



JESUS
CHRIST

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

Who are you on mission to?

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

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

List the name of your family/friends here.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

WHY DAILY READING NOTES?

THE BIBLE IS GOD'S WORD ... written by His Spirit, for His people, about His Son, for His glory. These words are completely true, useful, and all we need to be saved and to follow God in our lives (2 Timothy 3:16).

Daily Reading Notes are a daily tour guide to help you dig into the Bible for yourself.

LOVE GOD ... spend time with him every day! We get to hear him speak to us by reading the Bible. We also get to talk to him in prayer. How good is that!

HOW TO USE DAILY READING NOTES?

ASK God to help you understand this part of the Bible.

READ the part of the Bible for that day.

THINK about the passage and have a go at the questions.

PRAY by thanking God and asking him to help you obey what you learned.

APPLY what you've learned by putting it into practice in your life.

WHAT ARE WE LOOKING AT THIS TERM?

Authorship and Date

The Gospel of Matthew is one of the four gospel accounts found in the Bible that records Jesus' life. The Gospel of Matthew was written by Matthew, who was one of Jesus' 12 disciples. Before Matthew followed Jesus, he was a tax collector (tax collectors were usually pretty dodgy dudes). The Gospel of Matthew was written somewhere between 50-70 AD: only 20-40 years after Jesus died and rose!

Purpose and Audience

Because Matthew was a Jewish Christian (someone familiar with the Old Testament), one of the big reasons he writes his record of Jesus' life is to convince the Jews who lived around him who didn't yet follow Jesus to become Christians. He tried to convince his fellow Jews that Jesus was the One that God had promised to them (the Jews) in the Old Testament. He tried to convince them that Jesus is the King that God had promised to them, that Jesus offers salvation from their sin, and loads of other stuff. And loads of Jews ended up following Jesus because of Matthew's account of Jesus' life!

This Term

In Matthew 21-28 Jesus comes humbly to Jerusalem but brings judgement on the people of Israel, particularly its leaders (Matthew 23). His divisive actions provoke the hard heartedness of Israel. This creates a conflict that leads Israel's leaders to carry out their plan to see God's King crucified. Jesus reveals the sin of Israel. He reveals a problem. But it is a problem he has come to deal with in His death, resurrection and His work in proclaiming the gospel through His people to the ends of the earth.

WEEK 1: Matthew 21:1-22

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 21:1-5

1. Where is it that Jesus has arrived?

2. What is it that Jesus requests his disciples to do? Why?

3. Read Zechariah 9:9-16. What is the significance of Jesus arriving on a donkey?

4. We know that Jesus came to die on a cross and this shows he was determined to do it, why is this such good news for us? (Hint: John 3:16)

5. What difference might it make to reflect on what Jesus willingly did for us?

Prayer: Thank God for sending his Son to save us and for His willingness to go the way of the cross. Pray that this news would change you and all His people. Ask that God would stir you to love Jesus more and to be in awe of His greatness.

DAY 2

Son of David: Matthew 1 shows you how Jesus is from the line of David which is what this title is describing, also a term used for messiah which means promised one (the one whom the old testament is pointing to).

Hosanna: Is Hebrew for 'O save' (in other words the one who saves).

Pray + Read Matthew 21:6-11

1. Grab some paper and spend a minute just drawing a quick sketch of this event...

2. What are all the different titles that are given to Jesus? Who gives them?

3. What is the difference between the crowd's answer (verse 11) and Peter's answer (Matthew 16:15-16)?

a) What important detail might the crowd be missing about Jesus' identity?

4. The crowd probably saw Jesus as the kind of leader they wanted: one who might establish salvation from the rule of other nations. How is it possible to believe that Jesus saves us and still misunderstand Him?

Prayer: Ask God to help us see Jesus as we should as the one who comes to save us from sin and restore us in relationship with the Father.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 21:12-17

1. Verse 12 says Jesus entered the temple, what is it that the temple represented? (Hint: 1 Kings 9:3)

2. Read Jeremiah 7:9-11. How does this help us understand what Jesus is saying to these people in verse 13 in Matthew? What is the temple meant for?

3. There are a number of people responding to Jesus coming in verse 14-17, list all the people and their response to Jesus?

4. What is it that the chief priests have failed to understand about Jesus? (Indignant= showing anger to something seen as unfair)

5. How can it be both a warning and a comfort to know some people respond rightly and some people respond wrongly to Jesus?

Prayer: Ask that God would enable you to come humbly before Jesus. Ready to submit to His kingship and change to fit Him and His priorities, and not have Him fit around your own.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 21:18-22

1. What is it that Jesus does, and how do the disciples respond?
2. It's ironic that the disciples have seen Jesus do so much, and yet they are still amazed!

Read Matthew 17:20. What is it that gives prayer power to do impossible things?

3. Could you then pray for a new surfboard and have full confidence that it will show up on my doorstep? Why/why not? (Hint: There are two important words in 1 John 5:14-15 that clear this up.)

4. How should this shape our prayer?

5. How are you going with your prayer life? What are some practical steps you can be taking to be spending more intentional time in prayer to our God? (E.g. set aside a specific time during the day, a place where you won't be disturbed to spend intentional time in prayer, write down things you want to pray for, spend time in your prayer thanking God, be honest with God about what's going on in your life, say short quick prayers throughout the day, etc).

Prayer: Ask God to help us be captured by His plans and priorities and so be people of prayer. Pray that God would help you to trust Him, clearly seeing His power, and so pray. Bring your requests to Him now.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 21:1-22

1. How has this passage shaped your understanding of Jesus this week?

2. What have been some of the main things you have learnt?

3. Spend a bit of time to think about how this passage can help shape the way you act next week?

Prayer: Thank God for His Word and that He can be shaping our lives through it. Prayer that you will be growing as you dig into Matthew this term. Pray that you would understand the Word as you read it.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 21:23-27

1. Why do you think the chief priests and elders asked the question in verse 23? What “things” were they referring to? (Hint: think back to last week’s passage)

2. How does Jesus reply and what is clever about his response?

3. What stopped the chief priests and elders from answering Jesus’s question?

4. How does this reveal the hearts of the chief priests and elders? What did they really care about?

Prayer: Pray that God would help you to understand who Jesus really is and ask that you would humbly submit to his authority.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 21:28-32

1. Who do the following groups represent:

- The first son, who said no but went:

- The second son, who said yes but did not go:

2. Who are the people that enter the kingdom and who are the people who miss out?

3. How does this show what God cares about?

4. How is this a warning to us?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you to fight stubbornness and pride in your life. Pray that your heart would be soft towards Him and that you would enter His kingdom in humility.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 21:33-46

1. Who do the following characters represent?

- The landowner:

- The tenants:

- The servants:

- The son:

2. How do the chief priests and pharisees respond? Why do you think they respond this way? (verses 45-46)

3. What does this parable teach us about who Jesus is and what is going to happen to him?

4. How should we act differently to the original tenants?

Prayer: Thank God that He sent Jesus to save us even though he would be rejected and killed. Ask that you would respond rightly to his death on the cross by living with him as your Lord and Savior.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 21:42-46 & Psalm 118:22-23

1. What does it mean that Jesus is the cornerstone? Is he important? (Note: a cornerstone is the stone at the base of a building which the rest of the building depends on to direct the whole shape and layout of the building)

2. Why then, is it dangerous to ignore who Jesus is?

3. How would your life be different if Jesus wasn't at its centre? Would it be different?

4. "and it is marvelous in our eyes" – How can you praise God in light of this passage?

Prayer: Praise God that because of Jesus we can build our lives on a solid foundation that will last into eternity. Ask that you would trust God with your life and that He would help you live for Him.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 22:15-22

1. What are the Pharisees trying to do here to Jesus? (verse 15)

2. The Pharisees hated the idea of paying taxes to Rome (Caesar), and the Herodians supported the idea of paying. Why then did the Pharisees ask the question in verse 17? What's so tricky about the question?

3. How does Jesus' teaching apply to us today? (See Romans 13:1-7)

a) How can you be submitting to authorities in your current context? (E.g. listening to teachers, listening to parents, following COVID restrictions, etc).

Prayer: Ask God to help you continue to see how amazing Jesus is and obey His teaching.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 22:23-33

1. According to the Sadducees (who don't believe in life after death), what was the problem if there was life after death?

2. Jesus' quote from Exodus 3:6 (in verse 32) comes to Moses hundreds of years after the death of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. How does Jesus use this verse to prove that there is a resurrection (life after death)?

3. Jesus' whole argument hangs on the word 'am' instead of 'was.' What does this passage reveal about Jesus' view of the Bible? What might it look like for us to treat the Bible in the same way?

Prayer: Ask God that you would be more like Jesus in how you treat His words and think about them. Pray that you will remember that God is, was, and will always be God and His words will always be true.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 19:8-12 & 22:23-33

1. What would Jesus have to say about these two common ideas in our society:

a) Marriage is not life-long?

b) Life is all about relationships, including a fulfilling marriage?

2. What does Jesus say is only temporary and what does he say is eternal?

3. Our world can make it seem like being in a relationship, and eventually getting married is what life is all about. Jesus however says that marriage is temporary and heaven is eternal. Whatever situation you are in, what might it look like to live as a kingdom-first person?

Prayer: Ask that God would help you to “seek first his kingdom and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33)

DAY 5

Pray + Read Psalm 110:1; Isaiah 9:6-7 & Matthew 22:34-46

1. It is true that Jesus is related to David, but how do these Old Testament passages show that Jesus must be more than just David's son?

2. What do you think the Pharisees failed to see about the promised Messiah in the Old Testament? Did they think he would be Lord? The Son of God?

3. How does knowing this about Jesus change the way we think about opposition towards Christianity, how we relate to His word, and how we view problems in life?

Prayer: Ask God that He would enable you to live out the knowledge of Jesus' lordship in all areas of your life.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 23:13-15

1. Why does Jesus call the Pharisees hypocrites? (Have a look at verses 1-12.) How does this passage show that zeal and passion for God could be evil? (See also Romans 10:1-5)

2. Read Romans 10:1-5. How does this passage show us that the Pharisees zeal and passion to see the word of God spread is not a righteous desire- their zeal and passion is evil?

3. What warning is there for us as we pass on the news of Jesus in ministry, to kids, or to non-Christians?

Prayer: Pray that God would always keep Jesus at the centre of our lives and that we would use our zeal and passion to point to him.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 23:29-36

1. The Pharisees rejected Jesus and eventually helped organise Jesus' crucifixion. In verse 31, Jesus says "You testify against yourselves". How are the Pharisees testifying against themselves? (See Matthew 27:25)

2. What kind of judgement do the Pharisees receive for this? (Hint: verse 33)

3. The Pharisees rejected Jesus and received the most terrible punishment. How does this show us that trusting in Jesus is the most important thing?

4. How does this passage help you see the urgency of the news of Jesus going out? Who can you be sharing the saving word with this week?

Prayer: Ask God that when we reject Jesus our hearts would be softened, and we would be quick to repent. Ask God to change our hearts to love what Jesus loves and hate what Jesus hates.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 23:37-39

1. Jerusalem was the place chosen by God to dwell in a special way where He revealed Himself and related to His people (e.g. Deuteronomy 12:4-5; 2 Samuel 22:7; Psalm 73:16-17; and Isaiah 2:3). What is so devastating about Jesus' words in verse 37?

2. What do we learn about Jesus and his character in verse 37? (Also have a look at Ezekiel 18:32)

3. In this last part of chapter 23, we see Jesus longing to gather his children to himself, but they are not willing and reject Jesus. How does this help us understand how Jesus can be loving and bring judgement at the same time?

Prayer: Ask that God would help trust Jesus and follow him. Pray that He would help have His heart for justice and His heart of love.

NOTES & PRAYER POINT

WEEK 5: Matthew 24:1-35

DAY 1

Chapters 24-25 are tricky. It's hard to understand every detail in these chapters and also what time period Jesus is discussing. Jesus could be talking about His death, or the historical destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70AD, or Jesus could be talking about His return, but he's probably talking about a combination of all three.

This break down will be helpful to keep looking back to as you read this chapter:

24:1-3- Jesus' disciples ask about His return and the temple destruction

24:4-14- What the world will be like before before Jesus' second coming

24:15-21- The temple destruction is the event that shows what the last days will be like

24:22-28- Jesus' return will be real obvious, so don't be led astray

24:29-31- Jesus' return

24:32-35- The signs that show that the end is near

Pray + Read Matthew 24:1-14

1. Make a list of the bad things and the good thing that happens during the "end of the age" in this passage.

Bad:

Good:

2. If a Christian went through the stuff from the passage, what do you think they would need to be able to endure it? What sort of things could they do to make sure they don't "turn away from the faith" (verse 10) and their love doesn't "grow cold" (verse 12)?

3. Even though this "end of the age" time period seems really terrible, in verse 14 we're told that the gospel will still go out. What do you think you'd be willing to go through for the sake of sharing the gospel with people?

Prayer: Thank God that you have heard the gospel and believed it. Ask God to help you treasure the gospel and to share it no matter what.

DAY 2

Jesus has been speaking about the end of the age in this chapter, and here he looks at a specific time where there will be very horrible chaos & suffering. Jesus throws us back to the prophecies of Daniel. Some people have believed that Daniel 9:27, 11:31 & 12:11 were fulfilled in 168BC when a Greek ruler called Antiochus Epiphanes put up an altar of Zeus in the temple in Jerusalem, banned circumcision, & sacrificed a pig on the altar. But Jesus points us to an even more horrible time of the destruction of the temple in 70AD when Rome besieged Jerusalem & people starved & even became cannibals to survive. Later church historians, Eusebius & Epiphanius, wrote about a tradition of Christians heeding this warning that Jesus gave in this chapter & escaping before it got really bad. It's all pretty hectic!

Pray + Read Daniel 11:31 & Matthew 24:15-21

1. In these verses, Jesus gives a real life example (the destruction of the temple in 70AD) of what life will be like between his resurrection and his return. How does this example help you to see what you should expect of this life before Jesus' return?

2. You might not live in a war zone like people in 70AD in Jerusalem did, but how do you see some of the suffering that Jesus says will occur around you or around the world today?

3. How could you be someone who cares for Christian brothers and sisters around the world who do experience a lot of the stuff that this passage describes?

Prayer: Head to-

<https://www.opendoors.org.au/persecuted-christians/world-watch-list/> and pray for Christian brothers and sisters around the world who face severe persecution like this passage describes.

DAY 3

Jesus has now finished talking about the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem in 70AD and now comes back to talking about what the last days in general will be like.

Pray + Read Matthew 24:22-28

1. What's the big warning that Jesus gives in this passage?
2. What's so dangerous about "false Messiah's and false prophets"?
3. What does Jesus say about how obvious/not obvious His return will be? (verses 27-28)
4. How could you be making sure that you think wisely and carefully about people who share a "gospel" message that is different from Jesus' gospel message?
5. How do you see Jesus' love and care for Christians in this passage?

Prayer: Thank God for how He cares so deeply that Christians never turn from following Jesus and stop having a relationship with Him. Ask God to keep you firmly believing the true gospel message and to be able to have the wisdom to see when someone is saying a false "gospel" message.

DAY 4

Jesus is now teaching about the time after the last days - the time of His return.

Pray + Read Isaiah 13:9-10 & Matthew 24:29-31

1. Circle who will be the most important/focus of all attention at the end of the last days.

Jesus Non-Christians Christians Son of Man

2. Isaiah prophesied about "the day of the Lord" - the day when God would come to judge. What is Jesus saying about what His return will be like by quoting this Isaiah prophecy?

3. Why would people mourn when Jesus returns? (Hint: Isaiah 13:9-10)

4. If Jesus' return is the day that people will be judged, how should that spur you on to share the gospel today?

5. Who is one person you would love to see put their trust in Jesus? Circle one of the questions below that you could ask them this week to start a gospel conversation.

- What do you think happens after we die?
- Who do you think Jesus is?
- What do you think humanity's greatest need is?
- What do you think Christians believe?
- Write your own question:

Prayer: Ask God to help you deeply care for the lost. Ask Him to help you lay your fear/lack of care/worry about what to say aside and just humbly and boldly share the gospel with the lost. Ask God to save those in your life who don't follow Jesus.

DAY 5

Jesus summarises His answer to the disciples questions from verse 3 by teaching about the closeness of His return.

Pray + Read Matthew 24:32-35

1. What are all the signs that this chapter talked about pointing towards? (verse 32)

2. What does Jesus say about His words in verse 35?

3. How does verse 35 show that His words are trustworthy?

4. How is this verse a reminder to cling to Jesus and His words and not to the world?

Prayer: Ask God to help you know and trust Jesus' words so much so that you would live differently in light of the future reality of Jesus' return.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 6: Matthew 24:36-25:46

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 24:36-41

1. What seems to be the most important point Jesus is teaching about his return?

2. How does Jesus compare his return to Noah's Ark? What do you think this means?

3. Jesus' return will be unexpected, we do not know when it's going to happen. How can we be like Jesus in his trust and submission to the Father, even without all the details of the future?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus will return to restore all things, even if we don't know when. Ask that He would help you follow Him while we wait for Jesus to come back.

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 24:42-51

1. Does this passage tell us there is any way to know the day of Jesus' return?

2. This parable talks about a good and a bad servant, which one do you think we should be? Why?

3. As we wait for this unexpected day we need to be sure that we don't drift away from God. How can you be spending your limited time here on this earth to be more prepared for the day of Jesus' return?

Prayer: Pray that God would help you live as the good servant, ready for Jesus' return. Ask that you would be living in a way that reflects what you know about Jesus.

DAY 3

This parable uses imagery of the wedding customs of the time. In today's customs, think of the ten virgins as bridesmaids.

Pray + Read Matthew 25:1-13

1. Why did five of the virgins enter the wedding banquet and five did not?

2. What does this parable teach us about the Kingdom of Heaven and Jesus' return?

3. What is something you could be doing to be more prepared for Jesus? (Some things to be regularly reflecting on in your Christian walk: How are you going with Bible reading? How are you going with prayer? How are you going with sin? How are you going at encouraging and being encouraged by brothers and sisters in Christ?)

Prayer: Thank God that we have the Bible to warn us to be prepared for Jesus. Ask that He would give you the strength to follow Jesus while you wait for His return.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 25:14-30

1. What does the master seem to expect from each of the servants? What is their reward for their efforts?

2. All the parables so far this week have been about being prepared for Jesus' unknown return. How does this parable warn against being inactive or passive whilst waiting?

3. It can be tricky to be productive without being self-centred. What kind of productivity do you think Jesus calls His followers to? (Hint: check out Luke 10:27)

Prayer: Pray that God would help you follow Jesus actively while you wait for His return. Ask that you would be able to love God, love people and share the good news of Jesus.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. What does Jesus seem to be saying in verses 35-40 & 45?

a) We know that works don't save us, so why should we be practically loving people like Jesus describes?

2. The end of this passage sounds pretty scary, how does it encourage you to be sharing the good news of the cross with more people?

3. Who are three people you could share God's practical love and spiritual salvation with?

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a) Make a plan for when and how you are going to both practically love them and when you are going to talk to them, and how you are going to start the conversations:

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus gave up His life to save us, so that we can spend eternity with Him. Ask that you would be practically serving people and sharing the gospel while you wait for Jesus' return.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 7: Matthew 26:1-30

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 26:1-5

1. In the table below summarise these verses with a drawing:

Verses 1-2	Verses 3-5
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2. Compare verses 1-2 with verses 3-5. How do you see God's control over human plans here?

a) How can this be a comfort to you knowing that God is completely in control of what happens?

3. What difference does it make knowing that Jesus chose to suffer for the forgiveness of sins?

Prayer: Thank God that whatever happens to you, even if it doesn't seem to make sense, is all a part of His good plan for you. Pray that you would be able to trust God with your life, even when it's hard.

DAY 2

This is one of two anointings recorded in the four gospel accounts. Luke reports about one anointing in Galilee, and Matthew (along with Mark and John) retells this anointing in Bethany (see Luke 7:36-50; Mark 14:3-9; John 12:2-8). John tells you that it was a very expensive perfume—probably around 300 hundred denarii – a year’s wages! The interesting promise Jesus gives the woman in verse 13 is fulfilled by its inclusion in Matthew, Mark and John.

Pray + Read Matthew 26:6-13

1. What good intentions might have the disciples had?
2. What’s the difference between how the disciples view the woman’s act and how Jesus sees it? Why the difference?
3. Just like the woman in this passage how can you be reminding yourself of Jesus’ worth and value and show respect to God today?

Prayer: Pray that God would help you appreciate the worth and value of Jesus, the Son of Man, the Lord of all. Pray that knowing this would spur you to live for Him.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 26:14-25

1. Who is the one who betrays Jesus?

2. What's so evil about the betrayal of Jesus?

3. What difference would it make if Jesus was simply a victim and not willing to die?

a) How can this help you be thankful today?

Prayer: Ask God to give you a thankful heart as you reflect on Jesus, who willingly went towards His suffering on our behalf.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 26:26-30

1. Before Jesus what did God's people have to do to atone for their sin? (Read Exodus 24:6-8 & Leviticus 6:6-7.)

2. How is this pointing forward to Jesus' death on the cross? (Read Hebrews 10:1-18)

3. How does this help you see the seriousness of your sin?

4. We no longer have to sacrifice animals to pay for our sin like people in the Old Testament. All those who believe in Christ now receive forgiveness! How does it make you feel to know what Christ has done for you on the cross once for all? Why would being active in fighting your sin be the right and obvious response to being saved from your sin?

Prayer: Pray that God would help us see the significance of what Jesus has done at the cross, the establishing of a new covenant. Ask that God would help you to see that fighting sin is the natural and obvious way to live now as people free from sin.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 26:26-30

1. What are we remembering and proclaiming when we take this meal together?

2. What does the Lord's supper teach us about the cross and what was achieved there?

3. How can you be making sure that each day you have some time to reflect on the cross and what it means for your relationship with God? (E.g. set a reminder on your phone, set aside a certain time each day to be in the word and prayer, memorise Bible verses, etc).

Prayer: Ask God to help you cling to the cross and thank Him for Jesus' death for the forgiveness of sins.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 8: Matthew 26:31-75

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 26:31-75

1. What are the different locations in this passage?

2. Describe what happens in each location.

3. With each step of Jesus' betrayal and trial, what do you feel in each scene of this passage?

4. How do you imagine Jesus felt as this happened?

Prayer: Thank God that even though Jesus knew what was going to happen, even though Jesus felt troubled, even though he was overwhelmed with sorrow, he was determined to be betrayed and head to the cross.

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 26:31-35

1. What does Jesus tell the disciples?

2. What is Jesus basing his prediction on? (Hint: verse 31)

3. If Jesus is making this prediction from Scripture, how do you think the disciples *should* react versus how they *actually* react in the passage?

4. Would you be willing to accept what God tells you, even if it goes against what you think about yourself? Why/ why not?

Prayer: Ask God to help you to listen to Him and to genuinely want to understand what He says, to do what He says, and to love what He says.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 26:36-46

1. What is Jesus doing in Gethsemane?

2. How is Jesus feeling at the start of this passage? What does he say about his soul in verse 38?

3. Jesus asks his Father "if it is possible, may this cup be taken away from me". What is this "cup" that he doesn't want to drink from? (Read the following Old Testament passages to see: Jeremiah 25:15-16; Ezekiel 23:32-34 & Psalm 75:7-8).

a) So what is it that Jesus is facing as he heads to the cross?

4. Even though Jesus asks for his Father to take away the cup he also says, "yet not as I will, but as you will". How can we be thankful today for Jesus' willingness to follow the Father's will? What might it look like for us to live like Jesus?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus drank the full cup of God's wrath that was meant for us. Thank him that we don't have to take God's wrath because Jesus took it all for us on the cross.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 26:47-54

1. What is Judas doing in this passage? (Look at what he's called in verse 48)

2. In verse 51 Jesus' disciple draws a sword to defend Jesus. What does Jesus say in response to the disciple doing this?

3. Jesus could defend himself with tens of thousands of angels. What does that tell you about his willingness to be betrayed and arrested? (Look at verse 54, it shows you what Jesus thinks about what is happening).

4. How does Jesus' control in this moment help us trust His control in all things that happen?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus willingly let himself be arrested and taken to the cross. Thank him that because he chose to be killed, we are now free and won't go to hell because of our sin.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 26:69-74

1. Jesus has been arrested and taken to the high priest's house to be unfairly accused in a phoney trial. Peter followed them and is now looking on from the courtyard of the high priest's house. Who is the first person to speak to Peter? What do they ask him?. How does Peter respond?

2. Do you think he should have responded that way? Why/why not?

3. Would you ever deny following Jesus? Is there a situation where you may be tempted to ignore Jesus? (E.g. when hanging with non-Christian friends, when tempted to engage in sin, etc.)

4. Is there anybody in your life that doesn't know you are a Christian? Who, and how can you be telling them?

Prayer: Ask God to help us be bold and brave as we tell people we're followers of Jesus. Ask God to help you always seek forgiveness for the times we don't respond as bravely or openly as we should. Thank God that He will also forgive us if we ask Him.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 9: Matthew 27

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 27:1-26

1. What events take place in these verses?

2. Jesus pronounced a weighty judgement on these people back in Matthew 23:29-36. How does this passage help you see the justice of Jesus' judgement (see 27:25)?

3. How does this passage help you see the depths of humanity's brokenness and sinful nature?

Prayer: Ask God to help us see our sins and our desperate need for grace. Thank Him for being the God who would lay down His life for sinners like us because He loves us.

DAY 2

Pray + Read Psalm 69:19-21; 109:25-26 & Matthew 27:27-37

1. How can you see these Psalms fulfilled in Matthew?

2. If these Psalms are about Christ, what do they reveal about the depth of His suffering?

3. How might the perfection of Christ, even in such suffering, help us be in awe of Him and help us to seek to live more like Him?

Prayer: Thank God for the perfection of Jesus and for counting His perfection as ours. Pray that He would continue to help you be patient and prayerful like Christ, even in suffering.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Psalm 22:6-8, 12-18 & Matthew 27:32-44

1. How does Psalm 22 add to what Jesus is experiencing?

2. Through the mocking words of the crowd, we can be reminded of Jesus' true identity, and what He achieved for us on the cross. What truths about Jesus and what He has done for us stand out to you?

3. What is Jesus' reaction to all the insults of the crowd? How can his perseverance and silence be a challenge and encouragement to us?

Prayer: Thank God for these things. Pray that He would help you remember these truths and live in light of them throughout the day.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 20:28; Matthew 26:28 & Matthew 27:45-56

1. How do the previous parts of Matthew show us why Jesus' death matters?

2. We remember Jesus' death as 'Good Friday' during Easter. What reasons can you see for why it is good?

3. How might the news of Jesus' death for your forgiveness impact you this week?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus' death took the punishment of God for the sins of those who will trust Him. Pray that God might help you to cherish His grace to us in Jesus.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Exodus 26:33; Leviticus 16:1-2 & Matthew 27:45-56

1. How do the signs around the death of Jesus help us recognise what was achieved by His death?

2. The curtain of the temple divided the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies, which was the place where only the High Priest could enter being ceremonially clean on the Day of Atonement (see Exodus 26:33; Leviticus 16). Why is the tearing of the curtain significant?

3. What reason does this give us to praise God and be thankful?

Take some time to reflect on this passage, maybe re-read it over the weekend if you have the time. Remember this is why Jesus came to earth as a man, this is what your faith is built on and this is our King and Saviour.

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus death meant the tearing of the curtain and all the implications of that truth for us. Pray that you would be thankful for Jesus and His work on your behalf. Praise God for his mercy and grace.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

WEEK 10: Matthew 28

DAY 1

Pray + Read Matthew 28:1-10 and Daniel 7:13-14

1. List all of the crazy/interesting/supernatural things that happen in the Matthew passage. What do these things plus the Daniel 7 passage show you about Jesus' identity and authority?

2. What do you think a Christian's life would look like if they truly understood Jesus' identity and authority?

3. What do you think a Christian's life would look like if they didn't understand Jesus' identity and authority?

Prayer: Thank God that Jesus is the King who has all authority over all things. Ask God to help you live in light of His Kingship over you and to be thankful that He is the kind of King who dies for His enemies

DAY 2

Pray + Read Matthew 27:57-28:15

1. What details does Matthew include to show the legitimacy of his account of Jesus' resurrection?
2. How does this help you have confidence in what you believe about Jesus?
3. Do you have any doubts or questions around Jesus' resurrection or anything else? What are they? What could you do to seek answers for these things?
4. How could you tell if someone your age was convinced that Jesus really did rise from the dead? What makes your life different from your friend's life who doesn't believe the resurrection happened?

Prayer: Thank God that the Bible is full of details that help us see that the resurrection truly happened. Thank God for the truth of the resurrection and that it means that you're free from the power of sin and from the punishment for sin. Ask God to help you to be crazy excited about sharing the news of Jesus' resurrection.

DAY 3

Pray + Read Matthew 28:16-20

1. A person's last words are usually really important and weighty. Here in verses 16-20 are the last words that Matthew records Jesus saying in his gospel account. What do Jesus' last words here show you about what he sees as truly important?

2. What are the three things in verses 19-20 that Jesus wants us to do for non-Christians? (Hint: what are the three steps that usually occur when someone becomes a Christian and remains a Christian?)

3. How could you be involved in these three things - particularly the first (evangelism) and the third (teaching Christians to obey Jesus)?

4. What comfort is there in this passage as we share the gospel with people? (Hint: the end of verse 20)

Prayer: Thank God that He saved you. Ask God to help you have a heart for non-Christians around you so that you'd share the gospel with them. Thank God for the promise that Jesus is with us always.

DAY 4

Pray + Read Matthew 1:1, Matthew 28:19 & Genesis 12:1-3

1. The Book of Matthew started with a reminder of the promise that God made to Abraham to bless the nations. How are the nations blessed through Jesus?

2. How has this promise that God made to Abraham benefitted you? How have you been blessed through Jesus?

3. Jesus clearly cares that people from all over the globe find salvation in Him. How could you be participating in seeing the gospel reach other parts of the world?

Prayer: Thank God that He loves to save people from their sin. Ask God to help grow your heart to love to see people be saved from their sin too. Pray that many in Australia would come to put their trust in Jesus, and also that other people in other countries would put their trust in Jesus too.

DAY 5

Pray + Read Matthew 22:42-44 & Matthew 28:18-20

1. Yesterday we were reminded of God's promise to bless the nations through Jesus. Another big idea that Matthew wants to teach us about is Jesus' authority. How much authority does Jesus have according to Matthew?

2. One big motivator behind why we want to share the gospel with people is because we love and care for them. How might Jesus' authority be another motivator for us in sharing the gospel?

3. How could you tell if someone really took Jesus' authority seriously? How has Jesus' authority impacted your life?

Prayer: Thank God that the humble and sacrificial Son of God is the King of the universe. Thank God that you have such a good King in Jesus. Ask God to help you take Jesus' kingship over you seriously and to submit to Him and serve Him.

NOTES & PRAYER POINTS

