

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF MATTHEW

Our goal is to:

- Encounter Jesus through His word and therefore worship Him with our lives.
- Let the study of the text—not our personal feelings or ideas— inform us of its meaning.

Before you begin your personal study:

- Pray.
- Read the entire passage once; then read it again to answer the study questions.

As you meet with your discussion group or cohort:

- Share what happened in your life as a result of obeying and applying the text from our last study.
- Start with prayer; then read the text aloud.
- Discuss the answers to the study questions. Make sure you get to Application!

OBSERVATION

1. What is the setting of this passage (region/city, time of day/year, etc.)? Is there anything that stands out to you regarding the setting?
2. Who are the characters, and how did they respond to Jesus in this passage?
3. What are the major events, and does any one of them seem most significant? Is there a conflict? If so, how is it resolved?
4. What, if anything, surprised you about what Jesus said or did?
5. What repeated words, phrases, images, or ideas do you see in the passage?
6. Look up the meaning or biblical usage of any words you don't understand that might help deepen your understanding of the passage.
7. What is the author's emphasis in this passage?

INTERPRETATION

8. Historical Context (the circumstances of the initial audience): What aspects of first-century Jewish culture seem relevant to this passage?

9. Biblical Context: Does this passage remind you of anything else in the Bible (through direct citation, cross-referencing, allusion, or references to historical events)?
10. Literary Context: How does this passage connect to the passages immediately preceding and following it, especially through recurring words and themes? Why do you think Matthew might have arranged it this way?
11. Are there any parts of the passage that you have struggled to understand or accept or have been tempted to skip over?
12. Given your study so far, how would you concisely articulate the main idea of this passage?

APPLICATION

13. Imagine that you're an eyewitness to the events described in this text. What do you see about Jesus that elicits worship? How does that worship change you?
14. Is there a specific verse, idea, or phrase that stirs love and worship of God in your heart?
15. What's your response to what Jesus is saying and doing in this passage? Has God shown you anything new, different, or impactful?
16. Which promise, command, or example to follow or avoid stands out to you?
17. God sovereignly and lovingly ordained for you to study *this passage, this week*. Ask Him what action steps He wants you to take and for His grace and power to obey.
18. Does anything in this passage inspire a creative response in the form of a poem, song, artwork, personal essay, or other form of expression? If you do create something in response, please consider sharing it with your group.