

### POWER IN PREPARATION

A DAILY DEVOTIONAL: THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW PART 2

EASTBROOK CHURCH



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# INTRODUCTION

During Advent, with the study of Matthew 1-2 in our "Family Tree" series and devotional, we as a church began a year-long study of the Gospel according to Matthew. This devotional book that you hold in your hands represents Part 2 of our study of Matthew's account of the Gospel.

"Power in Preparation" explores Jesus' preparation for ministry from His journey to Egypt as a child refugee to the wilderness before His ministry began. We will spend most of our time looking at Matthew 2-4, as well as parts of the Old Testament that connect to the narrative accounts in Matthew. Together, over the course of the next six and a half weeks, we will look at Jesus' preparation for ministry, and how it reveals ways in which God prepares us in our own lives. Just as there were ways that Jesus had to get ready for His work, so, too, there are hidden aspects of our lives that are incredibly significant for who we become and what we do

We believe that the Bible is living and active, breathed out by God. Unlike previous devotionals in our Eastbrook 365 project, this devotional/study guide does not contain the devotional thoughts of other Eastbrookers. Rather, it focuses primarily on Scripture itself, with bonus resources to facilitate deeper understanding and engagement of God's Word. We will be doing a form of Inductive Bible Study, a method of studying the Bible. Learn more about Inductive Bible Study on page 6.

### **ABOUT EASTBROOK 365:**

Due to the uncertainty of the season we find ourselves in, we at Eastbrook are writing and producing a year of daily devotionals that we are calling "Eastbrook 365." These devotionals will align with our sermon series from September 2020-August 2021 and will help Eastbrookers near and far grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus, while also continuing to pilgrimage together as a Church.

### YOU CAN READ THESE DEVOTIONALS IN A VARIETY OF WAYS:

- Download the Eastbrook App for your phone and read each day (eastbrook. org/app)
- Download individual PDFs of each devotional to read at home or print out at home (*eastbrook.org/devotionals*)
- Sign up for the Eastbrook 365 Devotional email to be delivered to your inbox each morning (eastbrook.org/email)
- Pick up a paper copy at church, either at a service, or in the Church Office, as each devotional begins (limited copies available)

We pray God's blessings on you as you spend time with Him each day.

### HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL:

### FIND A RHYTHM THAT WORKS FOR YOU

Plan a 30-minute window each day when you can thoughtfully do the daily reading and study. Set a time, create a pattern, and stick to it for all six and a half weeks.

### DAILY SCRIPTURE READING

Each day, the Scripture passage for the day will be printed on the page, with space for you to write, draw, and engage with the text. Connect key passages with lines, circles, or underlines. If you're not sure how to interact with Scripture in this way, check out the example on page 6 for more information.

### JOURNALING SPACE

Each day also features space for personal reflection and prayer, along with a few prompting questions to guide your reflection. Some days there are specific questions, marked by a \*\*. Feel free to write here, to draw, to doodle, or not—this is your book!

### SABBATH DAY

Consider each Saturday during this study as a "Sabbath," a chance to stop, to breathe, to rest, and to worship. Each Saturday you will find a central truth of the Gospel for you to reflect on, but there is no study for you to complete on Saturdays.

### **DIG DEEPER**

Sprinkled throughout the study guide will be some bonus resources (maps, word studies of Scripture, interactive exercises) to help facilitate deeper understanding of and engagement with God's Word.





### CONNECT IN COMMUNITY

Use the online version of the devotional readings to reach out to friends online and around the world. Invite them to follow along with you during this year of devotionals from Eastbrook, which we are calling "Eastbrook 365." Find the online version at *eastbrook.org/devotionals*.

Use Eastbrook's Facebook page (facebook.com/eastbrookchurch) and other social media outlets such as Twitter and Instagram (@eastbrookchurch) to share ideas. Post your comments, thoughts, and questions in the online version. Read others' comments. This is a great way to learn from the perspective of others.

# INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY EXAMPLE:

Throughout this devotional, we will be doing a form of Inductive Bible Study, a method of studying the Bible. Inductive Bible Study follows three basic steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. The ultimate goal is transformation. By thoroughly reading and understanding the Word of God, we aim to apply it to our lives and be transformed.<sup>1</sup>

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

During this first step we are only trying to answer the question: what does the text say? Nothing else. Just this right here in front of you. What does it say? We accomplish observation through slow, careful reading of the text. Please write in this devotional book. Get out your favorite pencil, pen, colored pencils and highlighters; have fun creating a system of colors and symbols to identify what you observe! Read the text and answer the 5 W's and H. Who, What, When, Where, Why and How. Collect information. Take note of the answers and anything you learn. Connect similar words, phrases, or concepts with lines, circles, or underlines. Highlight key words in a way that will help them stand out to you. Consider marking common key words in a way that is consistent throughout the Bible.

Here is an example from Matthew 1:20-25:

20 But afte he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, loseph son of David do not be afraid to take Many home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> (She will give birth to a son, and you are step <sup>2</sup> to give him the name lesus because he will save his people from their sins."

Who is the prophet: <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him (mmanue) (which means God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, <u>he did w</u>hat the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But <u>he did not consummate their marriage until she gave sitep</u> <sup>2</sup> birth to a son. And he gave him the name (esus)

### INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

Now that we have carefully observed the text, we are looking for the single meaning within those verses. Don't try to interpret what the text means to you. Don't try to fit the text in with anything else you know or any presumptions you have. Look for the meaning God intended to communicate in this text.

### APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

Now that you have observed and interpreted the single meaning of the text, its time to take action. What is God speaking to you through this text? Proper application locates your application in the text's meaning. Proper application will ultimately lead to transformation.

### READ MATTHEW 1:20-252

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, <sup>[a]</sup> because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

[a] Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua, which means the Lord saves. [b] Isaiah 7:14

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

### POWER IN PREPARATION:

In what way does this passage reveal that even before His birth, Jesus was prepared for His earthly ministry? How did God prepare you before you were born?

### **READ MATTHEW 2:3-12; 2:16**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup>When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." [a]

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup> On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

[a] Micah 5:2,4

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### READ ISAIAH 9:1-8

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

'Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation

and increased their joy;

they rejoice before you

as people rejoice at the harvest,

as warriors rejoice

when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,

you have shattered

the yoke that burdens them,

the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle

and every garment rolled in blood

will be destined for burning,

will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever

The zeal of the Lord Almighty

will accomplish this.

 $^8 The\ Lord\ has\ sent\ a\ message\ against\ Jacob;$ 

it will fall on Israel.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

### POWER IN PREPARATION:

In what way does this passage reveal that even before His birth, Jesus was prepared for His earthly ministry? What does Isaiah reveal about this preparation?

**READ LUKE 22:24-30** 

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

<sup>24</sup> A dispute also arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and

those who exercise authority over them call themselves Benefactors. <sup>26</sup> But you

are not to be like that. Instead, the greatest among you should be like the young-

est, and the one who rules like the one who serves. <sup>27</sup> For who is greater, the one

who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table?

But I am among you as one who serves. <sup>28</sup> You are those who have stood by me

in my trials. <sup>29</sup> And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one

on me, <sup>30</sup> so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on

thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

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### **READ JOHN 13:1-17**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

- <sup>2</sup> The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. <sup>3</sup> Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; <sup>4</sup> so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. <sup>5</sup> After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.
- <sup>6</sup> He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?"

  <sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."
- 8 "No," said Peter, "you shall never wash my feet."

  Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no part with me."
  9 "Then, Lord," Simon Peter replied, "not just my feet but my hands and my head as well!"
- <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered, "Those who have had a bath need only to wash their feet; their whole body is clean. And you are clean, though not every one of you." <sup>11</sup> For he knew who was going to betray him, and that was why he said not every one was clean.
- <sup>12</sup> When he had finished washing their feet, he put on his clothes and returned to his place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" he asked them. <sup>13</sup> "You call me 'Teacher' and 'Lord', and rightly so, for that is what I am. <sup>14</sup> Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup> I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. <sup>16</sup> Very truly I tell you, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. <sup>17</sup> Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### REVELATION 5:6-14

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. <sup>7</sup> He went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. <sup>8</sup> And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. <sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.

10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. <sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:

"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!"

<sup>13</sup> Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying:

"To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

<sup>14</sup> The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshiped.

### INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

# **GOSPEL TRUTH:**

# JESUS IS YOUR KING WHO RULES OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH



This week we looked at two kings: Jesus and Herod. These two kings could not be more different, nor could their kingdoms. Both kings present a way of life that is starkly different in their rule, their tones, and their outcomes.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: THE PERSON OF JESUS

In Matthew 16:15, Jesus asked His disciples, "Who do you say that I am?" When we look at how Jesus is presented in the Bible, we discover this is the most important question any of us can ask. Who is Jesus? To dig deeper into this question, look up the passages listed under each of these characteristics and add your own comments below.<sup>3</sup>

### JESUS IS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

Jesus, the Son of God, is a coequal member of the Trinity, along with the Father and the Holy Spirit. He has existed for all eternity. He refers to God as His Father, and the father refers to Jesus as His son.

Psalm 102:27; Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 3:17; 16:15-16; 27:54; Mark 1:1; Luke 22:70-71; John 5:18; 8:24; Hebrews 1:3; 13:8; Revelation 22:13

### JESUS IS GOD WHO BECAME HUMAN

Jesus is both fully God and fully man. The deity and humanity of Jesus are displayed through the testimony of the New Testament, which presents Him as the perfect mediator to intercede between sinful humanity and a holy God.

Matthew 2:11; Mark 8:27-30; Luke 9:28-36; John 1:1-2, 14; 20:28; Galatians 4:4

### JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH, SAVIOR OF SINNERS

Jesus is the Messiah. He is the one appointed by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to deliver humanity from our sin and rebellion against God.

Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23; 16:15-17; 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 9:20; John 4:25-26; 20:31; 2 Timothy 1:10

### JESUS IS THE FOCUS OF SCRIPTURE AND THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH

All of Scripture focuses on Jesus and what He has done to reconcile humankind to God. He is the head of the visible Church, which He refers to as His bride.

Luke 24:44; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:20; 5:23; Colossians 2:19; Hebrews 3:1-6; Revelation 19:7-9; 21:9

### JESUS IS THE KING WHO RULES OVER HEAVEN AND EARTH

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. No person or thing is above Him. No power or authority can overcome Him. Jesus will reign over the new heavens and new earth forever.

Matthew 4:11; 28:20; John 8:18; Philippians 2:9-11; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 1:2

### **READ MATTHEW 2:13-18**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. <sup>17</sup> Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."[b]

[a] Hosea 11:1 [b] Matthew 2:18 Jer. 31:15

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ REVELATION 12:1-6**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and a crown of twelve stars on her head. <sup>2</sup> She was pregnant and cried out in pain as she was about to give birth. <sup>3</sup> Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on its heads. <sup>4</sup> Its tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth. The dragon stood in front of the woman who was about to give birth, so that it might devour her child the moment he was born. <sup>5</sup> She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." <sup>[6]</sup> And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne. <sup>6</sup> The woman fled into the wilderness to a place prepared for her by God, where she might be taken care of for 1,260 days.

[a] Psalm 2:9

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ ACTS 7:11-19**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

11 "Then a famine struck all Egypt and Canaan, bringing great suffering, and our ancestors could not find food. <sup>12</sup> When Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent our forefathers on their first visit. <sup>13</sup> On their second visit, Joseph told his brothers who he was, and Pharaoh learned about Joseph's family. <sup>14</sup> After this, Joseph sent for his father Jacob and his whole family, seventy-five in all. <sup>15</sup> Then Jacob went down to Egypt, where he and our ancestors died. <sup>16</sup> Their bodies were brought back to Shechem and placed in the tomb that Abraham had bought from the sons of Hamor at Shechem for a certain sum of money.

<sup>17</sup> "As the time drew near for God to fulfill his promise to Abraham, the number of our people in Egypt had greatly increased. <sup>18</sup> Then 'a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. <sup>(a)</sup> <sup>19</sup> He dealt treacherously with our people and oppressed our ancestors by forcing them to throw out their newborn babies so that they would die.

[a] Exodus 1:8

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### READ PSALM 105:23, HOSEA 11:1, AND MATTHEW 2:13-15

**OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?** 

<sup>23</sup> Then Israel entered Egypt; Jacob resided as a foreigner in the land of Ham.

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<sup>1</sup> "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

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<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."<sup>[a]</sup>

[a] Hosea 11:1

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ EXODUS 6:1-8**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Now you will see what I will do to Pharaoh: Because of my mighty hand he will let them go; because of my mighty hand he will drive them out of his country."

<sup>2</sup> God also said to Moses, "I am the Lord. <sup>3</sup> I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob as God Almighty, <sup>[a]</sup> but by my name the Lord I did not make myself fully known to them. <sup>4</sup> I also established my covenant with them to give them the land of Canaan, where they resided as foreigners. <sup>5</sup> Moreover, I have heard the groaning of the Israelites, whom the Egyptians are enslaving, and I have remembered my covenant.

<sup>6</sup> "Therefore, say to the Israelites: 'I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. I will free you from being slaves to them, and I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with mighty acts of judgment. <sup>7</sup> I will take you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God, who brought you out from under the yoke of the Egyptians. <sup>8</sup> And I will bring you to the land I swore with uplifted hand to give to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob. I will give it to you as a possession. I am the Lord."

[a] Hebrew El-Shaddai

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ MATTHEW 2:19-23**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>19</sup> After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt <sup>20</sup> and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. <sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, <sup>23</sup> and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

### POWER IN PREPARATION:

In what way does have the Scripture passages this week revealed that Jesus was prepared for His ministry even during His early years of life?

# **GOSPEL TRUTH:**

# JESUS IS YOUR HIGH PRIEST WHO CAN EMPATHIZE WITH YOU IN EVERY WAY

1

This week we looked at Jesus as the refugee Messiah. With echoes of Moses' Journey and the Exodus, Jesus' earthly parents fled from the wrath of Herod to Egypt, returning only have an angelic visitation tell them it is safe.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: ABOUT MATTHEW

Last month, we began a year-long study of the Gospel according to Matthew. Take some time to dig deeper into who Matthew was, and what makes his Gospel account unique.<sup>4</sup>

### TIMELINE:

Matthew was written in the first century, around AD 60, before the fall of the temple of Jerusalem in AD 70. The events of Matthew took place during the life of Christ, between roughly 5 BC and AD 33.



### BACKGROUND:

Though he did not identify himself in the text, the early church unanimously affirmed that the Gospel of Matthew was authored by the Apostle Matthew. Most scholars believe that Matthew used Mark's Gospel in writing his own. If this is correct, Matthew's Gospel was written after Mark's, though the date of Mark's Gospel is also a bit of a mystery. Irenaeus (approx. AD 180) claimed that Mark wrote his Gospel after Peter's death in the mid-60s. However, Clement of Alexandria, who wrote only 20 years after Irenaeus, claimed that Mark wrote his gospel while Peter was still alive.

### **MESSAGE AND PURPOSE:**

It seems fitting that the first book of the New Testament begins with the words: "An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ." This Gospel was written from a strong Jewish perspective to show that Jesus truly is the Messiah and coming King promised in the Old Testament. Matthew presents an eyewitness testimony of the ministry of Jesus and emphasizes certain theological truths:

- Jesus is the Messiah, the long-awaited King of God's people.
- Jesus is the new Abraham, the founder of a new spiritual Israel consisting of all people (both Jews and Gentiles) who follow Him.
- Jesus is the new Moses, the deliverer, instructor, and mediator of God's people.
- *Jesus is the new Immanuel,* the virgin-born Son of God who fulfills the promises of the Old Testament.

### MATTHEW AS THE BRIDGE:

As the first book in the New Testament, the Gospel of Matthew serves as a bridge between the Old and New Testaments. Of the New Testament books, and certainly of the four Gospels, Matthew also makes the most direct connections to the Old Testament. The book presents God's entire plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation, referring to Old Testament prophecies about 60 times. Matthew looks forward by discussing not only the Messiah's coming and His ministry, but also His future plan for His Church and kingdom.

### **READ MATTHEW 3:1-12**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea<sup>2</sup> and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup> This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'''[a]

<sup>4</sup> John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup> People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup> Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

<sup>7</sup> But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 9 And do not think you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>10</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

<sup>11</sup> "I baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>12</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

[a] Isaiah 40:3 [b] Or in

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### READ ISAIAH 40:3-11

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

- <sup>3</sup> A voice of one calling:
- "In the wilderness prepare
  - the way for the Lord<sup>[a]</sup>;
- make straight in the desert
  - a highway for our God.[b]
- <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be raised up,
  - every mountain and hill made low;
- the rough ground shall become level,
  - the rugged places a plain.
- <sup>5</sup> And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

- <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out."
  - And I said, "What shall I cry?"
- "All people are like grass,
  - and all their faithfulness is like the flowers of the field.
- <sup>7</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,
  - because the breath of the Lord blows on them.
  - Surely the people are grass.
- <sup>8</sup> The grass withers and the flowers fall,
  - but the word of our God endures forever."
- <sup>9</sup> You who bring good news to Zion, go up on a high mountain.
- You who bring good news to Jerusalem, [c]
  - lift up your voice with a shout,
- lift it up, do not be afraid;
  - say to the towns of Judah,
  - "Here is your God!"
- <sup>10</sup> See, the Sovereign Lord comes with power, and he rules with a mighty arm.
- See, his reward is with him,
- and his recompense accompanies him.

11 He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young.

[a] Or A voice of one calling in the wilderness: / "Prepare the way for the Lord
[b] Hebrew; Septuagint make straight the paths of our God
[c] Or Zion, bringer of good news, / go up on a high mountain. / Jerusalem, bringer of good news

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ LUKE 1:11-17**

### OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

11 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. 12 When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. 13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

### POWER IN PREPARATION:

In what way does the life and birth of John the Baptist prepare the way for Jesus' ministry?

### READ LUKE 3:1-17

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene—<sup>2</sup> during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup> He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>4</sup> As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness,"
'Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.

<sup>5</sup> Every valley shall be filled in,
every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight,
the rough ways smooth.

<sup>6</sup> And all people will see God's salvation." [a]

<sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup> Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup> The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10 &</sup>quot;What should we do then?" the crowd asked.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?"

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> "Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them.

<sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content

with your pay."

<sup>15</sup> The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Messiah. <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with<sup>[b]</sup> water. But one who is more powerful than I will come, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. <sup>17</sup> His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

[a] Isaiah 40:3-5 [b] Or in

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ MARK 1:2-8**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

"I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way"[a]— 3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." [b]

<sup>4</sup> And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. <sup>6</sup> John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And this was his message: "After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. <sup>8</sup> I baptize you with <sup>[c]</sup> water, but he will baptize you with <sup>[c]</sup> the Holy Spirit."

[a] Malachi 3:1 [b] Isaiah 40:3 [c] Or in

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **READ JOHN 11:7-19**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>7</sup> and then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

<sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews there tried to stone you, and yet you are going back?"

<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Anyone who walks in the daytime will not stumble, for they see by this world's light. <sup>10</sup> It is when a person walks at night that they stumble, for they have no light."

<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."

<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." <sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.

<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, <sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (also known as Didymus<sup>[a]</sup>) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was less than two miles<sup>(b)</sup> from Jerusalem, <sup>19</sup> and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

[a] Thomas (Aramaic) and Didymus (Greek) both mean twin. [b] Or about 3 kilometers

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

**GOSPEL TRUTH:** 

# YOU ARE CALLED TO BE A WITNESS FOR CHRIST, JUST LIKE JOHN THE BAPTIST



This week we examined John the Baptist as a prophetic voice calling out for repentance and change in a challenging time for Israel.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: GOOD NEWS

Why are there four gospels? The word gospel means "good news." A Gospel in the Bible is a book dedicated to telling the story of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Since the early days of Christianity, the Church has recognized four Gospels as giving reliable accounts of the story of Christ: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But why does the Bible include four different accounts?

Each Gospel verifies the authenticity of the others. The four accounts do not contradict each other. Rather, they help us see Jesus from a few different perspectives, giving us a fuller picture of who He is than we would get from only one account.

Dig deeper into the four Gospels by doing some research of your own in a Study Bible, on the Bible Project website, or online. Add your own differences below:

### **MATTHEW**

- Original Audience: Jews
- Presents Jesus As: The fulfillment of the Old Testament promise of the Son of David (see Matthew 9:27; 21:9)
- Some Unique Features: The Beatitudes, the Five Discourses, many parables

### MARK

- Original Audience: Romans
- **Presents Jesus As:** The servant of God (Mark 10:45)
- Some Unique Features: Fast-paced, focused on the narrative

### LUKE

- Original Audience: Most honorable Theophilus
- Presents Jesus As: The awaited Messiah (Luke 1:1-4)
- Some Unique Features: Lengthy nativity story, focused on historical detail, includes extended narratives

### JOHN

- Original Audience: Everyone
- Presents Jesus As: The divine Son of God (John 1:14)
- Some Unique Features: Poetic voice, a series of "I Am" statements, focused on the last week of Jesus' life

### **READ MATTHEW 3:13-17**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>13</sup> Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. <sup>14</sup> But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

<sup>15</sup> Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented.

<sup>16</sup> As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. <sup>17</sup> And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

POWER IN PREPARATION:

How does Jesus' baptism prepare Him for ministry?

### **READ HEBREWS 1:8-9**

### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>8</sup> But about the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.

<sup>9</sup> You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy."<sup>[a]</sup>

[a] Psalm 45:6,7

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ PSALM 45:1-8

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

- <sup>1</sup> My heart is stirred by a noble theme as I recite my verses for the king; my tongue is the pen of a skillful writer.
- <sup>2</sup> You are the most excellent of men and your lips have been anointed with grace, since God has blessed you forever.
- <sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your side, you mighty one; clothe yourself with splendor and majesty.
- <sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride forth victoriously in the cause of truth, humility and justice; let your right hand achieve awesome deeds.
- <sup>5</sup> Let your sharp arrows pierce the hearts of the king's enemies; let the nations fall beneath your feet.
- <sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, <sup>[a]</sup> will last for ever and ever; a scepter of justice will be the scepter of your kingdom.
- <sup>7</sup> You love righteousness and hate wickedness; therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.
- 8 All your robes are fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia; from palaces adorned with ivory the music of the strings makes you glad.

[a] Here the king is addressed as God's representative.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ LUKE 3:21-23**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>21</sup> When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened <sup>22</sup> and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

<sup>23</sup> Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli,

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ MARK 1:9-11

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>9</sup> At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ JOHN 1:29-34**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>29</sup> The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is the one I meant when I said, 'A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel."

<sup>32</sup> Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup> And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One." <sup>(1)</sup>

[a] See Isaiah 42:1; many manuscripts is the Son of God.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

#### POWER IN PREPARATION:

What impact did your own baptism have on your life and vocation? If you are not yet baptized, why not?

## **GOSPEL TRUTH:**

# YOU ARE A BELOVED CHILD OF GOD



This week we looked at Jesus' baptism, which is the fulfillment of all righteousness and a revelation of His Sonship. It also echoes the Exodus journey of Israel through the Red Sea.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: KEY GROUPS IN MATTHEW

**CENTURIONS** (*Matthew 8:5-13, 27:54*) Professional commanding officers in the Roman army. Commanded roughly 100 soldiers. Had military experience, formal education, and respect in the public eye. <sup>6</sup>

**ELDERS OF THE PEOPLE** (12:23-27, 16:21) A council of men from prominent Jewish families. Part of the Sanhedrin. Held leadership role in the government of the local synagogue.

**GENTILES** (6:32, 20:19) All non-Jewish people and people groups. Considered ceremonially unclean by Jewish people. Considered by Jewish people to be outsiders to God's covenant promises.

**HERODIANS** (22:15-22) Jews who supported Herod the Great's descendants serving as rulers over Palestine. Joined with Pharisees in a plot to kill Jesus. Tried to trick Jesus into saying people shouldn't pay taxes.

**JEWS** (2:2, 27:11) From Palestine, descendants of Abraham. Believers in one God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

**MONEY CHANGERS** (21:12-13) Responsible for exchanging other currency for Jewish money. Set up tables in the temple so worshipers could get the correct currency to pay the temple tax and buy sacrifices. Often profited greatly by charging interest rates from 20-300%.

**PHARISEES** (3:7, 12:1-18) "Set apart ones" focused on the study and interpretation of the Law of Moses. Ruled the local synagogues and had a strong influence in the Jewish community. Believed both the written Law of Moses and oral tradition were authoritative.

**PRIESTS/CHIEF PRIESTS/HIGH PRIESTS** (20:17-18, 21:14-17) The most powerful Jews in Jerusalem. Official worship leaders for the Jewish people. Represented Israel before God and offered sacrifices on behalf of the people.

**SADDUCEES** (16:1-12, 22:23-33) Wealthy high priests responsible for the temple and its services. Politically oriented and focused on maintaining the beliefs and practices of the past. Did not believe in the resurrection of the dead and denied the existence of demons and angels.

**THE SANHEDRIN** (26:57-68) Made up of Sadducees, Pharisees, Priests, and Elders of the people. A 71-member Jewish council in Jerusalem, run by the High Priest. Had local authority over the Jewish community under Roman oversight.

**TAX COLLECTORS** (9:9-11) Regarded as treasonous, greedy, and dishonest by fellow Jews. Contracted by the Roman government to collect taxes. Collected additional profit along with the taxes for their pay.

**SCRIBES** (12:38-42, 15:1-9) Professional group trained in copying and interpreting the Law of Moses. Largely made up of Pharisees, led the plans to kill Jesus.

**ZEALOTS** (10:4) An extreme political sect of Pharisees committed to resisting Rome. Believed only God had the right to rule the Jews and were willing to die for that belief. Considered their patriotism and religious beliefs to be inseparable.

#### **READ MATTHEW 4:1-11**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. <sup>2</sup> After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'<sup>[b]</sup>"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. <sup>6</sup> "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written:

"He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone."

Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test "d""

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. <sup>9</sup> "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."

<sup>10</sup> Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only."

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

[a] The Greek for tempted can also mean tested.
[b] Deuteronomy, 8:3
[c] Psalm 91:11,12
[d] Deuteronomy, 6:16
[e] Deuteronomy, 6:13

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ HEBREWS 4:14-16**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, <sup>[a]</sup> Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. <sup>15</sup> For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. <sup>16</sup> Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

[a] Greek has gone through the heavens

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS AFFECT ME?

#### POWER IN PREPARATION:

How does God prepare Jesus for ministry during His time in the wilderness? Why do the words you read in Hebrews matter to you?

#### **READ DEUTERONOMY 8:1-6**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors. <sup>2</sup> Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

<sup>6</sup> Observe the commands of the Lord your God, walking in obedience to him and revering him.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ PSALM 91:9-16

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

- <sup>9</sup> If you say, "The Lord is my refuge," and you make the Most High your dwelling,
- no harm will overtake you, no disaster will come near your tent.
- 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways;
- <sup>12</sup> they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.
- <sup>13</sup> You will tread on the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent.
- <sup>14</sup> "Because he<sup>[a]</sup> loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.
- <sup>15</sup> He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him.
- <sup>16</sup> With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation."

[a] That is, probably the king

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ 1 PETER 3:8-17

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>8</sup> Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. <sup>9</sup> Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. <sup>10</sup> For,

"Whoever would love life and see good days must keep their tongue from evil and their lips from deceitful speech.

<sup>11</sup> They must turn from evil and do good; they must seek peace and pursue it.

<sup>12</sup> For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer,

but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."[a]

<sup>13</sup> Who is going to harm you if you are eager to do good? <sup>14</sup> But even if you should suffer for what is right, you are blessed. "Do not fear their threats<sup>[b]</sup>; do not be frightened." <sup>[c]</sup> <sup>15</sup> But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, <sup>16</sup> keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander. <sup>17</sup> For it is better, if it is God's will, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.

[a] Psalm 34:12-16 [b] Or fear what they fear [c] Isaiah 8:12

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ DEUTERONOMY 6:13-19**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>13</sup> Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name. <sup>14</sup> Do not follow other gods, the gods of the peoples around you; <sup>15</sup> for the Lord your God, who is among you, is a jealous God and his anger will burn against you, and he will destroy you from the face of the land. <sup>16</sup> Do not put the Lord your God to the test as you did at Massah. <sup>17</sup> Be sure to keep the commands of the Lord your God and the stipulations and decrees he has given you. <sup>18</sup> Do what is right and good in the Lord's sight, so that it may go well with you and you may go in and take over the good land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors, <sup>19</sup> thrusting out all your enemies before you, as the Lord said.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

## **GOSPEL TRUTH:**

# JESUS IS WITH YOU IN THE WILDERNESS PLACES

This week we looked at the wilderness temptation of Jesus, which is pivotal for defining His way of ministry. This also echoes the people of Israel's wilderness wanderings and presents Jesus as a new sort of Israel.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: JESUS' MINISTRY MAP



#### READ MATTHEW 4:12-17 AND MARK 1:15

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali— <sup>14</sup> to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah:

15 "Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles—

<sup>16</sup> the people living in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of the shadow of death

a light has dawned."[a]

<sup>17</sup> From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

[a] Isaiah 9:1,2

15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ ISAIAH 9:1-7

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

<sup>2</sup> The people walking in darkness

have seen a great light;

on those living in the land of deep darkness

a light has dawned.

<sup>3</sup> You have enlarged the nation

and increased their joy;

they rejoice before you

as people rejoice at the harvest,

as warriors rejoice

when dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For as in the day of Midian's defeat,

you have shattered

the yoke that burdens them,

the bar across their shoulders,

the rod of their oppressor.

<sup>5</sup> Every warrior's boot used in battle

and every garment rolled in blood

will be destined for burning,

will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,

to us a son is given,

and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace

there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne

and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it

with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ LUKE 4:14-21**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

<sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."[a]

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

[a] Isaiah 61:1,2 (see Septuagint); Isaiah 58:6

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ ISAIAH 61:1-3

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, [a] <sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, and provide for those who grieve in Zion to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes. the oil of joy instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor.

[a] Hebrew; Septuagint the blind

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### READ JOHN 3:1-15

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him."

- <sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again<sup>[a]</sup>"
- <sup>4</sup> "How can someone be born when they are old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother's womb to be born!"
- <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. <sup>6</sup> Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit<sup>[b]</sup> gives birth to spirit. <sup>7</sup> You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You<sup>[c]</sup> must be born again.' <sup>8</sup> The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." <sup>[d]</sup>

<sup>10</sup> "You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. <sup>12</sup> I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. <sup>[e] 14</sup> Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, <sup>[f] 15</sup> that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him." <sup>[g]</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> "How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

<sup>[</sup>a] The Greek for again also means from above; also in verse 7.

<sup>[</sup>b] Or but spirit

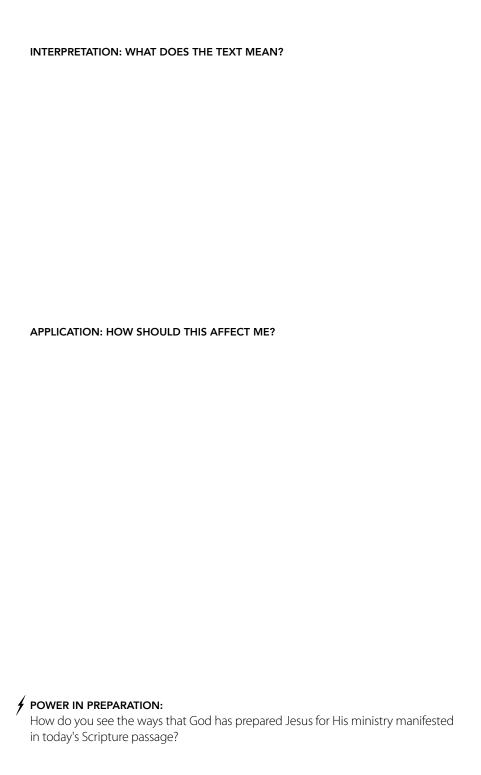
<sup>[</sup>c] The Greek is plural.

 $<sup>\</sup>label{eq:continuous} \mbox{[d] The Greek for Spirit is the same as that for wind.}$ 

<sup>[</sup>e] Some manuscripts Man, who is in heaven

<sup>[</sup>f] The Greek for lifted up also means exalted.

<sup>[</sup>q] Some interpreters end the quotation with verse 21.



#### **READ EPHESIANS 2:11-22**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>11</sup> Therefore, remember that formerly you who are Gentiles by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)— <sup>12</sup> remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world. <sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, <sup>15</sup> by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, <sup>16</sup> and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. <sup>17</sup> He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. <sup>18</sup> For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

<sup>19</sup> Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, <sup>20</sup> built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. <sup>21</sup> In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. <sup>22</sup> And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

### **GOSPEL TRUTH:**

# THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS IS FOR ALL PEOPLE



This week we looked at the beginnings of Jesus' ministry. It is the announcement of a new message rooted in the kingdom of God. It is a message from God for the nations as Jesus begins His ministry in Galilee of the Gentiles.

USE TODAY TO PRAY, REST, WORSHIP, AND REFLECT ON THIS WEEK'S STUDY.

# DIG DEEPER: THE FOUR GOSPELS

While each of the four Gospels takes a different approach as they witness to the life, character, and ministry of Jesus Christ, each Gospel still testifies to the nature of Jesus. To dig deeper, look up these characteristics in each book. <sup>7</sup>

MATTUFW MARK LIIKF INUN

	MVIIHEM	MVKK	LUKE	JUHN
JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD  All four Gospels testify that Christ is the Son of God.	16:15-16 27:54	1:1	22:70-71	8:24
JESUS IS GOD WHO BECAME HUMAN Jesus is both fully God and fully man.	2:11	8:27-30	9:28-36	1:1-2,14; 20:28
JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE MESSIAH Jesus is the promised deliverer of the nation of Israel and of all humanity.	26:63-64	14:61-62	9:20	4:25-26
JESUS CAME TO SAVE SINNERS Jesus' purpose on earth was to save sinners by taking their punishment.	9:13	2:17	5:32	12:47
<b>JESUS HAS POWER TO FORGIVE SINS</b> Because He is God, Jesus has the authority to forgive sins.	9:1-8	2:9-12	24:47	8:2-11
JESUS HAS AUTHORITY OVER DEATH Jesus has power to raise the dead.	28:5-6	5:22-24; 35-42	24:5-6	11:1-44
JESUS GIVES ETERNAL LIFE God has given Jesus authority to grant eternal life to all those who believe in Him.	8:5-13	9:1	23:43	10:28; 17:2
JESUS HEALED THE SICK Jesus has power over all physical sickness.	8:5-13	1:32-34	5:12-15	9:1-17
<b>JESUS TAUGHT WITH AUTHORITY</b> As the Son of God, Jesus has authority over heaven and earth.	7:29	1:21-22	8:22-25	6:16-21
JESUS IS COMPASSIONATE Jesus showed compassion for all.	9:36	1:41; 8:2	23:34	5:5-9
JESUS EXPERIENCED SORROW  Jesus experienced many emotions.	26:38	10:14	22:44	11:35
JESUS NEVER DISOBEYED GOD Jesus lived a life without sin.	4:1-11	1:12-13	22:42	8:46

#### **READ MATTHEW 4:18-25**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

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

<sup>21</sup> Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, <sup>22</sup> and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis<sup>[a]</sup> Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

[a] That is, the Ten Cities

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ MARK 2:13-17**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>13</sup> Once again Jesus went out beside the lake. A large crowd came to him, and he began to teach them. <sup>14</sup> As he walked along, he saw Levi son of Alphaeus sitting at the tax collector's booth. "Follow me," Jesus told him, and Levi got up and followed him.

<sup>15</sup> While Jesus was having dinner at Levi's house, many tax collectors and sinners were eating with him and his disciples, for there were many who followed him.
<sup>16</sup> When the teachers of the law who were Pharisees saw him eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they asked his disciples: "Why does he eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>17</sup> On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

#### **READ MARK 3:13-19**

#### **OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?**

<sup>13</sup> Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve<sup>[a]</sup> that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons. <sup>16</sup> These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), <sup>17</sup> James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means "sons of thunder"), <sup>18</sup> Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot <sup>19</sup> and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

[a] Some manuscripts twelve—designating them apostles—

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?



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#### SOURCES

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