



Matthew Bible study guide

A clear 6-session guide for personal study, small groups, and churches

Read Matthew as a whole before working through the sessions. Let its own structure set the agenda.

Every question sends you back to the biblical text. The guide helps you observe the passage, follow the author's argument, interpret it in context, and respond faithfully.

CHOOSE YOUR DEPTH

- Short: Read the book overview and discuss the first and final question in a session.
- Study: Work through all 6 sessions and answer each question from the passage.
- Deep: Open the free chapter commentary and dictionary links while you study.

protos-app.com/commentary/matthew

Matthew at a glance

BIG IDEA

Matthew demonstrates that Jesus of Nazareth is the long-awaited Messiah, the king of Israel, who fulfills the Old Testament promises yet turns the expectation of his contemporaries on its head. [1]

HISTORICAL SETTING

Author: Matthew (also known as Levi), one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Date: Likely sometime between AD 65 and 80. Setting: Written at a time in which early Christians were struggling to make sense of the relationship of their new beliefs to the Jewish faith. [1]

HOW TO READ THIS BOOK

Read this Gospel as a coherent witness to Jesus. Notice scene order, repeated questions, fulfillment, conflict, and the movement toward the cross and resurrection.

MAJOR THEMES

- To demonstrate that Jesus is the Messiah and to help Christians understand how to live in relation to Judaism
- The book's literary movement and central claims
- Faithful response within the people of God
- Hope, judgment, grace, and obedience in their proper context

INTERPRETIVE CARE

- Read each episode in the Gospel's unfolding portrait of Jesus.
- Do not turn miracles or encounters into techniques readers are promised they can reproduce.

Matthew 1-6

172 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Herod · Joseph · Bethlehem · Galilee · Uzziah

Questions

- Before anyone explains it, walk through what actually happens here. Who does what, in what order?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Uzziah turns up in this section. What does the passage actually show, as opposed to what you already assumed?
- The word kingdom is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What did the writer choose to include here, and why that detail?
- Where does this cut against something you already believe or already do?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Matthew 7-11

173 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · John · Pharisees · Scribes · Sodom · Matthew

Questions

- Tell the story back in your own words. What is easy to skip over?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- Read this section from where Matthew was standing. What changes?
- Define kingdom from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- This is a story, not a lesson with a moral attached. What is it showing rather than telling?
- What would actually be different this week if you took this seriously?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Matthew 12-15

183 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Sabbath · John · Pharisees · David · Herodias

Questions

- What happens in this section that you would struggle to explain to someone who has never read it?
- Which single verse carries the weight of this section?
- What is left unsaid that you expected to be said?
- What does the writer tell us about Herodias, and what is deliberately left out?
- Where else have you heard kingdom used, and is it being used that way here?
- Whose perspective are we given, and whose are we denied?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this, and what stops you saying it?

[Stuck on a word or name? Open the free Bible dictionary.](#)

NOTES AND PRAYER

Matthew 16-21

198 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Peter · Elijah · Jerusalem · John · Jonah

Questions

- Read it once more, slowly. What do you notice the second time that you missed the first?
- Where does the tone shift, and what causes it?
- What question does this section answer that you had not thought to ask?
- What would this section sound like if Jonah were telling it?
- The word kingdom is doing real work here. What did you assume it meant, and does the passage agree?
- What would you have written differently if you wanted to make a point?
- What is the hardest thing in this passage to accept, and why that one?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Matthew 22-25

181 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Scribes · Pharisees · David · Moses · Noah

Questions

- If this were the only part of the book you had, what would you conclude about Jesus?
- What does the writer repeat? Repetition is usually the point, not a habit.
- What surprised you, or what did you have to read twice?
- Noah turns up in this section. What does the passage actually show, as opposed to what you already assumed?
- Define woe from this passage alone, without reaching for what you already know.
- What did the writer choose to include here, and why that detail?
- If this is true, what have you been getting wrong?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Matthew 26-28

161 verses. Read it aloud together before anyone talks about it.

Who and what appears

Jesus · Peter · Pilate · Elders · Barabbas · Galilee

Questions

- Where does the pace change here, and what is the writer slowing down for?
- Who is being addressed here, and what do they already know that we do not?
- What is assumed rather than argued? Those assumptions are often the real claim.
- Read this section from where Pilate was standing. What changes?
- Where else have you heard governor used, and is it being used that way here?
- This is a story, not a lesson with a moral attached. What is it showing rather than telling?
- What would you want to be reminded of from this section in six months?

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NOTES AND PRAYER

Sources, method, and reuse

Protos created this guide to help readers understand Matthew in its literary and historical context. Questions are designed to be answered from the passage, not from guesswork or personal opinion alone.

REFERENCES

[1] Tyndale Open Study Notes

Tyndale House Publishers. Book background, purpose, setting, and structural orientation. CC BY-SA 4.0.

<https://tyndaleopenresources.com/>

[2] Protos study guide editorial

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A Bible dictionary, 1,129 entries [__protos-app.com/bible-dictionary](https://protos-app.com/bible-dictionary)

Printable Bible reading plans [__protos-app.com/reading-plans](https://protos-app.com/reading-plans)

Protos is also available on iPhone and Android, with verse-by-verse study help beside the passage you are reading.

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