

MATTHEW 1-7

# JESUS CHRIST

# JESUS CHRIST – MATTHEW 1-7

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

Who are you on mission to?

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

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

List the names of your family and friends here:

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# TERM 1 – 2018

## How to use this book:

### 1. PERSONAL READING

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

### 2. GROWTH GROUPS

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

### 3. CHURCH

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

**SIGN UP FOR THESE NOTES AS A DAILY EMAIL AT:**  
[www.evchurch.info/series](http://www.evchurch.info/series)

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# INTRODUCTION: MATTHEW 1-7

## Authorship and Date

Although no statement of authorship is contained in the account itself, early Christian tradition tells us unanimously that this gospel was written by Matthew. Not just any Matthew, but the former tax collector who followed Jesus and became one of his 12 disciples (Matthew 9:9-13)! Relying heavily on Mark's gospel (which is based substantially on Peter's testimony), Matthew's gospel is a thorough and reliable Apostolic testimony of the life and teaching of Jesus. It is thought to have been drafted somewhere between 50-70AD. As a tax collector, Matthew would have possessed good literacy skills. And, as a Galilean Jewish Christian, he was well positioned to interpret the words and actions of Jesus in light of Old Testament messianic expectations.

## Purpose and Audience

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

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

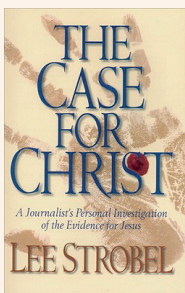
There are five unique sections of Jesus' teaching in Matthew's gospel, which could be considered a manual on discipleship. They describe what it means to live a holistic life of obedience to Jesus (see chapters 5-7; 10; 13; 18-20; 24-25)

In light of this, it seems Matthew's purpose in writing is to evangelise his fellow Jews, convincing them that Jesus is their true Messiah who brings God's long-awaited salvation. But he also shows the salvation Jesus brings is available to all people regardless of race or background. In Jesus, a new people of God is established, for He unifies Jews and Gentiles together as one people. His promise to this new people is that He will continue to be present among them until the very end. Because of this, they are to hear and heed His teaching about what it will mean to be His disciple making disciples – despite the inevitable opposition they will face.

This term we will look at chapters 1-7, which provide the background to understand the coming of Jesus in light of the Old Testament, followed by the first of the five teaching sections, the Sermon on the Mount. As we journey through this gospel, Jesus will strongly challenge our assumptions and expose our lives. Pray that God would graciously bless us as we listen to Him this term.

## SUGGESTED READING

### ***The Case for Christ*, Lee Strobel**



A seasoned journalist chases down the biggest story in history – Is there credible evidence that Jesus of Nazareth really is the Son of God? Retracing his own spiritual journey from atheism to faith, Lee Strobel, former legal editor of the Chicago Tribune, cross-examines a dozen experts with doctorates who are specialists in the areas of old manuscripts, textual criticism, and biblical studies. Strobel challenges them with questions like: How reliable is the New Testament? Does evidence for Jesus exist outside the Bible? Is there any reason to believe the resurrection was an actual event? Strobel's tough, point-blank questions make this bestselling book read like a captivating, fast-paced novel. But it is not fiction. It is a riveting quest for the truth about history's most compelling figure. What will your verdict be in *The Case for Christ*?

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

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

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

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

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

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

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

## YEAR 1: TERM 1

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

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

**YEAR 1: TERM 2**

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

**YEAR 1: TERM 3**

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

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

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

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

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

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

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



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

### **YEAR 2: TERM 3**

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

### **YEAR 2: TERM 4**

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

# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 1-7

**This week is the last week of the Summer Series so there are no specific daily readings in Matthew. Growth Groups will start next week. You might like to set yourself the challenge of reading through Matthew 1-7 this week to get an overview of what we will be looking at this term. You could read it in one extended sitting or read a chapter each day.**

As you read through these chapters, ask yourself two questions:

1. How does this help me understand who Jesus is?

2. What will it mean to be His disciple?

# Overview

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 1:1-25

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 1:1-17

Genesis 1 opens with the words “in the **beginning...**”. And what follows is the account of God creating all things, and it was good! But it’s a story that lasts a mere two chapters before it all turns to custard! Chapter 3 onwards records the initial and repeated rebellion of humanity against God and His judgement upon it. But interwoven into this seemingly hopeless story is the extraordinary grace of God to promise a new beginning. There will be a new way to relate to God, and a new Kingdom to be part of that will endure forever. The Old Testament storyline gathers momentum over time as it looks forward with increasing anticipation of the coming of this king and this new beginning. Matthew’s gospel opens with the words, “This is the **genealogy** of Jesus...” The word **genealogy** could also be translated **beginning**. It’s the same word used in Genesis 1:1, “in the **beginning...**” suggesting that the long-awaited new beginning has arrived in the coming of Jesus!

1. What do we learn about Jesus’ identity from verse 1?
2. How do verses 2-17 support verse 1?
3. What might Matthew want his readers to be certain of by starting his gospel like this?

**Prayer:** Pray that God opens your mind, bolsters your confidence and stirs your heart to the magnitude of His glory as we learn together of God’s salvation promised and fulfilled in the coming of Jesus.

# Introduction and Birth

## DAY 2

### Read Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6

Over the next couple of days we will look at some verses about Abraham and David to consider why Matthew has such a strong interest in connecting his readers' understanding of Jesus to them.

1. What does God promise to do through Abraham in chapter 12?
  - a. What is the scope of this promise? Who is it for?
  
2. Since Genesis 3, the world has been under God's judgement because of rebellion and sin, and, therefore, not right before God. Yet in Genesis 15:6, God says something about Abraham that is quite remarkable. What did Abraham do to be considered right before God?
  - a. Why does this offer such hope to humanity?
  
3. What expectations are established through these verses about the future?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His gracious promise to a rebellious world to establish a new people in a new place that could know the blessing of God again – not based on human performance, but by trusting in God.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 1:1-25

## DAY 3

### Read 2 Samuel 7:8-17

1. David was Israel's second king; the one God chose for them after Israel's poor choice of Saul. David was the greatest king they ever knew for many reasons but not because he was perfect. In fact, he was far from it! In these verses, God makes a great promise to David – what is it?
  - a. How does it remind you of the promise made to Abraham some 1,000 years earlier?
    - What does this suggest about the connection between God's promises to both men?
  - b. How will this promise come to fulfillment?
  - c. What will be the relationship between God and this coming king?
2. How do these verses shape our expectations of the future?

**Prayer:** Praise God for His Word, for His promises, and for His plan to establish a new people who can live with God again in a new kingdom that will never end. Thank Him for so clearly setting the pieces in place to understand that with the coming of Jesus we see God's plans made real and brought to life!

# Introduction and Birth

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 1:18-25

1. Yesterday, we read that God's promised king would come from David's line, but that he would also be God's son (2 Sam. 7:14). How do these verses explain that Jesus is both of these things?
2. What else do we learn about either Jesus' identity or his purpose from these verses?
3. Why is it so important to know that Jesus came to save people from their sins?

**Prayer:** Pray that God opens your heart again to the majesty and awe of His promised King –fully God and fully man–Jesus, who came to save you from your sins.





# Introduction and Birth

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 2:1-23

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 2:1-12

1. Right from the beginning of His life, the arrival of Jesus on earth divides people into two opposing camps. What two responses to Jesus do you see in these verses?
2. Can you see any reasons for the different responses to Jesus in these verses?
3. If Jesus is the rightful king over all creation, it follows that He's going to be the rightful ruler over people's lives also – all people, not just the Jews. This means that unless people are ready and wanting to submit to His rule, His presence will only threaten people's sense of personal autonomy. Do you gladly acknowledge Jesus' rule in all areas of your life? What parts of your life do you find hard to submit to Jesus' rule?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might continue to work graciously in people's lives so that many more would come to gladly acknowledge Jesus' rule over their lives. Pray this for yourself, for us together at EV Church, for those in our community who don't know Jesus, and for those our mission partners are seeking to reach around the world.

# Infant Narrative

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 2:1-12

1. As you consider the two types of people and their responses to Jesus, what makes this surprising?
2. By highlighting this contrast of responses, what might Matthew want his readers to know about the scope of Jesus?
3. What makes the coming of Jesus such a different reality to any other religion?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would increase your conviction about the essential and global scope of salvation made possible through the coming of Jesus. Pray that Christians across Australia (and the world) might be emboldened in their witness for Jesus because it's the truth of God for a world that is hopelessly lost in sin.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 2:1-23

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 2:13-23 and Hosea 11:1-2

The allusions to the Old Testament are riddled throughout these opening chapters of Matthew's gospel. Sometimes they are implicit, other times they are very explicit with Matthew quoting the Old Testament to make sure we don't miss it!

1. What is Matthew suggesting about Jesus' identity by quoting Hosea 11:1?
2. Considering Hosea 11:2, how might Matthew want his readers to compare Israel with Jesus?
3. Why is this such an extraordinary sign of hope?

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending Jesus, to be the true Israel, the one who will succeed where Israel failed.

# Infant Narrative

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 2:13-18 and Exodus 2:1-10; 3:7-10

1. Considering today's passages from Exodus, what does Matthew want his readers to understand about Jesus' identity? (See also Deuteronomy 18:18)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What great historical event did God use Moses to enact?
  - a. If Jesus is being presented as another Moses, what are we to understand about God's purpose for Jesus' life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How does seeing this help you understand what God wants you to know as you read the Bible? (See Luke 24:44; John 5:39)

**Prayer:** Pray that God grows your hunger to know His Word, to see how it points you to Jesus, and enables you to trust in Him for salvation.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 2:1-23

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 2:16-23 and Jeremiah 31:15-17, 31:31

Matthew's use of Jeremiah 31:15 seems a little odd at first so it's worth taking the time to understand it. Jeremiah used personification to describe the mothers of Israel mourning as their children were carried off into exile. It would have been a horrific time: the nation God had promised to create and bless through Abraham, and who He rescued out of slavery in Egypt through Moses had fallen into such rebellion and sin that God caused the Babylonians to take them captive into exile. It would have seemed that the most extreme worldly power had come against them, God's people, and won. The grieving would have been immense for all kinds of reasons. In the wider context of Jeremiah 31, this devastation that caused such weeping would give way to the most amazing promise of God, the promise of a new covenant (31:31).

1. How might Matthew have wanted his readers to understand Herod's actions and God's purposes?
2. What does it reveal about worldly powers as they attempt to get rid of God, or frustrate His purposes?
3. Why is that such a great cause for comfort?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His rule over history, over nations, over rulers and over circumstances. Pray that you might be made bold to stand for Jesus no matter the cost, the ridicule, or the opposition knowing that God's purposes cannot be thwarted. Jesus will build His church, He will save people, and He will return to complete what He started because Christ is the King!

# Infant Narrative

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 3:1-17

At the end of chapter 2, Jesus' family returned to Nazareth from Egypt. Around 25 years have since passed and Matthew now opens chapter 3 with Jesus beginning his public ministry in Galilee. As has been the pattern, Matthew's account is dripping in Old Testament imagery to demonstrate who Jesus is and why He came.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 3:1-12

1. What does Matthew want his readers to know about John the Baptist?
  - a. What is John doing?
  - b. Why is he doing it?
  - c. Who and whom is He expecting?
2. What do you find most challenging about John's message?

**Prayer:** Pray that you might feel the gravity of John the Baptist's message urging people to repentance before God. God's great act of salvation in sending Jesus is also connected to a great day of judgement. Ask God to make these realities real to you so that your priorities in life might flow out.



# John the Baptist

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 3:1-6; Isaiah 40:1-5; 2 Kings 1:8; Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6.**

1. Which Old Testament figure does Matthew want his readers to equate John the Baptist with? (2 Kings 1:8)
2. What role was Ezekiel expected to play in God's purposes? (See Malachi 3:1; 4:5-6; Isaiah 40:1-5)
3. Based on today's Old Testament readings, if John the Baptist is Ezekiel, who is Jesus?
4. How does this help you see that Christianity is like no other religion?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help expand your sense of wonder and awe about the truth of who Jesus is.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 3:1-17

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 3:7-12

1. What is the overall tone of this passage?
2. What is the faulty basis of confidence for the religious leaders that John addresses?
3. There is a great separation coming that will be devastating for many. What is the difference between the two groups of people?

**Prayer:** Pray for people you know, people you live with, the coast in general, our country and the world – that all might hear the good news about the Lordship of Jesus and turn in repentance so they won't be lost on that final day.

# John the Baptist

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 3:7-12; Jeremiah 31:31; Ezekial36:25-27; Joel 2:28-29**

1. What is the difference between John's and Jesus' baptisms?
2. What is the expectation from the Old Testament about the coming of the Spirit?
  - a. Can people be right with God apart from the work of the Spirit?
  - b. What was the connection between the Spirit and a new covenant?
  - c. What would the Spirit do?
  - d. Who is the promise of the Spirit for?
  - e. Who would be responsible for people being baptised in the Holy Spirit?
3. Where is the only possible hope for humanity to escape God's terrifying judgement and know the hope of salvation?

**Prayer:** After Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, He poured out the Spirit upon those who genuinely repented and trusted in Him. Acts 2 records the beginning of this monumental event in history where 3,000 people were saved after the first gospel message was preached. Jesus is the only hope for our world, which is lost in sin and a great day of judgement is coming. Pray that God would bring greater clarity to your grasp of these spiritual realities so you might live a life worthy of the gospel.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 3:1-17

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 3:13-17 and Psalm 2:1-12

1. Jesus did not have to repent because He was without sin, yet He insists on being baptised by John, why?
  - a. In what sense might His baptism show that He is identifying as a substitute for sinful humans?
  - b. How might Jesus' baptism confirm John's ministry to prepare the way for the coming King?
2. What does the voice from Heaven and the Spirit confirm about Jesus' identity? (Psalm 2)
3. It's not hard to be drawn to Jesus when you understand His grace in taking your place at the cross to forgive and save you. But Jesus' identity as Christ the King should bring a sense of awe and right-placed fear before Him. To which understanding of Jesus do you most relate: Saviour or King? Do you need to recalibrate the way you come before Him?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you revere Jesus rightly for who He is, Christ the King; who became a man and gave His life to rescue us from sin. Ask God to help your sense of Jesus' true identity lead you to a life of worship.

# John the Baptist

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 4:1-11

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 4:1-11

1. Why does Jesus go to the wilderness?
2. What do you notice about Jesus' physical condition as He meets Satan?
3. How does Satan attempt to exploit Jesus' weakness?
4. What appears to be a simple question from Satan has a much greater one at its root. What is the critical concern here?

**Prayer:** Thank God for Jesus' rock-solid devotion to God's Word and His plan for salvation even though it would come at great personal cost.

# Jesus' Temptation

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Genesis 3:1-6

1. Compare the two passages you just read:
  - a. How does Satan's tactics compare in each scenario?
  - b. How do Adam's and Jesus' responses to Satan's tempting work compare?
  - c. How does Jesus overcome Satan's temptation?
2. What might Matthew want us to understand about Jesus throughout this comparison? Why is that such awesome news?

**Prayer:** Thank God that where Adam failed Jesus succeeded. Jesus valued God's Word over earthly needs, He discerned truth over distortion, and He sought the honour of God over the easy road. In all these things, Jesus proves Himself worthy as the perfect human, the perfect substitute for humanity, and the perfect beginning of a new people of God.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 4:1-11

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 4:1-11; Deuteronomy 8:1-3; and 1 Corinthians 10:1-12

1. What was the lesson Israel was meant to learn in the desert over the 40 years they wandered there? (Deuteronomy 8:3)
2. Looking back from the perspective of 1 Corinthians 10, how did Israel go in the desert?
3. Read back over Matthew 4:1-11, what might Matthew want you to notice about Jesus compared with Israel?
4. Until the coming of Jesus, our personal story was bound up with the fate of Adam and Israel. We were left without hope in the face of God's right judgement. How great is it to know that in Jesus there is one who did not fail? Jesus, the perfect human, the perfect Israel, would offer to stand in your place under God's judgment and offer you the most amazing gift imaginable – forgiveness and inclusion into a new people of God! How does this stir your affections towards Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might keep growing you in wonder and awe about Jesus. Pray that you might increasingly want to glorify God by making much of Jesus.







# Jesus' Temptation

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 4:12-25

## DAY 1

### Read Isaiah 49:1-6

In Isaiah, we read in four different places of a servant whom God would use in some extraordinary ways. The suffering servant of chapter 53 is probably the most well-known of these passages. There are many aspects of Isaiah's prophesy that prepare us for the coming of Jesus, and Matthew wants to show us these connections. Some will be implied, others made explicit. Today's reading will give us the background to what is implied, tomorrow what he makes implicit.

1. What does Isaiah 49:1-6 tell us about God's purposes for His servant?
  - a. How will God bring salvation?
  - b. Who will this salvation be for?
  - c. How do people access this salvation?
2. What does this show us about God's heart for all people?

**Prayer:** Who can you pray for today that needs to know the gospel? Pray for your mission partners today, that they would not lose heart or focus on their work.

# Galilee Ministry Begins

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 4:12-17 and Isaiah 9:1-7

1. Looking at Isaiah 9:1-7:
  - a. What places are mentioned?
  
  
  
  - b. What do you learn about the identity of this coming king?
  
  
  
  - c. What is this coming king's connection to God's promise to David?
  
2. Now read Matthew 4:12-17:
  - a. What does Matthew want us to know by quoting Isaiah?
  
  
  
  - b. This section finishes with Jesus beginning His preaching ministry. With Isaiah in mind, why is it noteworthy that His ministry began among the Jews and the Gentiles together?
  
  
  
  - c. Given God's plan of salvation is for all people, should Christians ever feel bad about urging people to consider the claims of Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might build your confidence and conviction in sharing the gospel. Who do you want to pray for in particular today?

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 4:12-25

## DAY 3

### Matthew 4:18-22

The word 'disciple' means student, learner or follower. The relationship between Teachers and Disciples were not uncommon in the first century, particularly in the larger and more important cities. The usual practice was for a person to approach the teacher they sought to be discipled by. It was a great honour to be sought after, but it was not guaranteed that you would be accepted as a potential disciple.

1. What makes Jesus' approach so revolutionary?
2. What was the cost in becoming a disciple of Jesus?
3. Have you been captured by this radical call to follow Jesus? What gets in the way of you giving yourself more fully to Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that you might count the cost of following Jesus and give yourself to serving Him without holding back.

# Galilee Ministry Begins

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 4:17-25

1. What does Matthew tell us about the shape of Jesus' ministry in these verses? What did it involve?
2. How widespread was the impact of His ministry?
3. Jesus is very clear about how people should respond when hearing the gospel of the kingdom. What does He say?
4. Why is repentance a necessary first response to hearing the gospel?

**Prayer:** Who do you know that needs to hear the gospel so they might turn back to God in repentance?





# Galilee Ministry Begins

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 5:1-16

In chapter 4:23 we read, “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.” The same words are repeated in 9:35 as a conclusion to this larger section. Within these chapters are some detailed examples of Jesus’ teaching and healing ministry. Matthew clearly introduces us to this first section as an example of Jesus’ teaching (5:1-2), which ends in 7:28-29 with the people being amazed. This section is the well-known and profound ‘Sermon on the Mount’.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 4:25-5:2; 6:8

1. What do you notice about the context of these verses?
  - a. Where are the people coming from?
  - b. Why might Matthew want his readers to know this?
2. It is often suggested that 6:8a serves as a summary to explain the purpose of this sermon. If that’s right, what is this sermon about?
3. In a world that has turned its back on God, we need God’s help to know how to be His people, and what to do as His people. Before we get into the content of Jesus’ sermon, are you ready to have your world turned upside down?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give you a humble and teachable heart so that together we might know who we are to be, and how we are to live as God’s holy people.

# Kingdom Values

## DAY 2

Matthew has been showing Jesus as the fulfillment of the Old Testament in different ways. After being in the desert where He was tested by Satan, Jesus now heads to a mountain where a new teaching is given, a new law. Like God's Law given to the Israelites at Mount Sinai in order for them to know how to live as the people of God, Jesus will now teach what it means to live as part of God's new covenant people. This week we will slow right down and soak in Jesus' teaching here because it's so counter cultural.

### Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. What's your first reaction to reading these verses?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why are Jesus' words about what the blessed life truly looks like so confronting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. When you experience these things, do you feel blessed?
  - a. How might this help you see into your own heart about what you value most?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see where the values of the world have shaped you more than God's Word. Ask God to deepen your maturity as you seek to have God's heart and not the world's.

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 5:1-16

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. What outcome of the 'blessed' life can we expect to experience now and what do we have to wait for? (Notice the language of "is" and "will".)
2. There's a popular idea in Christians circles that if you live a certain way you can unlock God's blessing upon your life now. This blessing is often described as physical health, happiness and success. But Jesus says you are blessed in this life if you mourn, if you are meek, if you hunger for righteousness, if you are merciful, if you are pure of heart, and a peacemaker. The outcome/reward of living this way all points to the future, the future of heaven. How does this help recalibrate your thinking about what to expect while enduring hardship now?
3. Thinking over your life now, and what Jesus says it means to be blessed, how blessed are you at the moment? Looking through the verses, how might you know more blessing?

**Prayer:** Pray God would keep working in your heart to help you want what He wants for you, that you might give up your life for Jesus and others, and know that Heaven will be your reward.

# Kingdom Values

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 5:3-12

1. What makes verses 10-11 feel slightly jarring after verses 3-9?
2. What can Jesus' disciples expect from those who reject Jesus?
  - a. How are they to respond?
  - b. Why ought they not be surprised about this response?
3. Christianity in the West is being pushed out of public and political life at a rapid rate. The further our culture moves away from a Christian worldview, the greater the offence of the gospel becomes.
  - a. Are you willing to stand with the prophets of old, with Jesus, the Apostles and all those who've been before us as they defended and sought to persuade the world of its need for Jesus?
  - b. Will you rejoice and be glad as this happens regardless of the outcome knowing that your reward is in Heaven?

**Prayer:** How do you need to pray for yourself today? How might you pray for our brothers and sisters around our country? How might you pray for our mission partners who are standing for Jesus around the world?

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 5:1-16

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 5:13-16

1. What do these verses suggest about the nature of being a disciple of Jesus?
  - a. What might the two metaphors (salt and light) mean?
2. How might the beatitudes (verses 3-12) connect to these verses?
3. What aspect of Jesus' teaching has most challenged you this week as you seek to be saltier and brighter?
4. What changes do you need to make to grow in this area?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you have a change of heart, of mind and behaviour so that you might be saltier and brighter for the glory of God.

# Kingdom Values

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 5:17-48

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 5:17-20

1. Looking at verses 17-18, what might it mean that Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets?
2. Looking at verses 19-20, what is the Christian's obligation to the Law? How is that even possible?
3. If Jesus demands legal perfection (righteousness) to enter the Kingdom, what hope do we have?
4. How might Jesus' teaching in 5:20 result in the kind of person described in 5:3?

**Prayer:** Ask God to humble you again to see your need for Jesus' amazing grace as your only hope of salvation.



# Kingdom Law

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 5:21-26

1. How might you summarise Jesus' teaching here?
2. Does life with Jesus sound easier or harder than life under the Old Testament law?
3. What enables Jesus' teaching to be something Christians should aspire to rather than feel crushed by?
4. It seems Jesus places a very high value on people relating well and being reconciled quickly where relational strain has occurred. How might this teaching apply to your relationships today?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His grace towards you in Jesus, ask Him to help you to live a life worthy of your calling into His Kingdom.

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 5:17-48

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 5:27-32

1. What is the overall tone of these verses as they teach about the importance for sexual purity?
2. How do these verses challenge our culture's promotion of sexual freedom?
3. What might you need to 'cut off' that cause you to stumble in this area? (TV shows, porn, magazines, fantasy books, tempting friendships with the opposite sex...)

**Prayer:** Pray that God would embolden your convictions about sexual purity so that you might take seriously the need to honour God and others in how you live.

# Kingdom Law

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 5:33-37

1. What issue is Jesus addressing here?
2. Do you struggle with the temptation to lie?
3. What is Jesus saying to you about that today?

**Prayer:** Ask God to forgive you for the times you've not been truthful and to help you be transparent and honest when relating with others.

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 5:17-48

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 5:38-48

1. How does Jesus want His disciples to act towards others?
2. What reason does Jesus give for His disciples to act this way?
3. In a culture focused on itself and obsessed with personal rights, how radical is Jesus' teaching here?
  - a. As you consider the way you act towards others, would you say you reflect your Heavenly Father?
  - b. How could you change that?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would show you just how graciously and selflessly He has loved you in Jesus that you might be able to love others in the same way.

# Kingdom Law

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 6:1-18

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 6:1-4

1. It's interesting to notice that Jesus doesn't tell His disciples to be generous to those in need; it's assumed that they will be. However, He has another issue to tackle. What is it?
  
2. How does the way we give reveal about our motives for giving?
  
3. Our culture is very big on the motivation of public reward: we give to get, we serve to be acknowledged, we advocate for our rights etc. When it comes to being generous, Jesus wants us to be motivated by our love for God and a desire to be rewarded by Him in secret.
  - a. Do you notice in your own life a desire to be acknowledged or recognised?
  
  - b. Have you wondered why that is?

**Prayer:** Pray that God helps you become a more generous person who practices generosity in secret, without the need for acknowledgement.

# Prayer and Fasting

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 6:5-8

1. What two descriptions of prayer does Jesus take issue with, and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What's the underlying problem if your prayer life only exists when in front of other people?
  - a. How does your public and private prayer life compare?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How would you describe the content of your prayers?

**Prayer:** Ask God for forgiveness for praying in ways that are not genuine. Ask for the ability to come before Him in reverence and honesty, asking Him for things from a genuine heart.

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 6:1-18

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 6:9-15

1. What seems to be the dominant theme Jesus wants His disciples to have in prayer?
2. As you consider how Jesus wants us to pray, how does your prayer life compare?

**Prayer:** Ask God to increase your heart for His honour and His Kingdom so that your prayers might reflect the same priorities as those Jesus teaches us to have.





# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 6:1-18

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 6:16-18

1. What is the principal Jesus wants us to understand as we engage in any kind of pious acts?
  
2. Jesus wants honest, genuine and God-honouring devotion – not grandstanding, self-seeking or mindless activities. It's worth stopping to consider the shape of your relationship with Jesus today.
  - a. Is it real?
  
  - b. Is it motivated by the need for public approval?
  
  - c. Is it going through the motions but lacking honesty and heart?
  
  - d. Are you trusting in the sovereignty of God in all areas of your life?
  
  - e. Is the shape of your relationship with God marked by the priority of His Kingdom?
  
  - f. What might you need to change?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His grace and mercy. Repent of anything you have been doing that is not right, or things you have just not been doing that you should be. Ask Him to continue shaping you to know Him truly, deeply and genuinely – and to be changed as you walk with Him day by day.

# Prayer and Fasting

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



# Anxiety and the Kingdom

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 6:22-23

1. In what sense do our eyes determine our spiritual health?
  - a. What do find yourself repeatedly looking at?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. In what way do you look at it (lustfully, enviously, etc)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Why do you keep looking at it?
  
2. How might you make sure your eyes grow in health?

Prayer: Ask God to help you see the shallow and dark tempting pleasures of this world. Ask Him to help you see the glory of the gospel of Jesus with growing clarity so that your delight in Jesus might strengthen your fight against sin.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 6:19-34

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 6:24 and 1 Timothy 6:6-10

1. How do Jesus' words here help you see the danger of money?
  
2. The gospel challenges us in many ways, but Jesus' words about money hit us pretty hard as Australians because we have plenty of it and we easily justify our need for it. It's also one of those taboo topics because churches are sometimes perceived as just wanting people's money. However, avoiding this conversation misses a crucial part of our discipleship. Jesus' language here suggests we will serve what we love. Money is actually presented here as a rival God crying out for your worship and service; if it is not mastered it will master you.
  - a. How would you know if you are serving money?
  
  - b. How can you make your money serve you, or, better still, serve Kingdom purposes?

**Prayer:** Ask God to loosen your grip on money. Ask Him to help you see the need for increased generosity with your money as you seek to put it to use for the Kingdom. Most of all, ask Him to help your love for Him be unchallenged by money.

# Anxiety and the Kingdom

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 6:25-32

1. As you consider your life, how do Jesus' words here challenge you?
2. Do you think Jesus means for His disciples not to work, not to have houses, and not to plan for the future?
3. What repeated word does Jesus say not to do?
4. How worried are you about the things of this world, or this life? Is that something you need to change?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you not be held captive by the values of this world and the constant message to plan for your future as though it's the most critical thing to give your life to. Ask God to provide for your needs and to help you be wise in the way you live so that you might demonstrate your trust in the sovereignty of God over your life.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 6:19-34

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 6:33-34

1. Yesterday we read what Jesus didn't want His disciples to worry about. Now He addresses what He wants to be our primary concern. What are we to be concerned about?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Are you driven by a deep resolve to see God's Kingdom grow?
  - a. How might you know what drives you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How can you grow in conviction about the place of God's Kingdom in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. What might you need to consider repenting of?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might stir your heart and build your conviction to make Kingdom service your greatest priority in life – regardless of your circumstances.



# Anxiety and the Kingdom

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS

# WEEK 11: MATTHEW 7:1-29

The new people of God that Jesus established are to live differently to the world; they are to be counter cultural. We've seen this expectation in a variety of ways in chapters 5 and 6. Now, in chapter 7, Jesus will offer a range of teaching about how people are to relate in this new community.

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 7:1-6

1. Looking at verses 1-5, what do we learn about how to relate together in God's new community?
  - a. Would you say you are more likely to point out faults in others, or notice them in yourself?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What's the challenge for you here?
  
2. If dogs and pigs (verse 6) refer to people who are steadfast in their pursuit of wickedness and people who have their hearts hardened to the gospel remaining firm in their unbelief, how are God's people to relate to them?
  - a. How is that a challenge for you to hear?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help humble you through an increased awareness of your own sin, and a greater patience for those who, like you, need to grow. Pray also that you might be wise with your time and efforts in telling people about Jesus.

# Kingdom Judgements

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 7:7-14

1. Is this a promise that God will answer all your prayers?
2. Given the context, what prayers might God want to answer?
3. What makes this passage so sobering to read?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might help you stay firmly planted in the gospel, walking on the narrow road that is Heavenward bound. Pray that God might use you this week to encourage someone towards Jesus.

# WEEK 11: MATTHEW 7:1-29

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 7:15-20

1. How do you feel you hearing that Jesus expected there to be false prophets among God's people?
  
2. How are we to relate to them?
  
3. In what sense does being in close Christian community help protect against falsehood?
  - a. Why might regular church attendance be important?
  
  - b. Why might being committed to Growth Group be important?
  
  - c. Why might serving in a ministry team be important?
  
  - d. Why might extending hospitality to other Christians be important?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the reality that over time everyone's fruit will be seen. Pray you might be discerning of whom you listen to.

# Kingdom Judgements

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 7:21-23

1. This passage begins to conclude Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and He pulls no punches! If the previous reading was about the danger of false prophets who attempt to deceive and make it hard to see the narrow road to salvation, what danger is presented here?
2. There is a vast difference between knowing about someone and actually knowing them. How might this be helpful to think about when reading these verses? What's missing for those who only know something about Jesus?
3. How does this challenge us towards a right response to Jesus today?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would increase your hunger to know Jesus and the salvation He brings. Ask Him to help guard you against drifting into heartless service.

# WEEK 11: MATTHEW 7:1-29

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 7:24-29

And here finishes Jesus' Sermon on the Mount where He has turned upside down what it means to be blessed, how to know God, how to live together and much more.

1. What does this final illustration tell us about knowing Jesus and responding rightly to Him?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Is this you? Are you someone who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice?

**Prayer:** Pray that God might grow your hunger to know Jesus' words and put them into practice.

# Kingdom Judgements

## NOTES AND PRAYER POINTS



## Seth, Kate, and Josie Buddhist Asia

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

## Derek and Anna (OMF) Southeast Asia

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



## Craig and Samantha McCorkindale (CMS) Cambodia

Craig and Samantha have settled into life in Cambodia. In this first year they are beginning formal language learning and connecting in with the community. Craig will be forming relationships at Phnom Penh Bible School, where he plans to teach.



## The Geneva Push Australia

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



## Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches Australia

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







**Jono and Grace Wright**  
**(AIM) Cross cultural ministry in Australia**

Jono and Grace Wright, with their kids, are working amongst Aboriginals in Camooweal and the surrounding communities along the Sandover Highway. Pray for their ongoing ministries including; preaching at Sunday meetings, weekly Bible study groups and prayer meetings, Sunday School, Scripture in the local primary school, weekend Bible schools and also an itinerant ministry.



**Liam and Lucy Doyle**  
**Lake Mac Church (NSW Australia)**

Liam and Lucy Doyle head up the church plant in Lake Macquarie and are now mentored through the Geneva program. The church has a great range of ages, and despite differences - like age, education and nationality - they enjoy a real sense of warmth, friendship and love as they hear God's word together and help each other follow Jesus. Pray for a good mentor relationship with Dave Sheath from Lakes Evangelical Church.



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

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



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

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

# EV KIDS RESOURCES

## For Preschoolers



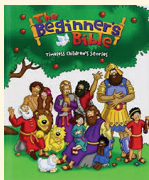
### Books for Little Ones - Series 1 and 2 Stephanie Carmichael (12 months–4 years)

Beautiful clear, photographic illustrations and simple text. Helps children understand foundational truths about God and matches perfectly with our Jellyfish and Starfish syllabus.



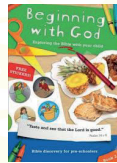
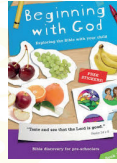
### Play through the Bible and Bake through the Bible (2-5 years)

Great ideas in these books to incorporate activities into your Bible time with your kids to reinforce and enhance their understanding.



### The Beginner's Bible – Candle books (3-5 years)

This Bible recounts some of the key events in the Bible. It doesn't make many theological conclusions but introduces children to the bible stories and pictures are colourful and well drawn for pre-schoolers.



### Beginning with God – J Boddham Whetham and A Mitchell (3-5 years)

A great creative resource to help pre-school children understand what God teaches us about Himself and Jesus in the Bible. The Beginning with God resource is intended to be used with the Beginners Bible.



### Table Talk – Alison Mitchell (4+ years)

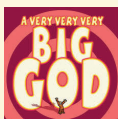
This is a book of daily bible times for families to use together. Based on just a few verses from a passage, it is suitable with children aged from 4 upwards. It forms the basis for a short family bible time.



### 'Tales that tell the truth' series (4-8 years)

Beautifully illustrated and written storybooks grounded well in biblical truth. *The Garden, the temple and the Cross* is a particular favourite for its gospel-centred overview of salvation history.

### Music for little ones....



### 'A very, very, very Big God' (Emu Music)



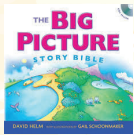
### 'J is for Jesus' (Emu Music) And many other early Colin Buchanan titles

## For School Age



### **The Biggest Story (6-12 years) by Kevin De Young**

Another beautifully illustrated book that gives a great overview of salvation history in story book style for school-aged kids.



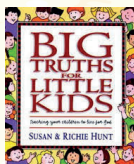
### **The Big Picture Story Bible – David Helm (5-7 years)**

This story book covers the Big Story of the Bible. It helps children understand how the whole Bible teaches and points us to the great salvation found in Jesus. The pictures are terrific.



### **Short Steps for Long Gain (Family Edition) – Kathy and Simon Manchester (5-12 years)**

26 short Bible studies for the family.



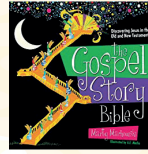
### **Big Truths for Little Kids – Susan and Richie Hunt (6-8 years)**

This book can help you teach the basic truths of the Christian faith to your children. It involves questions and answers and a story for children to learn from.



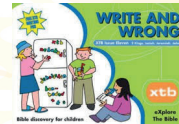
### **Gumtree Gully – Kel Richards (6-8 years)**

This is the Gospel in a bush story. There are Bible verses and questions to help ensure your child's understanding of the good news of Jesus.



### **The Gospel Story Bible – Marty Machowski (7-10 years)**

This Story Bible takes passages of the Bible and condenses them into a single page story which is well written for children. It incorporates the theology of the whole Bible into that story so that children are learning to always read a passage in context. The authors encourage children to read the story and then spend the next couple of days actually reading the passages from a Bible.



### **XTB – Alison Mitchell (7-11 years)**

Designed to help the reader get into the Bible daily for themselves –XTB is packed with puzzles, pictures, prayers and solid teaching points. Children are encouraged to understand, apply and pray through the Bible in an accessible and thought-provoking way.

## EV Kids Music



### **Singin Jesus is the Word**

A CD designed for school-age children, which helps them rejoice and remember great truths about Jesus.



### **Singin Jesus is Uber Bamboo**

Gospel-centred, Bible-based, homegrown songs for the whole family to enjoy!

