

# JESUS CHRIST

MATTHEW 8-16

# JESUS CHRIST – MATTHEW 8-16

Week	Passage	Theme
1	Matthew 8:1-9:34	What Kind of Man is This?
2	Matthew 9:35-10:42	The Lord's Mission
3	Matthew 11:1-30	Come to the Father through the Son
4	Matthew 12:1-50	Something Greater is Here
5	Matthew 13:1-52	Kingdom Parables
6	Matthew 13:53-14:12	Blinded by Unbelief
7	Matthew 14:13-33	Recognising the Son of God
8	Matthew 14:34-15:39	Unexpected Followers
9	Matthew 16:1-12	Watch Out!
10	Matthew 16:13-28	The Unexpected Messiah

**We want to encourage each other to be on mission to our non-Christian friends, family and contacts.**

Who are you on mission to?

Make a list and start praying for them (and yourself).

**Pray for three friends, once a week, for one minute (3-1-1).**

List the names of your family and friends here:

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# TERM 1 - 2019

## How to use this book:

### 1. PERSONAL READING

- Use this guide to help you read your Bible every day.
- Scribble down your thoughts and questions each day, and remember to pray and ask God to speak to you by His Spirit, through His word.

### 2. GROWTH GROUPS

- Take this guide with you to your Growth Group each week so you can write down prayer points that come from the study that week and prayer requests from the members of your group.
- Let your group know who you are on mission to.

### 3. CHURCH

- Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.
- Scribble down sermon notes in the space provided.

**SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:**

**[www.evchurch.info/series](http://www.evchurch.info/series)**

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# INTRODUCTION: MATTHEW 8-16

## Authorship and Date

**This account is written by Matthew, the former tax collector who followed Jesus and became one of His 12 disciples (Matt. 9:9-13). Matthew's gospel is a reliable Apostolic testimony of the life and teaching of Jesus. It relies heavily on Mark's gospel, which is based on Peter's testimony, and was written somewhere between 50-70AD. As a Galilean Jewish Christian, Matthew was well positioned to interpret the words and actions of Jesus in light of Old Testament messianic expectations.**

## Purpose and Audience

Unlike many of Paul's letters, Matthew makes no explicit statement about his purpose in writing. However, some key themes help us understand his implicit purpose in writing. These themes include:

- Jesus is the true Messiah, Immanuel (God incarnate with His people), the Son of God, the King of Israel, and the Lord of the Church (1:1, 23; 2:2; 14:33; 16:16; 18:20; 21:5-9).
- Jesus is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, expectations and the Law itself (1:1-17, 22-23; 2:4-5, 15, 17, 23; 5:17-20).
- Jesus is the culmination of Israel's salvation hopes, but in Jesus, salvation is now available to the Gentiles also (10:5-6; 28:19).
- Jesus establishes a new community of those who have faith in Him, bringing together Jews and Gentiles as one united people of God (11:27-28; 16:18-19; 28:19).
- The church is built by Jesus and is maintained by His continuing presence (16:18; 18:15-20; 22:10; 28:20).
- Jesus gives His disciples the "Great Commission" of being disciple-making disciples. (28:19).
- God reveals and hides the truth of who Jesus is (11:25; 13:11; 16:17).

There are five sections of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's gospel. They describe what it means to live a life of obedience to Jesus (see chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18-20; 24-25).

In light of these themes, it seems Matthew's purpose in writing was to evangelise his fellow Jews, convincing them that Jesus was their true Messiah who brings God's long-awaited salvation. But he also shows the salvation Jesus brings is available to all people regardless of race or background.

In Jesus, a new people of God is established, for He unifies Jews and Gentiles together as one. His promise to this new people is that He will continue to be present among them until the very end. Because of this promise, they are to hear and heed His teaching about what it will mean to be His disciple-making disciples – despite the inevitable opposition they will face.

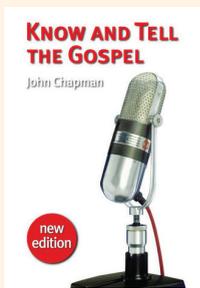
This term we will look at chapters 8-16, which demonstrate Jesus' authoritative position as the Son of Man (see 9:6), the Son of God (see 11:27), and the Messiah (see 16:16). Not only is He the true people of God but, by faith, we can be joined into this community of which He is the head (see 9:2, 15:24-28). A community characterised by their dependence on God, shown by their faith in His authority, and sober humility and recognition of their own sin. The vast range and scope of these chapters will challenge us with His overwhelming authority over all things including our individual lives as His disciples. Not only this, but as we see that our King is shaped by a mission to the cross, He commands His disciples to also be sacrificial servants of the Kingdom of God.

## Suggested Reading



### Honest Evangelism: How to talk about Jesus even when it's tough by Rico Tice

Hostility or hunger – these are the responses to the message of Jesus. The first is painful, the second is wonderful, and Rico Tice is honest about both. Short, clear, realistic and humorous, this book will challenge you to be honest in your conversations about Jesus, help you to know how to talk about him, and thrill you that God can and will use ordinary people to change eternal destinies.



### Know and Tell the Gospel by John Chapman

Clearly explaining the gospel to someone can feel more like a dream than a reality. This book is written to help Christians speak the gospel clearly in everyday situations. It will also help you deal with the big questions behind evangelism like: Just what is the gospel? Is it my job to explain it to people? What is God's role and what is mine?

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

Something you might like to use to extend your daily Bible reading.

**The Bible is truly an extraordinary book, unique among all other books. It consists of 66 individual books, written by 40 different authors, in three different languages across 1,500 years of history. Yet for all of this diversity it contains a unified message that focuses on the coming of Jesus and the amazing salvation He offers through His death and resurrection!**

The Bible contains words written by men in all the richness of literary types making it fun, challenging and enjoyable to dig into. Yet, at the same time, the Bible is also the very words of God given to us by His Spirit (1 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). These are not just words spoken in times past, but words that are alive for us to read today (Hebrews 4:12-13). The God of the universe actually addresses us today clearly in the pages of the Bible - amazing!

Jesus says the entire Bible points us to Him, that He is the focal point of it all. Listen to what He says, "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." (Luke 24:44). Or, again Jesus says, "You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:39-40).

Knowing this is helpful in motivating us to read the Bible regularly, to keep building a bigger understanding of God's purposes and how they are being fulfilled in Jesus. To help with this, the Daily Reading Notes now include an extra challenge: to read the whole Bible in two years. It's totally optional, are you up for it?

There is a list of around 15 chapters of additional reading for each week of the term that will help you achieve this challenge. These readings can be done on whatever days work best and in whatever order you prefer to read them. At the end of each term you have a chance to catch up before the next term's suggested readings begin again. You can also track your readings across the two years right here. Enjoy!

## YEAR 1: TERM 1

Week 1	Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10; Matthew 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7; Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Genesis 21-25; Psalms 8-10; Genesis 26-30; Matthew 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Genesis 31-35; Psalms 11-16; Genesis 36-40; Matthew 7-9	<input type="checkbox"/>

Week 5	Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19; Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 2

Week 1	Leviticus 11-15; Psalms 38-41; Leviticus 16-20; Matthew 22-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Leviticus 21-27; Numbers 1-3; Proverbs 1-3; Matthew 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Numbers 4-13; Proverbs 4-6; Matthew 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Numbers 14-23; Proverbs 7-9; Acts 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Numbers 24-33; Psalms 42-44; Acts 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Numbers 34-36; Psalms 45-48; Acts 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Deuteronomy 1-7; Psalms 49-51; Acts 7-8	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Deuteronomy 8-17; Psalms 52-54; Acts 9-10	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Deuteronomy 18-27; Psalms 55-57; Acts 11-12	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Deuteronomy 28-34; Joshua 1-3; Psalms 58-61; Acts 13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>

### YEAR 1: TERM 3

Week 1	Joshua 4-13; Psalms 62-65; Acts 15-16	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 2	Joshua 14-23; Psalms 66-68; Acts 17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 3	Joshua 24; Judges 1-9; Psalms 69-71; Acts 19-20	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 4	Judges 10-19; Psalms 72; Proverbs 10-11; Acts 21-22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 5	Judges 20-21; Ruth 1-4; 1 Samuel 1-4; Proverbs 12-14; Acts 23-24	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	1 Samuel 5-14; Proverbs 15-17; Acts 25-26	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	1 Samuel 15-24; Proverbs 18-20; Acts 27-28	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	1 Samuel 25-31; 2 Samuel 1-3; Proverbs 21-22; Mark 1-2	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	2 Samuel 4-13; Psalms 73-75; Mark 3-4	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	2 Samuel 14-24; Psalms 76-77; Mark 5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

- |         |   |                          |
|---------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1  | 1 Kings 1-5; Psalms 78-80; 1 Kings 6-10; Mark 7-8                   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2  | 1 Kings 11-15; Psalms 81-83; 1 Kings 16-20; Mark 9-10               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3  | 1 Kings 21-22; 2 Kings 1-8; Psalms 84-86; Mark 11-12                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4  | 2 Kings 9-13; Psalms 87-89; 2 Kings 14-18; Mark 13-14               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5  | 2 Kings 19-25; 1 Chronicles 1-3; Psalms 90-93; Mark 15-16           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6  | 1 Chronicles 4-8; Psalms 94-96; 1 Chronicles 9-13; Romans 1-2       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7  | 1 Chronicles 14-18; Psalms 97-101; 1 Chronicles 19-23; Romans 3-4   | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8  | 1 Chronicles 24-29; Psalms 102-104; Romans 5-6                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9  | 2 Chronicles 1-5; Psalms 105-106; 2 Chronicles 6-10; Romans 7-8     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | 2 Chronicles 11-15; Proverbs 23-25; 2 Chronicles 16-20; Romans 9-10 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

- |         |  |                          |
|---------|--|--------------------------|
| Week 1  | 2 Chronicles 21-25; Proverbs 26-28; 2 Chronicles 26-30; Romans 11-12 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2  | 2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4; Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3  | Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4; Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4  | Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113; 1 Corinthians 1-2                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5  | Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117; 1 Corinthians 3-4                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 6  | Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10; 1 Corinthians 5-6                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 7  | Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20; 1 Corinthians 7-8             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 8  | Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96; Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 9  | Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144; Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12         | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 10 | Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms 119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

- |        |   |                          |
|--------|---|--------------------------|
| Week 1 | Ecclesiastes 9-12; Song of Songs 1-5; Psalms 120-122; 1 Cor 15-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 2 | Songs of Songs 6-8; Isaiah 1-7; Psalms 123-125; Luke 1-2          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 3 | Isaiah 8-12; Psalms 126-130; Isaiah 13-17; Luke 3-4               | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 4 | Isaiah 18-22; Psalms 131-135; Isaiah 23-27; Luke 5-6              | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Week 5 | Isaiah 28-32; Psalms 136-138; Isaiah 33-37; Luke 7-8              | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- Week 6 Isaiah 38-42; Psalms 139-142; Isaiah 43-47; Luke 9-10
- Week 7 Isaiah 48-52; Psalms 143-145; Isaiah 53-57; Luke 11-12
- Week 8 Isaiah 58-62; Psalms 146-147; Isaiah 63-66; Luke 13-14
- Week 9 Jeremiah 1-5; Psalms 148-150; Jeremiah 6-10; Luke 15-16
- Week 10 Jeremiah 11-15; Luke 17-21; Jeremiah 16-20

### YEAR 2: TERM 3

- Week 1 Jeremiah 21-25; Luke 21-24; Jeremiah 26-30; 2 Corinthians 1
- Week 2 Jeremiah 31-35; 2 Corinthians 2-7; Jeremiah 36-40
- Week 3 Jeremiah 41-45; 2 Corinthians 8-13; Jeremiah 46-50
- Week 4 Jeremiah 51-52; Lamentations 1-5; Galatians 1-6
- Week 5 Ezekiel 1-5; Ephesians 1-6; Ezekiel 6-10
- Week 6 Ezekiel 11-15; Philippians 1-4; Ezekiel 16-20
- Week 7 Ezekiel 21-25; Colossians 1-4; Ezekiel 26-30
- Week 8 Ezekiel 31-35; 1 Thessalonians 1-5; Ezekiel 36-40; 2 Thessalonians 1-3
- Week 9 Ezekiel 41-48; 1 Timothy 1-6; 2 Timothy 1-4
- Week 10 Daniel 1-10; Titus 1-3, Philemon

### YEAR 2: TERM 4

- Week 1 Daniel 11-12; Hosea 1-8; Hebrews 1-7
- Week 2 Hosea 9-14; Joel 1-3; Hebrews 8-13
- Week 3 Amos 1-9; James 1-5; 1 Peter 1-5
- Week 4 Obadiah; Jonah 1-4; 2 Peter 1-3; 1 John 1-6; 2 John; 3 John
- Week 5 Micah 1-7; Nahum 1-3; Jude; Revelation 1-5
- Week 6 Habakkuk 1-3; Revelation 6-19:10
- Week 7 Zephaniah 1-3; Revelation 19:11-22:21
- Week 8 Haggai 1-2; John 1-12
- Week 9 Zechariah 1-14; John 13-17
- Week 10 Malachi 1-4; John 18-21



# What Kind of Man is This?

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 8:5-13

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 1-5; Psalms 1-4; Genesis 5-10;  
Matthew 1-2

1. How does Jesus respond to this Roman military commander?
  - a. How is it a testimony against the nation of Israel (verses 10-12)?
2. Why is the centurion's faith so astonishing?
  - a. How is it a testimony against the nation of Israel (verses 10-12)?
3. What can we see about God's heart for the nations?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you develop a desire to see all people saved, people close to you and people all around the globe.



# What Kind of Man is This?

## DAY 4

### Matthew 9:1-8 and Daniel 7:13-14

1. Place yourself as a one of the teachers of the law in this story. How would you be feeling after seeing this incredible miracle?
  
2. What is Jesus trying to reveal about Himself as He heals the paralysed man?
  
3. At first Jesus ignores the man's paralysis. What is He trying to teach us about humanity's greatest need?
  - a. How is this passage a helpful reminder of Jesus' ultimate mission?
  
  - b. How might Jesus' ultimate mission influence your plans for the month ahead?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give you discerning eyes that see the deep and desperate need of forgiveness for those around us. Ask God to help you plan to make time to build relationships and share the news of the Son of Man who died in our place to offer forgiveness to sinners like us.



# What Kind of Man is This?

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 9:35-10:42

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 9:35-38 and Ezekiel 34:2-11

1. In Ezekiel, what are the Shepherds of Israel condemned for?
  - a. How does God promise to care for His sheep?
  
2. Having seen the background of Ezekiel 34, what jumps out at you in Matthew 9:35-38?
  
3. How should knowing God's deep concern for lost and helpless sheep (like us) change our outlook in life's hardships and daily grind?
  
4. God promises to gather His sheep. What is striking about His command to pray for workers like us to join in with God's task?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would give you deep-rooted conviction about His love for you in Jesus. Ask that God would help you to be grateful for involving found sheep like us in the Great Shepherd's task of seeking the lost.

# The Lord's Mission

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 10:1-15

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 11-15; Psalms 5-7;  
Genesis 16-20; Matthew 3-4

1. Which of the disciples listed are you less familiar with?
2. How is this an encouragement that God can work through all kinds of people in His mission?
3. What would you say to one of The Twelve if they didn't give to others the gifts that they received?
4. We've been given much, especially the ultimate gift of forgiveness and adoption in Christ. What might it look like for us to "freely give"?

**Prayer:** Pray that you would trust in God's power to use you so that you would freely share the news of the most important gift anyone could receive. Spend some time praying for the mission of Christ through you and His other disciples.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 9:35-10:42

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 10:16-25

It can be difficult to work out whether this chapter applies only to The Twelve or to all disciples of Jesus. In our passage yesterday we saw instructions given to The Twelve that were quite specific to the immediate mission Jesus sent them on (see comparison of Matthew 10:9-10 and Luke 22:35-36). In the rest of this chapter, Jesus' teaching is broader in place and audience (compare 10:5-6 with 10:17-18), time (see 10:23), and in some ways it goes beyond The Twelve disciples (see reference to "the one" in 10:22, and also "whoever" and "anyone" in 10:32-42). So, as we read Jesus' teaching, we need to think beyond the immediate mission that Jesus was sending The Twelve out in 10:5-15 and still bear in mind that He is speaking primarily to The Twelve who He had given special authority (10:1, 8).

1. What does Jesus expect will happen to The Twelve? Are there any hints in our passage that this will impact other disciples as well?
2. Are there any hints in this passage that persecution will impact other disciples as well?
3. What do you fear most about potential persecution for yourself or for your family?
4. How can you grow the hope of verse 22 deeply in your life so that you will stand firm in the face of opposition?

**Prayer:** Pray that we hold unswervingly to the hope of the gospel. Spend some time praying for our persecuted brothers and sisters across the world that they would stand firm in the face of opposition (you could use the Joshua Project website: [www.joshuaproject.net](http://www.joshuaproject.net)).

# The Lord's Mission

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 10:26-33

1. What truths does this passage reveal about God's final judgement?
2. How does God's final judgement bring perspective to life now?
3. Consider the important things that you need to do in the next month. How might your priorities and perspective in life shift in light of God's final judgement?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to be responsible and diligent in the things He has stewarded you with. Ask that as you go about these things, you wouldn't lose sight of the ultimate reality of God's final judgement.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 9:35-10:42

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 10:34-42

1. What indications are in the passage that these words aren't simply words for The Twelve?
2. How might your love for Jesus' glory make you vulnerable in relationships with people who do not honour Christ as Lord?
3. Spend some time thinking about your current relationships with those who do not currently trust Jesus. How are you tempted to think less about the urgency of the gospel and worthiness of Jesus and more about maintaining these friendships and their opinion of you?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would give you an undivided will to seek His approval and not the approval of other people. Ask that He might give you deep concern for Jesus' glory and the eternity of your friends and family as you relate with non-believers.

# The Lord's Mission

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 11:1-30

Over the next two weeks we will be digging into the different responses to Jesus as the King of God's Kingdom in Matthew 11 and 12. Something great has arrived in Galilee but only those who are given eyes to see will respond with repentance to the message of the long-awaited Son of David.

## DAY 1

**Read Matthew 3:11-12, 11:1-6, and Isaiah 35:4-6, 61:1**

1. Why might John have been uncertain if Jesus really was the Messiah?
2. What evidence of His identity does Jesus give in this passage?
3. How strongly would you stress the importance of responding to Jesus rightly?
4. What are some areas of your life that could better reflect the significance of responding rightly to Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see the centrality of Jesus for the rest of your days. Ask that He might use your humble efforts to bring others to respond rightly to Jesus.





# Come to the Father through the Son

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 11:25-30

1. Given what we have seen in chapter 11, what might “these things” that are hidden be referring to?
2. Why is it praiseworthy of God to hide these things from the “wise and learned”?
3. How can we see God’s sovereignty as well as human responsibility to “come” in these verses?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would continue to humble you before Him so that you can rest in dependence on Him.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 11:1-30

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 11:28-30

1. How has the tone shifted from the previous verses of this chapter?
2. What does Jesus offer to those who come to Him?
3. Life can bring many burdens. How does coming to Jesus give us rest when the burdens of life are heavy?

**Prayer:** Thank God for revealing the truth about Jesus to you. Pray that the rest and peace you have with God would hold you firm as you face the realities of a broken world.

# Come to the Father through the Son

## **NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS**

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 12:1-50

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 12:1-14

1. Many Jews of Jesus' day followed strict Halakah interpretations of their laws. This included the 39 types of work that were banned on the Sabbath, one of which being reaping (harvesting). Have a go at drawing or describing the opposition to Jesus and His response below.

Opposition 12:1-1	Opposition 12:10
Response 12:3-8	Response 12:11-13

2. How does Jesus expose the heart of the Pharisees' religiosity?
3. As you unpack Jesus' responses, what can you see about His greatness?
4. What are some ways you can reflect the greatness of Jesus as you revere His call to be merciful?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would grow you in merciful character and keep you from stubborn religiosity. Ask that your character would point others to the greatness of your Lord.





# Something Greater is Here

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 12:38-45 and 7:21-23

1. What are some seemingly legitimate complaints you have heard from people who have understood the gospel but chosen not to trust in it?
2. For those who had been healed by exorcism, what danger do they face?
3. How is it dangerous to seek signs of the Messiah and not seek the Messiah Himself?
4. While Jesus is asked for a sign that proves His work, He answers in an unexpected way. What kind of heart do we need to be wary of?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you seek the truth humbly and honestly.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 12:1-50

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 11:27 and 12:46-50

1. Looking at 11:27, and keeping in mind the context of improper responses to the Messiah that we have seen, what does it mean to do the will of God?
2. What is the great blessing of responding rightly to Jesus?
3. We can rest in the assurance of being sons and daughters of God if we have come to trust Jesus and follow Him as Lord. As we have seen though, there are many ways we can stumble back into prideful attitudes towards the Messiah. What are some areas you need to grow in submitting to God's servant Jesus?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would continue to reveal the power and authority of His chosen servant Jesus that you would always take His word seriously and submit to Him in obedience.

# Something Greater is Here

## **NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS**

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 13:1-52

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 13:1-23

1. According to this passage, why does Jesus speak in parables?
2. What things work against people hearing and accepting the word of God?
3. Why should we be thankful if we have accepted God's word?

**Prayer:** Thank God for revealing the truth of His word to you.

# Kingdom Parables

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Genesis 41-45; Psalms 17-19;  
Genesis 46-50; Matthew 10-11

1. What descriptions are given for the two kinds of people in this passage?
2. Why do you think Jesus often speaks of the final judgement?
3. How does this passage urge you to pray for the lost?

**Prayer:** Pray for the people of the Central Coast that they would turn in repentance to God.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 13:1-52

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 13:31-35

1. What is the beginning and end of the mustard seed and yeast?
2. How is it that the kingdom starts small but spreads?
3. How does this give us confidence to continue to proclaim the good news?

**Prayer:** Thank God for working powerfully to grow the people of the kingdom around the world. Pray for our mission partners abroad that God would work through them to bring many more to repentance.

# Kingdom Parables

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 13:44-46

1. What value do the people in the parable see in the treasure and pearl?
2. How is this a challenge for how we view and use our possessions?
3. What can you do to keep your heart set on heaven?

**Prayer:** Pray that God keeps showing you the incomparable riches of His kingdom. Pray that Christians around the world would be convicted of this truth and be generous for the cause of the kingdom.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 13:1-52

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 13:47-52

1. How have we seen Jesus reveal more to the disciples throughout the parables?
2. What special role does Jesus now call His disciples to?
3. How should this shape the way we view the Old and New Testaments?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would continue to reveal Himself as you seek to know Him through His word.

# Kingdom Parables

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 13:53-14:12

In the coming chapters, Matthew makes it clear that opposition towards Jesus is rising. It is clear that his opponents are those who are blinded by unbelief. There is clear evidence that Jesus is who He claims to be.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 13:53-58

1. Last week we saw Jesus speak about different soils that represent how people hear and respond to God's word. How do people in His hometown respond?
2. Why does their initial response of amazement change?
3. How is it that faith connects and unbelief disconnects us from Jesus (e.g. see Matthew 9:22)?
  - a. Other than salvation, how else does Christian life require trust in Jesus' power?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see His might and sovereignty in the world and to come humbly and to depend on Him for everything.

# Blinded by Unbelief

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 13:53-58

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10;  
Matthew 12-13

1. What do the people in this passage fail to see about Jesus?
2. Why is it necessarily offensive to share the news of Jesus with those who won't accept His divinity?
3. How can we share the good news as gently as possible without removing the necessary offense that Jesus really is God of all?

**Prayer:** Pray to the Father that many would have their eyes opened by the Spirit to see the divinity of the Son and respond in faith to Him. Pray that we would not shy from the truth for the sake of false peace.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 13:53-14:12

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 14:1-12

1. What is revealed about Herod's character in this passage?
2. What do both Herod and the people of Jesus' hometown agree about Jesus (see verses 13:54 and 14:2)?
3. If someone told you that they would trust in Jesus if they witnessed a miracle, how would you respond?
4. What is it that blinds Herod? How is this a warning for us?

**Prayer:** Pray that our Father would help us to fear Him and not man. Pray that this would help us to strive for the praise of God and grow to let go of seeking praise from others.

# Blinded by Unbelief

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 11:10-12; 14:1-12; and 2 Peter 4:12-13**

1. How do these passages describe the opposition that faces God's kingdom?
2. How have you personally experienced opposition for being a member of the kingdom, or seen opposition towards the kingdom?
3. What is your natural response to seeing or experiencing this opposition?
4. What convictions are necessary for you to build and develop in order to have the response of 2 Peter 4:13?

**Prayer:** Ask your Father to enable you to grow in your conviction of the eternal home we belong to and of our unity with our saviour, Jesus. Pray that you would stand firm through opposition and be joyful as you look forward to Jesus' return.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 13:53-14:12

## DAY 5

### Read Isaiah 42:18-25

1. Despite God performing awesome wonders before the eyes of the Israelites, how do they respond?
2. How have we seen the leaders of Israel respond with blindness to God's coming to earth in flesh? (You may want to refresh from Days 2 and 3 this week.)
3. What might it look like for you to avoid this error and take to heart the things that God has said and done?
4. Scripture memory can be a useful way to help us reflect on God's word throughout the day. Why not have a go at trying to memorise Isaiah 42:20 (maybe write it out a few times below and share it with your Growth Group)?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to reflect on His word deeply so that it would change you. Ask God to help you avoid the error of complacency towards Him.

# Blinded by Unbelief

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS





# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 14:13-33

## DAY 3

**Read Matthew 4:4; 6:9-10; 7:9-11; and 14:16-23**

1. Bread is often used in the context of dependence. How can you see this in the passages above?
2. What role do the disciples play in the feeding of the people? What role does Jesus play?
3. How can we be fed by Jesus through the disciples today?
4. What things in life do you hunger for?
  - a. Why is it that only Jesus can satisfy our deepest hungers?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help satisfy your deepest hungers. Thank Him for sending the Bread of Life in whom we are completely dependent for salvation. Pray that you would feed on the word He has given us through His apostles to grow us in maturity.



# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 14:13-33

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 14:23-33

1. What do the disciples recognise about Jesus?
  - a. How does faith in the power of Jesus change the fears of the disciples?
  
2. What fears are shown in this passage?
  - a. How does faith in the power of Jesus change the fears of the disciples?
  
3. Knowing Jesus' power helps us trust in Him to save. How is this truth clear in Peter's situation? How is this truth clear in our situation?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you know the power of the Son so that you would trust in His work on your behalf at the cross. Pray that God would help you to see all of life's fears in light of knowing Jesus.

# Recognising the Son of God

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



# Unexpected Followers

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 15:1-9

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31;  
Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17

1. Where do these Pharisees come from? Why might this be significant?
2. What problem do the Pharisees have with Jesus? What problem does Jesus have with the Pharisees?
3. What's the danger of being religious without seeking to know and love God?

**Prayer:** Pray that God binds your heart to want to know Him. Ask that He would grow your love for Him through the blessings of Bible reading, church, growth group, and prayer.

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 14:34-15:39

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 15:10-20

1. What does Jesus say makes us unclean before God?
  - a. How does this challenge our secular world?
  - b. How does it challenge the religious of the world?
2. How does this help us understand the real problem with humanity?
3. What reminder does this give us about our dependence on Jesus for salvation?
  - a. If it's a problem with the heart, what might be some steps towards repenting from sin in your life?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see the true depravity of our hearts so that we might rely on Him for salvation and for the strength to fight sin.



# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 14:34-15:39

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 15:29-39

1. Throughout this week, we have seen Jesus oppose the arrogance of the religious leaders and show compassion for the outsiders who are considered "unclean". While Jesus is in this Gentile territory, we again see Him extend beyond Jewish people. What does He do for the people in this region?
  
2. What's similar between this story and the one in Matthew 14:13-21?
  - a. The first feeding was for Jewish people; this one is for Gentiles. What might Matthew be trying to help us see about God's future plans for the Gentiles (see also 12:18, 21)?
  
3. What might it look like for you to use your time or resources to see God's global mission continue?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you grasp His awesome plan to save all who would repent. Pray that God would help you to be generous with your life to see His mission continue throughout the world.

# Unexpected Followers

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 16:1-12

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 16:1-6 and 12:38-42

1. What's similar about today's two passages?
  - a. How does this similarity highlight the unwillingness of the religious leaders to accept who Jesus is?
  
2. What is the sign of Jonah referring to?
  - a. How does this show Jesus graciously providing a sign for sceptics?
  
3. What excuses do we hear people give today so that they don't have to come to terms with the Lordship of Jesus?
  - a. Can any of these excuses stand in light of Jesus' resurrection?

**Prayer:** Thank God for making Himself clear to us through the witnesses of Jesus' resurrection. Pray that He would help you to be bold in sharing the truth of Jesus' resurrection, which proves we can be saved through Him.

# Watch Out!

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 16:5-10

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34;  
Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19

1. Look up the times when Jesus calls out people for having “little faith” (Matthew 6:30; 8:26; 14:31, 16:8). What do you think the phrase means?
2. Given what the disciples have seen and heard, why is it ridiculous that they are worried about not having bread?
3. What are some of your biggest worries in life?
  - a. How can knowing God’s promises help you face these worries?

**Prayer:** Share your worries with God. Ask that He would help you to trust in His control of the world and in His care for His children so that you can continue living your life for Him.



# Watch Out!

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 16:1-12

1. Why doesn't it make sense for the Pharisees and Sadducees to ask for a sign?
2. Yesterday we saw how the Israelites rejected God despite the awesome signs He had performed. How do you think the rejection of the Pharisees and Sadducees is similar?
3. This rejection of Jesus may seem a lot more subtle than the rejection we saw in Deuteronomy 32 yesterday. The more subtle the rejection, the harder it is to notice and, therefore, the harder it is to repent and progress in our lifelong walk of godliness. How might you be on guard against the subtlety of sin?
  - a. Do you have a trustworthy Christian friend from whom you could seek help in identifying subtle sin? (If not, what might be some next steps in growing this kind of Christian friendship)

**Prayer:** Ask God for discernment in seeing the sin that can easily go unnoticed. Pray that as a church community we would value godliness and seek to help one another become more like Jesus.



# Watch Out!

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 16:13-28

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 16:13-17

1. What is Peter's response to Jesus' question?
  
2. What are some examples where we see Jesus fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah (Christ)?
  
3. What reason does Jesus give for why Peter has been able to answer this question with clarity?
  - a. How does this help us see God's role in revealing the true identity of Jesus?
  
  - b. How does this help us remain humble before God and others?
  
  - c. Like Peter, how does knowing Jesus mean we are "blessed", despite what difficult circumstances we might face in life?

**Prayer:** Praise God for revealing the identity of His Son to you and for the salvation that this brings you for eternity. Ask God that He would help you live a life of gratitude for the gracious gift He has given you.

# The Unexpected Messiah

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 16:17-20;**

**Acts 2:37-41; Acts 8:14-17; and Acts 10:44-45**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37;  
Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21

1. "Hades" is the name given in the New Testament for the place of the dead. Why can't death overcome the people of God?
2. How could Peter's authority be overstated?
3. How do you see Peter exercise his authority in the passages from Acts?
4. Although Peter is given the keys to the kingdom, it is as He lives out his God-given authority that God sovereignly brings out His plans for His people, the church. How does this help us have confidence to continue proclaiming the gospel today?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you take confidence in His unstoppable plan to reveal the truth of Jesus as Messiah. Pray that He burns in you the urgency of His mission.







# The Unexpected Messiah

## PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES



## **Seth and Kate** **Buddhist Asia**

As the fourth largest religion in the world, Buddhism comprises 10% of the world's population. The Buddhistic 'Bonba' people are gospel-zero. No gospel. No Bible. No church. No chance to hear about Jesus. Humanly speaking, not a hope in hell. So pray for Seth and Kate as they seek to plant churches in gospel-zero Buddhist Asia.

## **Kirstin** **Nepal**

Kirstin has worked in Nepal as an Occupational Therapist for the last 7 years. She ministers in a Christian Hospital and has regular opportunities to share her faith and pray for patients. Thank God for the growing church in Nepal and pray for leadership development. Please continue to pray for Kirstin in this context, as she disciples women in her local church, and for her and Binay after their recent marriage.



## **Craig and Samantha McCorkindale** **(CMS) Cambodia**

Craig and Samantha (Hannah, Clare and Joel) are into their second year in Cambodia. They continue with more independent language learning in the community and Craig will be preparing lessons to teach in Khmer at the Phnom Peng Bible School later in 2018. Pray for continued relationships in their community as they share the love of Jesus there.



## **The Geneva Push** **Australia**

Geneva Push is an Australian Church Planting Network aiming to inspire, equip and unleash a new generation of church planters dedicated to evangelising churches into existence. Pray for the assessment process, provision of ongoing support and training through coaching, mentoring, and conferences to ensure the biggest impact as church planters.

**GENEVA  
PUSH >>**

## **Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches** **Australia**

These churches are committed to praying for one another and continuing to promote planting of evangelical churches throughout Australia. Their pastors seek to provide support and encouragement to one another. FIEC is aiming, with God's help, to plant 100 churches across Australia during the next 15 years.





**Derek and Anna**  
**(OMF) Southeast Asia**

Derek and Anna (Liam, Jasmine and Juliet) are working in theological education and cross-cultural worker mobilisation in Southeast Asia. Pray for Derek as he continues with his classes in a local Bible college and is starting to train people to reach out to minority ethnic groups where there is no church. They are also trying to reach out to their local community, developing friendships and reading the Bible with those interested.



**Martin and Jen Shadwick**  
**(AFES) Newcastle University**

Martin and Jen (with their 3 children) work with AFES discipling and training Christian students. Martin continues to work with both local and overseas students. Pray for wisdom in balancing ministry and family life, and for new partners to help them continue in this important ministry.



**Nicole Berlach**  
**Tuggerah Lakes Scripture Board (TLSB)**

Nicole works with the TLSB teaching Year 11-12 Scripture. 3 days at The Entrance Campus. She also meets with students one-to-one and helps organise the FUSE camp for Christian students. Pray for Nicole and the team (also at Tumbi and Berkley Vale High Schools) as they share Jesus with young people who may not have heard.



**Colin and Jill Bakon**  
**(SIM) Church and Missionary Mobilisation**

Colin's two roles are in church mobilisation in Latin America where he is raising up national teams to run Kairos, with special focus this year on Ecuador and Peru. And he is working with a task force to mobilise for new initiatives within SIM to see work happening in areas where there is no church.

