yes, I know you had no idea you were doing anything wrong. So I have kept you from _____ against me. That is why I did not let you touch her." (Ge 20:6)

* Then Abraham _____ to God. And God healed Abimelech. He also healed his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again. (Ge 20:17)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

22
JAN

Jesus Walks on the Water

Matthew 14:22-36

Historical Background

Jesus becomes the center of attention when he enters into Herod's territory. Jesus's healing ministry was much broader than merely healing individuals. (Mt 14:34-36)

Jesus Walks on the Water

14 ²²Right away Jesus made the disciples get into the boat. He had them go on ahead of him to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Then he sent the crowd away. ²³After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone.

²⁴The boat was already a long way from land. It was being pounded by the waves because the wind was blowing against it. ²⁵Shortly before dawn, Jesus went out to the disciples. He walked on the lake.

²⁶They saw him walking on the lake and were terrified. "It's a ghost!" they said. And they cried out in fear. ²⁷Right away Jesus called out to them, "Be brave! It is I. Don't be afraid."

²⁸"Lord, is it you?" Peter asked. "If it is, tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹"Come," Jesus said. So Peter got out of the boat. He walked on the water toward Jesus.

³⁰But when Peter saw the wind, he was afraid. He began to sink. He cried out, "Lord! Save me!" ³¹Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "Your faith is so small!" he said. "Why did you doubt me?"

BibleClip

Shortly before dawn

It refers to the time between 3 AM and 6 AM. (Mt 14:25)

32When they climbed into the boat, the wind died down.

33Then those in the boat worshiped Jesus. They said, “You really are the Son of God!” **34**They crossed over the lake and landed at Gennesaret.

35The men who lived there recognized Jesus. So they sent a message all over the nearby countryside. People brought all those who were sick to Jesus. **36**They begged him to let those who were sick just touch the edge of his clothes. And all who touched his clothes were healed.



“Why did you doubt me?” (14:31)

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* After he had sent them away, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there _____. (Mt 14:23)

* Right away Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “Your faith is so small!” he said. “Why did you _____ me? (Mt 14:36)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

23
JAN

Your Own Teachings

Matthew 15:1–20

Historical Background

The teachings of the elders were rules made by the Jews. They thought the Law of Moses only taught principles and that they needed specific rules ~~to apply to~~ everyday life. After the Babylonian captivity, famous rabbis kept on with this tradition.

What Makes People “Unclean”?

15 ¹Some Pharisees and some teachers of the law came from Jerusalem to see Jesus. They asked, **2**“Why don’t your disciples obey what the elders teach? Your disciples don’t wash their hands before they eat!”

3Jesus replied, “And why don’t you obey God’s command? You would rather follow your own teachings! **4**God said, ‘Honor your father and mother.’ (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16) He also said, ‘Anyone who asks for bad things to happen to their father or mother must be put to death.’ (Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9)

5But suppose people have something that might be used to help their parents. You allow them to say it is instead ‘a gift set apart for God.’ **6**So they do not need to honor their father or mother with their gift. You make the word of God useless in order to follow your own teachings.

7You pretenders! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you. He said, **8**“These people honor me by what they say. But their hearts are far away from me. **9**Their worship doesn’t mean anything to me. They teach nothing but human rules.” (Isaiah 29:13)

10Jesus called the crowd to him. He said, “Listen and understand.

11What goes into someone's mouth does not make them 'unclean.' It's what comes out of their mouth that makes them 'unclean.'" **12**Then the disciples came to him. They asked, "Do you know that the Pharisees were angry when they heard this?"

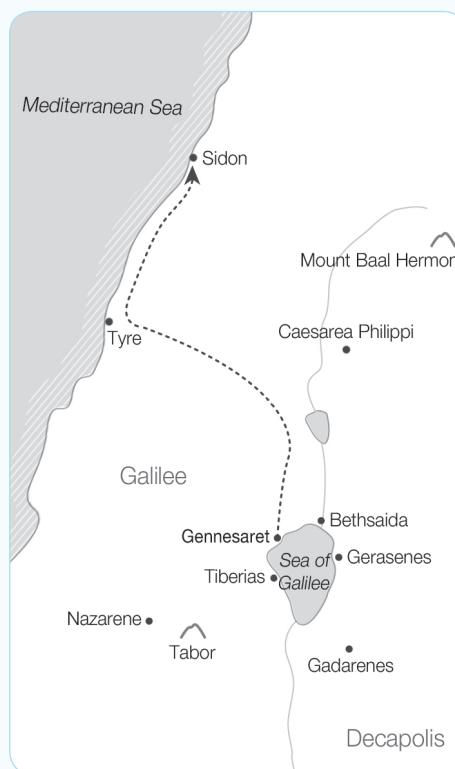
13Jesus replied, "They are plants that my Father in heaven has not planted. They will be pulled up by the roots.

14Leave the Pharisees. They are blind guides. If one blind person leads another blind person, both of them will fall into a pit."

15Peter said, "Explain this to us." **16**"Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked them.

17"Don't you see? Everything that enters the mouth goes into the stomach. Then it goes out of the body. **18**But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart. Those are the things that make someone 'unclean.'

19Evil thoughts come out of a person's heart. So do murder, adultery, and other sexual sins. And so do stealing, false witness, and telling lies about others. **20**Those are the things that make you 'unclean.' But eating without washing your hands does not make you 'unclean.'"



Ministry of Jesus in Land of Gentile (Mt 15)

Bible Questions

- ❖ So Abraham named that place The LORD Will _____. To this day people say, "It will be provided on the mountain of the LORD." (Ge 22:14)
- ❖ All nations on earth will be blessed because of your children. All these things will happen because you have _____ me." (Ge 22:18)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

24

JAN

The Faith of a Woman

Matthew 15:21–39

Historical Background

The Canannites were pushed to the northern regions during Israelite Conquest and were despised the most among all of Israel's enemies recorded in the Old Testament. (Mt 15:21-28)

The Faith of a Woman From Canaan

15 ²¹Jesus left Galilee and went to the area of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A woman from Canaan lived near Tyre and Sidon. She came to him and cried out, “Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on me! A demon controls my daughter. She is suffering terribly.”

²³Jesus did not say a word. So his disciples came to him. They begged him, “Send her away. She keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴Jesus answered, “I was sent only to the people of Israel. They are like lost sheep.”

²⁵Then the woman fell to her knees in front of him. “Lord! Help me!” she said. ²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and throw it to the dogs.”

²⁷“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their owner’s table.” ²⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! You will be given what you are asking for.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

BibleClip

A woman from Canaan

The woman from Canaan descended from the Syrophenicians and was a Persian living in Syria. Because Matthew was writing to Jewish readers, he used the names of the regions before Persia had conquered and changed the names. (Mt 15:22)

Jesus Feeds Four Thousand

²⁹Jesus left there. He walked along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. ³⁰Large crowds came to him. They brought blind people and those who could not walk. They also brought disabled people, those who could not speak, and many others. They laid them at his feet, and he healed them.

³¹The people were amazed. Those who could not speak were speaking. The disabled were made well. Those not able to walk were walking. Those who were blind could see. So the people praised the God of Israel.

³²Then Jesus called for his disciples to come to him. He said, “I feel deep concern for these people. They have already been with me three days. They don’t have anything to eat. I don’t want to send them away hungry. If I do, they will become too weak on their way home.”

³³His disciples answered him. “There is nothing here,” they said. “Where could we get enough bread to feed this large crowd?” ³⁴“How many loaves do you have?” Jesus asked. “Seven,” they replied, “and a few small fish.”

³⁵Jesus told the crowd to sit down on the ground. ³⁶He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks. Then he broke them and gave them to the disciples. And the disciples passed them out to the people.

³⁷All of them ate and were satisfied. After that, the disciples picked up seven baskets of leftover pieces. ³⁸The number of men who ate was 4,000. Women and children also ate. ³⁹After Jesus had sent the crowd away, he got into the boat. He went to the area near Magadan.

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

- * "Sir, listen to us. You are _____ among us. Bury your wife in the best place we have to bury our dead. None of us will refuse to sell you a place to bury her." (Ge 23:6)
- * So the field and the cave that was in it were _____ Abraham by the Hittites. The property became a place to bury those who died in his family. (Ge 23:20)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

25
JAN

Jesus Is Asked for a Sign

Matthew 16

Historical Background

Protecting the key was the most important task for a family servant. In a state with a king or queen an official stored the key, and the same was the case for the temple. (Mt 16:19)

Jesus Is Asked for a Sign

16 ¹The Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Jesus. They asked him to show them a sign from heaven. ²He replied, "In the evening you look at the sky. You say, 'It will be good weather. The sky is red.'

³And in the morning you say, 'Today it will be stormy. The sky is red and cloudy.' You know the meaning of what you see in the sky. But you can't understand the signs of what is happening right now. ⁴An evil and unfaithful people look for a sign. But none will be given to them except the sign of Jonah." Then Jesus left them and went away.

BibleClip

sign

It refers to a wonder that testifies a transcendent truth in a real world event, and it means "sign, indication, signal". (Mt 16:1)

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

⁵The disciples crossed over to the other side of the lake. They had forgotten to take bread. ⁶"Be careful," Jesus said to them. "Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees." ⁷The disciples talked about this among themselves. They said, "He must be saying this because we didn't bring any bread."

8Jesus knew what they were saying. So he said, "Your faith is so small! Why are you talking to each other about having no bread? 9Don't you understand yet? Don't you remember the five loaves for the 5,000? Don't you remember how many baskets of pieces you gathered?"

10Don't you remember the seven loaves for the 4,000? Don't you remember how many baskets of pieces you gathered?

11How can you possibly not understand? I wasn't talking to you about bread. But watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees."

12Then the disciples understood that Jesus was not telling them to watch out for the yeast used in bread. He was warning them against what the Pharisees and Sadducees taught.

Peter Says That Jesus Is the Messiah

13Jesus went to the area of Caesarea Philippi. There he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" 14They replied, "Some say John the Baptist. Others say Elijah. Still others say Jeremiah, or one of the prophets."

15"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah. You are the Son of the living God."

17Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon, son of Jonah! No mere human showed this to you. My Father in heaven showed it to you. 18Here is what I tell you. You are Peter. On this rock I will build my church. The gates of hell will not be strong enough to destroy it.

19I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven." 20Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone

BibleClip

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees

"The yeast of the Pharisees" refers to a rebuke of those who don't truly obey God in their hearts and actions, but try to follow man's rules and laws instead. "The yeast of the Sadducees" refers to a rebuke of those who only accept the Pentateuch as Scripture and are satisfied with secular lives and pleasures of this world. (Mt 16:6)

that he was the Messiah.

Jesus Speaks About His Coming Death

21From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples what would happen to him. He told them he must go to Jerusalem. There he must suffer many things from the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law. He must be killed and on the third day rise to life again.

22Peter took Jesus to one side and began to scold him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This will never happen to you!" 23Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are standing in my way. You do not have in mind the things God cares about. Instead, you only have in mind the things humans care about."

24Then Jesus spoke to his disciples. He said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me. 25Whoever wants to save their life will lose it. But whoever loses their life for me will find it.

26What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses their soul? Or what can anyone trade for their soul? 27The Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory. His angels will come with him. And he will reward everyone in keeping with what they have done.

28"What I'm about to tell you is true. Some who are standing here will not die before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

❖ Simon Peter answered, "You are the _____. You are the Son of the living God." (Mt 16:16)

❖ I will give you the keys to the _____. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven." (Mt 16:19)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

26
JAN

Jesus' Appearance

Matthew 17

Historical Background

The fear of the disciples is like the regular reaction of those who received God's revelation in the Old Testament and the Late Jewish traditions. (Mt 17:6-8)

Jesus' Appearance Is Changed

17 ¹After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John the brother of James with him. He led them up a high mountain. They were all alone. ²There in front of them his appearance was changed. His face shone like the sun. His clothes became as white as the light.

³Just then Moses and Elijah appeared in front of them. Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus. ⁴Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters. One will be for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

⁵While Peter was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them. A voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, and I love him. I am very pleased with him. Listen to him!" ⁶When the disciples heard this, they were terrified. They fell with their faces to the ground.

⁷But Jesus came and touched them. "Get up," he said. "Don't be afraid." ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus. ⁹They came down the mountain. On the way down, Jesus told them what to do. "Don't tell anyone what you have seen," he said. "Wait until the Son of

BibleClip

shelters

It refers to "tent" or "tabernacle". The Arabs during this time would set up tents if someone special would visit. It was a symbol of honor and reverence(2Ki 4:9,10). (Mt 17:4)

Man has been raised from the dead.”

10The disciples asked him, “Why do the teachers of the law say that Elijah has to come first?” **11**Jesus replied, “That’s right. Elijah is supposed to come and make all things new again.

12But I tell you, Elijah has already come. People didn’t recognize him. They have done to him everything they wanted to do. In the same way, they are going to make the Son of Man suffer.” **13**Then the disciples understood that Jesus was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Jesus Heals a Boy Who Is Controlled by a Demon

14When they came near the crowd, a man approached Jesus. He got on his knees in front of him. **15**“Lord,” he said, “have mercy on my son. He shakes wildly and suffers a great deal. He often falls into the fire or into the water. **16**I brought him to your disciples. But they couldn’t heal him.”

17“You unbelieving and evil people!” Jesus replied. “How long do I have to stay with you? How long do I have to put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” **18**Jesus ordered the demon to leave the boy, and it came out of him. He was healed at that moment. **19**Then the disciples came to Jesus in private. They asked, “Why couldn’t we drive out the demon?”

20-21He replied, “Because your faith is much too small. What I’m about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there.’ And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

Jesus Speaks a Second Time About His Coming Death

22They came together in Galilee. Then Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be handed over to men. **23**They will kill him. On the third day he will rise from the dead.” Then the disciples were filled with deep sadness.

Jesus Pays the Temple Tax

24Jesus and his disciples arrived in Capernaum. There the people who collect the temple tax came to Peter. They asked him, “Doesn’t your

teacher pay the temple tax?”

25“Yes, he does,” he replied. When Peter came into the house, Jesus spoke first. “What do you think, Simon?” he asked. “Who do the kings of the earth collect taxes and fees from? Do they collect them from their own children or from others?”

26“From others,” Peter answered. “Then the children don’t have to pay,” Jesus said to him. **27**“But we don’t want to make them angry. So go to the lake and throw out your fishing line. Take the first fish you catch. Open its mouth. There you will find the exact coin you need. Take it and give it to them for my tax and yours.”

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* He said, “I praise the LORD, the God of my master Abraham. The LORD hasn’t stopped being _____ to my master. The LORD has led me on this journey. He has brought me to the house of my master’s relatives.” (Ge 24:27)

* Suppose she says, “Have a drink of water, and I’ll get some for your camels too.” Then let her be the one the LORD has _____ for my master’s son. (Ge 24:44)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

27
JAN

The Most Important Person

Matthew 18

⌚ Historical Background

The rabbis of the time taught forgiving a brother three times. In today's passage, Peter speaks of forgiving seven times because ~~seven~~ was the perfect number. However, Jesus teaches Peter to forgive "not seven times, but ~~7~~ times" to show a boundless forgiveness. (Mt 18:21-22)

~~seven~~ - seven
~~unlimited~~

Who Is the Most Important Person in the Kingdom?

18 ¹At that time the disciples came to Jesus. They asked him, "Then who is the most important person in the kingdom of heaven?" Jesus called a little child over to him. He had the child stand among them.

³Jesus said, "What I'm about to tell you is true. You need to change and become like little children. If you don't, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Anyone who takes the humble position of this child is the most important in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵Anyone who welcomes a little child like this one in my name welcomes me."

Do Not Cause People to Sin

⁶"What if someone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin? If they do, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and be drowned at the bottom of the sea.

⁷How terrible it will be for the world because of the things that cause people to sin! Things like that must come. But how

BibleClip

the things that cause people to sin

In this passage, it speaks of a mistake or a thing that causes sin. In NIV translation, the word "stumble" is used to show an event that causes one to fall into sin. (Mt 18:7)

terrible for the person who causes them!

⁸If your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It would be better to enter the kingdom of heaven with only one hand than go into hell with two hands. It would be better to enter the kingdom of heaven with only one foot than go into hell with two feet. In hell the fire burns forever.

⁹If your eye causes you to sin, poke it out and throw it away. It would be better to enter the kingdom of heaven with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

The Story of the Wandering Sheep

¹⁰⁻¹¹"See that you don't look down on one of these little ones. Here is what I tell you. Their angels in heaven are always with my Father who is in heaven.

¹²"What do you think? Suppose a man owns 100 sheep and one of them wanders away. Won't he leave the 99 sheep on the hills? Won't he go and look for the one that wandered off?

¹³What I'm about to tell you is true. If he finds that sheep, he is happier about the one than about the 99 that didn't wander off. ¹⁴It is the same with your Father in heaven. He does not want any of these little ones to die.

When Someone Sins Against You

¹⁵"If your brother or sister sins against you, go to them. Tell them what they did wrong. Keep it between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them back. ¹⁶But what if they won't listen to you? Then take one or two others with you. Scripture says, 'Every matter must be proved by the words of two or three witnesses.' (Deuteronomy 19:15)

¹⁷But what if they also refuse to listen to the witnesses? Then tell it to the church. And what if they refuse to listen even to the church? Then don't treat them as a brother or sister. Treat them as you would treat an ungodly person or a tax collector.

18“What I’m about to tell you is true. What you lock on earth will be locked in heaven. What you unlock on earth will be unlocked in heaven.

19“Again, here is what I tell you. Suppose two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for. My Father in heaven will do it for you. **20**Where two or three people gather in my name, I am there with them.”

The Servant Who Had No Mercy

21Peter came to Jesus. He asked, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” **22**Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.

23“The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. **24**As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him.

25The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed. **26**“Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’

27His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go. **28**“But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said. **29**“The other servant fell on his knees. ‘Give me time,’ he begged him. ‘I’ll pay it back.’

30“But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed. **31**The other servants saw what had happened and were very angry. They went and told their master everything that had happened.

BibleClip

10,000 bags of gold

One Talent or 1 bag of gold was worth about 6,000 denari. One denarius was the day's wage for a laborer. One talent or 1 bag of gold was 16 years worth of wages. Ten thousand talents or 10,000 bags of gold would be like 16,000 years of wages. The tax the Jewish government collected was about 800 talents, or 800 bags of gold. (Mt 18:24)

↳ a year?

32“Then the master called the first servant in. ‘You evil servant,’ he said. ‘I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. **33**Shouldn’t you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?’

34In anger his master handed him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed. **35**“This is how my Father in heaven will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

- * Laban and Bethuel answered, “_____ all of this. We can’t say anything to you one way or the other.” (Ge 24:50)
- * But he said to them, “Don’t make me wait. The LORD has given me _____ on my journey. Send me on my way so I can go to my master.” (Ge 24:56)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

28
JAN

The Eye of a Needle

Matthew 19

Historical Background

In orthodox Judaism, the thought that a rich man ~~can't~~^{your} go to heaven was never denied. This was because the Jewish leaders and a large number of patrons were in this wealthy class. Jesus stated that the rich man can go to heaven by God's mercy, but he also taught that the rich should share their wealth with the poor. (Mt 19:20-30)

Jesus Teaches About Divorce

19 ¹When Jesus finished saying these things, he left Galilee. He went into the area of Judea on the other side of the Jordan River. ²Large crowds followed him. He healed them there. ³Some Pharisees came to test Jesus. They asked, "Does the Law allow a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

⁴Jesus replied, "Haven't you read that in the beginning the Creator 'made them male and female'? (Genesis 1:27) ⁵He said, 'That's why a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. The two will become one.' (Genesis 2:24)

⁶They are no longer two, but one. So no one should separate what God has joined together." ⁷They asked, "Then why did Moses command that a man can give his wife a letter of divorce and send her away?"

⁸Jesus replied, "Moses let you divorce your wives because you were stubborn. But it was not this way from the beginning. ⁹Here is what I tell you. Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery. A man may divorce his wife only if she has not been faithful to him."

¹⁰Here is what the disciples said to him. "If that's the way it is between a husband and wife, it is better not to get married." ¹¹Jesus replied, "Not

everyone can accept the idea of staying single. Only those who have been helped to live without getting married can accept it.

¹²Some men are not able to have children because they were born that way. Some have been made that way by other people. Others have chosen to live that way in order to serve the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it."

Little Children Are Brought to Jesus

¹³Some people brought little children to Jesus. They wanted him to place his hands on the children and pray for them. But the disciples told them not to do it.

¹⁴Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of heaven belongs to people like them." ¹⁵Jesus placed his hands on them to bless them. Then he went on from there.

Rich People and the Kingdom of God

¹⁶Just then, a man came up to Jesus. He asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to receive eternal life?" ¹⁷"Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only one who is good. If you want to enter the kingdom, obey the commandments."

¹⁸"Which ones?" the man asked. Jesus said, "'Do not murder. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not be a false witness. ¹⁹Honor your father and mother.' (Exodus 20:12–16; Deuteronomy 5:16–20) And 'love your neighbor as you love yourself.'" (Leviticus 19:18)

²⁰"I have obeyed all those commandments," the young man said. "What else do I need to do?" ²¹Jesus answered, "If you want to be perfect, go and sell everything you have. Give the money to those who are poor. You will have treasure in heaven. Then come and follow me."

²²When the young man heard this, he

BibleClip

perfect

It means "finished, accomplished, no more needed for completion". Jesus used this expression when he stated at the cross that "it is finished." (Mt 19:21)

went away sad. He was very rich. **23**Then Jesus said to his disciples, “What I’m about to tell you is true. It is hard for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of heaven. **24**Again I tell you, it is hard for a camel to go through the eye of a needle. But it is even harder for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.”

25When the disciples heard this, they were really amazed. They asked, “Then who can be saved?” **26**Jesus looked at them and said, “With people, this is impossible. But with God, all things are possible.”

27Peter answered him, “We have left everything to follow you! What reward will be given to us?” **28**“What I’m about to tell you is true,” Jesus said to them. “When all things are made new, the Son of Man will sit on his glorious throne. Then you who have followed me will also sit on 12 thrones. You will judge the 12 tribes of Israel.

29Suppose anyone has left houses, brothers or sisters, father or mother, husband or wife, children or fields because of me. Anyone who has done that will receive 100 times as much. They will also receive eternal life. **30**But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first.

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* The Lord said to her, “_____ are in your body. Two tribes that are now inside you will be separated. One nation will be stronger than the other. The older son will serve the younger one.” (Ge 25:23)

* Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. Esau ate and drank. Then he got up and left. So Esau didn’t value _____ that belonged to him as the oldest son. (Ge 25:34)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

29
JAN

The Story of the Workers

Matthew 20

Historical Background

Jewish law said the worker was to be paid the day he worked. This was because these workers were very poor and needed the money to buy what they needed for that day. (Mt 20:1-16)

The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard

20 ¹“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who owned land. He went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. ²He agreed to give them the usual pay for a day's work. Then he sent them into his vineyard.

³“About nine o'clock in the morning he went out again. He saw others standing in the market doing nothing. ⁴He told them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard. I'll pay you what is right.’ ⁵So they went. “He went out again about noon and at three o'clock and did the same thing.

⁶About five o'clock he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, ‘Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?’ ⁷“Because no one has hired us,” they answered. “He said to them, ‘You also go and work in my vineyard.’

⁸“When evening came, the owner of the vineyard spoke to the person who was in charge of the workers. He said, ‘Call the workers and give them their pay. Begin with the last ones I hired. Then go on to the first ones.’

BibleClip

The Usual Pay for a Day's Work

This refers to a denarius, which was the money used during New Testament times to pay a laborer for a day's work. A denarius weighed 3.8 grams. ^{It was made from 268 B.C. to the reign of Septimius Severus. (Mt 20:2)}

of what?
when?

⁹“The workers who were hired about five o'clock came. Each received the usual day's pay. ¹⁰So when those who were hired first came, they expected to receive more. But each of them also received the usual day's pay.

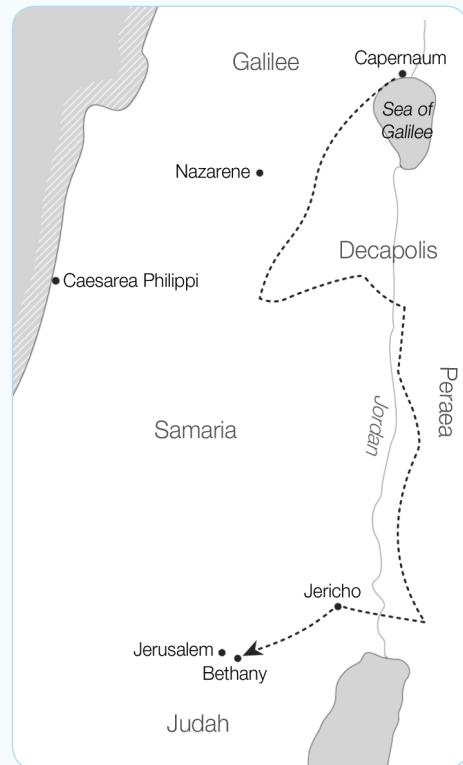
¹¹When they received it, they began to complain about the owner. ¹²‘These people who were hired last worked only one hour,’ they said. ‘You have paid them the same as us. We have done most of the work and have been in the hot sun all day.’

¹³“The owner answered one of them. ‘Friend,’ he said, ‘I'm being fair to you. Didn't you agree to work for the usual day's pay?’

¹⁴Take your money and go. I want to give the one I hired last the same pay I gave you. ¹⁵Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Do you feel cheated because I gave so freely to the others?’ ¹⁶“So those who are last will be first. And those who are first will be last.”

Jesus Speaks a Third Time About His Coming Death

¹⁷Jesus was going up to Jerusalem. On the way, he took his ¹²disciples to one side to talk to them. ¹⁸“We are going up to Jerusalem,” he said. “The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the tea-



Jesus' last journey to Jerusalem (Mt 20)

chers of the law. They will sentence him to death.

19Then they will hand him over to the Gentiles. The people will make fun of him and whip him. They will nail him to a cross. On the third day, he will rise from the dead!"

A Mother Asks a Favor of Jesus

20The mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus. Her sons came with her. Getting on her knees, she asked a favor of him. **21**"What do you want?" Jesus asked. She said,

"Promise me that one of my two sons may sit at your right hand in your kingdom. Promise that the other one may sit at your left hand." **22**"You don't know what you're asking for," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup of suffering I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered.

23Jesus said to them, "You will certainly drink from my cup. But it is not for me to say who will sit at my right or left hand. These places belong to those my Father has prepared them for." **24**The other ten disciples heard about this. They became angry at the two brothers.

25Jesus called them together. He said, "You know about the rulers of the Gentiles. They hold power over their people. Their high officials order them around. **26**Don't be like that. Instead, anyone who wants to be important among you must be your servant.

27And anyone who wants to be first must be your slave. **28**Be like the Son of Man. He did not come to be served. Instead, he came to serve others. He came to give his life as the price for setting many people free."

BibleClip

the price for setting
many people free

It means receiving another person's sin or suffering. It refers to paying the price to free a prisoner or a slave. It can also be a sacrifice that replaces the life of the person that deserves punishment according to the law. In this passage it refers to Jesus himself, who paid the wages of sin for humanity. (Mt 20:28)

Two Blind Men Receive Their Sight

29Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho. A large crowd followed

him. **30**Two blind men were sitting by the side of the road. They heard that Jesus was going by. So they shouted, "Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on us!" **31**The crowd commanded them to stop. They told them to be quiet. But the two men shouted even louder, "Lord! Son of David! Have mercy on us!"

32Jesus stopped and called out to them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. **33**"Lord," they answered, "we want to be able to see." **34**Jesus felt deep concern for them. He touched their eyes. Right away they could see. And they followed him.

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

✿ "I will do all these things because Abraham _____ me. He did everything I required. He kept my commands, my rules and my instructions." (Ge 26:5)

✿ That night the LORD appeared to him. He said, "I am the God of your father Abraham. Do not be afraid. I am with you. I will _____ you. I will increase the number of your children because of my servant Abraham." (Ge 26:24)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

30
JAN

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem

Matthew 21:1–22

Historical Background

With the cheer of "Son of David" is the recognition of Jesus's family line and the hope that he is the Messiah. (Mt 21:9)

Jesus Comes to Jerusalem as King

21 ¹As they all approached Jerusalem, they came to Bethphage. It was on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent out two disciples. ²He said to them, "Go to the village ahead of you. As soon as you get there, you will find a donkey tied up. Her colt will be with her. Untie them and bring them to me.

³If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them. The owner will send them right away." ⁴This took place so that what was spoken through the prophet would come true. It says,

⁵"Say to the city of Zion, 'See, your king comes to you. He is gentle and riding on a donkey. He is riding on a donkey's colt.'" (Zechariah 9:9) ⁶The disciples went and did what Jesus told them to do.

⁷They brought the donkey and the colt. They placed their coats on them for Jesus to sit on. ⁸A very large crowd spread their coats on the road. Others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road.

⁹Some of the people went ahead of him, and some followed. They all shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Psalm 118:26) "Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

¹⁰When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up. The people asked, "Who is this?" ¹¹The crowds answered, "This is Jesus. He is the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee."



"Hosanna to the Son of David!" (21:9)

Jesus Clears Out the Temple

¹²Jesus entered the temple courtyard. He began to drive out all those who were buying and selling there. He turned over the tables of the people who were exchanging money. He also turned over the benches of those who were selling doves.

¹³He said to them, "It is written that the Lord said, 'My house will be called a house where people can pray.' (Isaiah 56:7) But you are making it 'a den for robbers.'" (Jeremiah 7:11) ¹⁴Blind people and those who were disabled came to Jesus at the temple. There he healed them.

¹⁵The chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did. They also saw the children in the temple courtyard shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" But when they saw all this, they became angry.

¹⁶"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus. "Haven't you ever read about it in Scripture? It says, "'Lord, you have made sure that children and infants praise you.'" (Psalm 8:2) ¹⁷Then Jesus left the people and went out of the city to Bethany. He spent the night there.

Jesus Makes a Fig Tree Dry Up

¹⁸Early in the morning, Jesus was on his way back to Jerusalem. He was hungry. ¹⁹He saw a fig tree by the road. He went up to it but found nothing on it except leaves. Then he said to it,

"May you never bear fruit again!" Right away the tree dried up. ²⁰When

the disciples saw this, they were amazed. “How did the fig tree dry up so quickly?” they asked.

21Jesus replied, “What I’m about to tell you is true. You must have faith and not doubt. Then you can do what was done to the fig tree. And you can say to this mountain, ‘Go and throw yourself into the sea.’ It will be done. **22**If you believe, you will receive what you ask for when you pray.”

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* Isaac had become old. His eyes were so weak he couldn’t see anymore. One day he called for his _____ Esau. He said to him, “My son.” “Here I am,” he answered. (Ge 27:1)

* May _____ serve you. May they bow down to you. Rule over your brothers. May the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed. And may those who bless you be blessed.” (Ge 27:29)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

31
JAN

The Authority of Jesus

Matthew 21:23–46

Historical Background

The chief priest was a politician who tried to please both the Jews and the Roman government. Their popularity among the Jews could not be more than that of the Pharisees, who did not have any political power. Therefore, the chief priest had to pay attention to public opinion. (Mt 21:15)

The Authority of Jesus Is Questioned

21 **23**Jesus entered the temple courtyard. While he was teaching there, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “Who gave you this authority?”

24Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. **25**Where did John’s baptism come from? Was it from heaven? Or did it come from human authority?” They talked to one another about it. They said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’

26But what if we say, ‘From human authority’? We are afraid of the people. Everyone believes that John was a prophet.” **27**So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.” Jesus said, “Then I won’t tell you by what authority I am doing these things either.”

The Story of the Two Sons

28“What do you think about this? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’ **29**“I will not,” the son answered. But later he changed his mind and went. **30**“Then the father went to the other son. He said the same thing. The son ans-

red, ‘I will, sir.’ But he did not go.

31“Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?” “The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “What I’m about to tell you is true. Tax collectors and prostitutes will enter the kingdom of God ahead of you.

32John came to show you the right way to live. And you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. You saw this. But even then you did not turn away from your sins and believe him.

The Story of the Renters

33“Listen to another story. A man who owned some land planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it. He dug a pit for a winepress in it. He also built a lookout tower. He rented the vineyard out to some farmers. Then he moved to another place. 34When harvest time approached, he sent his slaves to the renters. He told the slaves to collect his share of the fruit.

35“But the renters grabbed his slaves. They beat one of them. They killed another. They threw stones at the third to kill him. 36Then the man sent other slaves to the renters. He sent more than he did the first time. The renters treated them the same way.

37Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said. 38“But the renters saw the son coming. They said to one another, ‘This is the one who will receive all the owner’s property someday. Come, let’s kill him. Then everything will be ours.’ 39So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard. Then they killed him.

40“When the owner of the vineyard comes back, what will he do to those renters?” 41“He will destroy those evil people,” they replied. “Then he will rent the vineyard out to other renters. They will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

42Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you ever read what the Scriptures say, ‘The stone the builders didn’t accept has become the most important stone of all. The Lord has done it. It is wonderful in our eyes’?(Psalm 118:22,23)

43“So here is what I tell you. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you. It will be given to people who will produce its fruit. 44Anyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces. But the stone will crush anyone it falls on.”

45The chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus’ stories. They knew he was talking about them. 46So they looked for a way to arrest him. But they were afraid of the crowd. The people believed that Jesus was a prophet.

Mission Accomplished 

Bible Questions

* Isaac had become old. His eyes were so weak he couldn’t see anymore. One day he called for his _____ Esau. He said to him, “My son.” “Here I am,” he answered. (Ge 27:1)

* May _____ serve you. May they bow down to you. Rule over your brothers. May the sons of your mother bow down to you. May those who curse you be cursed. And may those who bless you be blessed.” (Ge 27:29)

One Verse

Choose just one verse that stands out to you, then meditate and memorize that verse.

Thank Offerings

Write down things you are thankful for today and share with your group.

1

First Week Small Group

Follow Me

One Verse

※ Let's share the 'One Verse' that you learned something new from throughout this week.

Today's Bible Passage

Mt 4:18–22

¹In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. ²The earth didn't have any shape. And it was empty. Darkness was over the surface of the ocean. At that time, the ocean covered the earth. The Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. ³God said, "Let there be light." And there was light. ⁴God saw that the light was good. He separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light "day." He called the darkness "night." There was evening, and there was morning. It was day one.

Sharing Time

1. What are the original occupations of Peter, Andrew, James, and John?
2. What kind of life would the people, who have been called by Jesus, lead?
3. Let's share how Jesus called you.



2

Second Week Small Group

Put God's Kingdom First

One Verse

※ Let's share the 'One Verse' that you learned something new from throughout this week.

Today's Bible Passage

Mt 6:31–34

³¹So don't worry. Don't say, 'What will we eat?' Or, 'What will we drink?' Or, 'What will we wear?' ³²People who are ungodly run after all those things. Your Father who is in heaven knows that you need them. ³³But put God's kingdom first. Do what he wants you to do. Then all those things will also be given to you. ³⁴So don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Sharing Time

1. What did Jesus tell not to be concerned about in today's text?
2. What is the first thing that Christians must seek?
3. Let's share what you are concerned about and what you seek; then, let's ~~say~~ pray together regarding saving and seeking the ~~country~~ ^{I'm} ~~Kingdom~~ ^{Kingdom} and the righteousness of God, just like the words.



3

Third Week Small Group

I Will Give You Rest

One Verse

※ Let's share the 'One Verse' that you learned something new from throughout this week.

Today's Bible Passage**Mt 11:27–30**

27"My Father has given all things to me. The Father is the only one who knows the Son. And the only ones who know the Father are the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to make him known. **28**"Come to me, all you who are tired and are carrying heavy loads. I will give you rest. **29**Become my servants and learn from me. I am gentle and free of pride. You will find rest for your souls. **30**Serving me is easy, and my load is light."

Sharing Time

1. What did Jesus say to people who were weary and burdened?
2. What is the difference between our yoke and the yoke of Jesus?
3. Let's share what yoke and burdens you have to put down in front of Jesus.



4

Fourth Week Small Group

The Faith as Small as a Mustard Seed

One Verse

※ Let's share the 'One Verse' that you learned something new from throughout this week.

Today's Bible Passage**Mt 17:15–21**

15"Lord," he said, "have mercy on my son. He shakes wildly and suffers a great deal. He often falls into the fire or into the water. **16**I brought him to your disciples. But they couldn't heal him." **17**"You unbelieving and evil people!" Jesus replied. "How long do I have to stay with you? How long do I have to put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." **18**Jesus ordered the demon to leave the boy, and it came out of him. He was healed at that moment. **19**Then the disciples came to Jesus in private. They asked, "Why couldn't we drive out the demon?" **20–21**He replied, "Because your faith is much too small. What I'm about to tell you is true. If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, it is enough. You can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there.' And it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Sharing Time

1. Why couldn't the disciples treat a child with epilepsy?
2. What could a faith as small as a mustard seed do?
3. Let's share in what part of your life you need faith as small as a mustard seed.



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