

JESUS

MATTHEW

16-20

CHRIST

# MATTHEW 16-20: JESUS CHRIST

<b>Week</b>	<b>Passage</b>	<b>Theme</b>
1	Matthew 16:21-28	Redefined Messiah
2	Matthew 17:1-23	See Jesus' Glory
3	Matthew 17:24-18:14	Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children
4	Matthew 18:15-20	Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children
5	Matthew 18:21-35	Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children
6	Matthew 19:1-12	Opposing the King
7	Matthew 19:13-30	Kingdom Blessings
8	Matthew 20:1-16	Grace: The Last First
9	Matthew 20:17-34	The Suffering Servant to die as a Ransom
10	Matthew 16-20	The Shadow of the Cross

**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 – 2020

## 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.

#### **GIVING AT EV CHURCH**

The New Testament teaches us to give generously, regularly and joyfully. Please join with us in bringing to the Coast solid hope in Jesus.

**More info on giving and account details: [evchurch.info/giving](https://evchurch.info/giving)**

# INTRODUCTION: MATTHEW 16-20

## Authorship and Date

Matthew was a tax collector, who followed Jesus and became one of His 12 disciples (Matthew 9:9-13). Matthew's gospel is a reliable Apostolic testimony of the life and teaching of Jesus. Written somewhere between 50-70AD. As a Jewish Christian from Galilee, Matthew was well positioned to interpret the words and actions of Jesus in light of Old Testament messianic expectations.

## Purpose and Audience

Unlike many of Paul's letters, Matthew makes no explicit statement about his purpose in writing. However, some key themes help us understand his reasons. 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 a Messiah that the people didn't expect; He comes to die as a ransom for many (20:28).
- Jesus is the fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy, expectations and the Law (1:1-17, 22-23; 2:4-5, 15, 17, 23; 5:17-20).
- Jesus is the culmination of Israel's salvation hopes, but in Jesus, salvation is now available to the Gentiles also (10:5-6; 28:19).
- Jesus establishes a new community of those who have faith in Him, bringing together Jews and Gentiles as one united people of God (11:27-28; 16:18-19; 28:19).
- The church is built by Jesus and is maintained by His continuing presence (16:18; 18:15-20; 22:10; 28:20).
- Jesus gives His disciples the "Great Commission" of being disciple-making disciples (28:19).
- God reveals and hides the truth of who Jesus is (11:25; 13:11; 16:17).

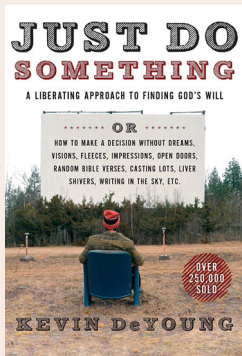
# JESUS CHRIST

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

Matthew seeks to show the glory of Jesus. He is the true Messiah who brings God's long-awaited salvation to all people who follow Him.

## Our focus on Matthew 16-20

This term we will look at chapters 16-20. This section is tied together by Jesus' three predictions of His suffering, death, and resurrection (16:21, 17:22-23, 20:17-19). Jesus' authority has been clearly displayed through His teaching and miracles. He is the Messiah (16:16), but He is a Messiah who has come to suffer as a ransom for many (20:28). The cross shapes Jesus' teaching in this section as Jesus confronts the pride of humanity. Jesus takes the path of the cross and He teaches us to follow Him (16:24-27). But the disciples continually fail to see life in light of the cross. We are left to see that Jesus alone can do the impossible and bring us into God's Kingdom (19:26). He alone is the greatest who serves in a death that saves us from the judgement of God (20:25-28). We're called to see the glory of Jesus and respond by following Him.



### Book recommendation:

#### *Just do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will* by Kevin de Young

Following Jesus is a life of decisions made to live like Him. But not all decisions are straight forward. The Bible doesn't tell us who to marry, whether to marry, where to send our kids to school, what degree or job to take. Kevin de Young's book is an easy read that helps us see what the Bible says about God's guidance and making decisions as disciples of 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	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 6	Exodus 1-5; Psalms 20-24; Exodus 6-10; Matthew 12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 7	Exodus 11-15; Psalms 25-27; Exodus 16-20; Matthew 14-15	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 8	Exodus 21-25; Psalms 28-31; Exodus 26-30; Matthew 16-17	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 9	Exodus 31-35; Psalms 32-34; Exodus 36-40; Matthew 18-19	<input type="checkbox"/>
Week 10	Leviticus 1-5; Psalms 35-37; Leviticus 6-10; Matthew 20-21	<input type="checkbox"/>

### **YEAR 1: TERM 2**

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

### **YEAR 1: TERM 3**

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

# READ THE BIBLE IN TWO YEARS

## YEAR 1: TERM 4

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

## YEAR 2: TERM 1

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

## YEAR 2: TERM 2

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



- 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 16:21-28

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 16:13-17

1. In this passage, what are the different views of Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is Peter's response significant?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What does this passage help us see about God?
  - a. What does it help us see about ourselves?

**Prayer:** Thank God for His love to send His Messiah to a broken world to save. Pray that we would see our need for Him and live with Him as Lord.



# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 16:21-28

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 16:21-23

1. Have a look at these Old Testament passages: Psalm 22:1-7; Zechariah 12:10; and Isaiah 53:4-5.  
Why do you think Jesus said that He “must suffer”?

2. What does God’s plan help us see about His character?

3. How might this shape your thankfulness to God today?

**Prayer:** Thank God for the things you have reflected on. Pray that your friends, family, and our world would see the goodness of God and submit to His rule.

# Redefined Messiah

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 16:24-28

1. What's confronting about Jesus' words here?
2. What reasons are given to follow Jesus' way?
3. What might help you to have an eternal focus in everyday living?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you see life for what it is: "a mist that is here for a little while and then vanishes" (James 4:14). Pray that you would use the mist of life for God's eternal glory.

# WEEK 1: MATTHEW 16:21-28

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 16:21-28

1. How is Jesus' path and the disciples' path similar?
2. What would be wrong if our lives weren't like this?
3. How can you see this world distracting you from the world to come?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would convict you of eternal realities and so live for Him and not for the temporary things in this life.

# Redefined Messiah

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 17:1-23

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 16:28-17:12

1. What does Jesus say some of the disciples will see?
2. What seems to be the purpose of the transfiguration for the disciples?
3. We all have a view on Jesus. What does this passage urge us to include in our picture of Jesus?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see Jesus rightly. Pray that as you continue to read about Him you would be struck by His character, His teaching, and His superiority.



# See Jesus' Glory

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 17:1-13

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

2 Chronicles 31-36; Ezra 1-4;  
Proverbs 29-31; Romans 13-14

1. What might be the significance of some of the details of this event?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Have a look at Deuteronomy 18:15; Psalm 2:7; and Isaiah 42:1. What do these passages add to the description of Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If this is who Jesus is, how should the disciples respond to him?
  - a. What might it look like for you to take His words seriously today?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you see the significance of Jesus' words, and pray for help to understand them and obey.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 17:1-23

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 17:14-20

1. What does this passage show you about Jesus? How does it compare with the disciples?
2. It seems like the disciples thought their ability was like magic, dependent only on themselves. If faith is seeing Jesus rightly, how would have faith helped them?
3. How might we be inclined to fall short in a similar way to the disciples? How will a bigger view of Jesus help you?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you see your dependence on Him for all of life. Pray that He would help you to grow in humility and flee from pride as you see His glory in Christ.

# See Jesus' Glory

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 17:14-20

1. What surprises you in this passage?
2. Given what we saw yesterday, what couldn't verse 20 mean?
  - a. There are promises in the Old Testament about God making mountains into roads referring to a time of salvation (see Isaiah 40 and 49). How does this background help us understand Jesus' words?
3. How does this help us see the importance of faith?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to depend on Him for His work of bringing salvation in Jesus.

# WEEK 2: MATTHEW 17:1-23

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 17:11-23

1. What ideas keep popping up in these verses?
2. What do you think Jesus wants the disciples to have faith in?
3. Why is it dangerous to miss that Jesus came to suffer?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see your saviour's path of suffering and how this impacts our lives. Ask for strength for people to follow Jesus as His disciples.

# See Jesus' Glory

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 17:24-18:14

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 17:24-27

1. Who are the children that are exempt?
  - a. How does this help us view ourselves?
  
2. How is Jesus helping Peter see who He is?
  - a. How does this help us view ourselves?
  
3. What is Jesus revealing about Himself?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see more of who Jesus is. Thank God that in Christ we become His children.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 18:1-4

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Ezra 5-10; Nehemiah 1-4;  
Psalms 107-109; Romans 15-16

1. How does the child theme continue in today's passage?
2. What is it about children that Jesus wants us to be like?
3. What situations are hard to be like a child in humility?
  - a. How does this passage motivate us?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see that true greatness is found in humility. Ask that He would help you to grow in childlikeness.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 17:24-18:14

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 18:1-4

1. Why do you think the disciples ask this question?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How do they need to change?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Given what we have seen about Jesus' mission, how is their question out of place?
  - a. How might some of our ambitions in life be out of place?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help you see where you are chasing greatness in this world. Pray that you would be willing to follow the path that Jesus has set for all of His disciples.



# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 18:5-9

1. Why do you think Jesus warns His disciples about not causing people to stumble?
  - a. How is this a particular danger for the proud?
2. How do Jesus' words help you see the seriousness of this issue?
3. How does this passage help us see what really matters?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would be working in leaders to make them humble, and to save them from causing others to stumble. Ask that God would help you see things that would cause you to fall away so that you can cut them off.

# WEEK 3: MATTHEW 17:24-18:14

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 18:10-14

1. What are the reasons not to despise the little ones?  
(The reference to angels seems to be talking about a person's continued existence before God, see also Acts 12:15.)
  
2. What does this passage reveal about the Father?
  
3. How is it a comfort for us?
  - a. How is it an encouragement to us to help others hear the gospel?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you take comfort in His character that wants to see you and all people saved. Pray that He would grow your heart to be like His.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 18:15-20

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 18:15-20

1. How does this passage help you see what matters to Jesus?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Why is this difficult?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is it important?
  - a. What might it look like to help people when they are spiritually struggling?

**Prayer:** Ask God to give us His heart for His people, particularly when they are struggling in their Christian faith.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 2

### Read 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Nehemiah 5-13; Psalms 110-113;  
1 Corinthians 1-2

1. What is Paul saying should happen with this man?
  2. Why is Paul eager for this outcome?
    - a. How is this similar to Matthew 18:15-20?
3. What concern would you have with a church that didn't discipline serious sin?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would give church leaders great wisdom as they seek to lovingly help people see the weight of their sin so that they might repent.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 18:15-20

## DAY 3

### Read 2 Timothy 2:25-26

1. Who might the “opponents” be?
2. Why is it important that they are “gently instructed”?
3. Why is it important for Christians, especially Christian leaders, to have a solid grasp of the truth?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would continue to grow your understanding of Him so that you would hold to the truth. Pray that God would raise Christian leaders who have a solid understanding of His word.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 4

### Read James 5:19-20

1. What does James encourage Christians to do?
  - a. Are there clues as to when this would be appropriate?
2. Why is it worthwhile?
3. How might we better look out for other Christians?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would give us His heart for His people and see the importance of them staying in the truth of the gospel.

# WEEK 4: MATTHEW 18:15-20

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 18:15-20

1. The words “about anything” should be translated “any judicial matter”. How does this help you/us understand what Jesus means?
2. How do you see Jesus promising to be involved in these issues in the future?
3. What does this passage reveal about Jesus’ concerns for His people?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus promises to be with us, particularly with difficult issues like helping point out serious sin. Pray for those in church with us who are struggling to hold on to their faith, ask that God would use His people to bring them back.



# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 18:21-35

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 18:21-22

1. Why do you think Peter asks this question?
2. What seems to be Jesus' point?
3. Why do you think Jesus cares that His people forgive?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see this week how much you have been forgiven and so you may be a more forgiving person.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 18:21-27

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Esther 1-10; Psalms 114-117;  
1 Corinthians 3-4

1. What sense do you get of the significance of the servant's debt?
2. What do we learn about the master?
3. How is this parable a small picture of the forgiveness we have been shown?
  - a. Romans 4:8 says, "Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord will never count against them". When do you find yourself not feeling blessed? How can reminding yourself of forgiveness help in these times?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would remind you of the immense debt we owed for our sin and of our incredible savior Jesus, who paid for it in full.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 18:21-35

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 18:21-35

1. What's your reaction to the servant?
2. How are we susceptible to his mistake?
3. Why is it wrong for Christians to be unforgiving?

**Prayer:** Ask God to work in the hearts of all believers so that we would see how much we have been forgiven, and so forgive others ourselves.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 18:21-35

1. How is the master's forgiveness both immense and limited?
  - a. How do you see Jesus warn us of this in verse 35?
  
2. How does this add to the importance of Christians forgiving one another?
  
3. When is forgiveness hard?
  - a. While forgiveness should look different in different situations, why is forgiveness still necessary?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us see the incredible forgiveness He offers us and our desperate need for it so that we would be humble and forgive others.

# WEEK 5: MATTHEW 18:21-35

## DAY 5

### Read Ephesians 4:32-5:2

1. What motivates our forgiveness and love?
2. How have you felt challenged by the passages this week?
3. How will remembering God's forgiveness help us to be forgiving?
  - a. If you find yourself struggling to forgive, what help could you seek? How will recalling the gospel help?

**Prayer:** Ask God that He would bring thousands more people to come and know the forgiveness on offer in Jesus. Pray that many more would come and trust Jesus and be saved.

# Jesus' Heart for the Father's Children

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 19:1-12

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 19:1-12

1. How do the Pharisees test Jesus?
2. What is Jesus' take on this issue and what are His reasons?
3. How is it possible for us to hold Jesus' view even in a world where the ideals are often broken?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would give us minds shaped by Scripture even when the practicalities of life would have us think differently. Ask God to help us be gracious and loving, and to seek His forgiveness where necessary as we hold His view of marriage.



# Opposing the King

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 19:1-12

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 1-5; Psalms 118; Job 6-10;  
1 Corinthians 5-6

1. Why do you think the Pharisees test Jesus on this issue?
2. What does this passage reveal about the Pharisees and their relationship with God?
3. How are the Pharisees a warning for us?
  - a. Where might we want to have loopholes with Scripture? (e.g. marriage, keeping the laws – tax, speeding etc.)

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us to be quick to listen and obey His word and not seek loopholes, but gladly submit to Him as we see the glory of being more like Jesus.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 19:1-12

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 19:1-12

1. Where does Jesus pick up His quote from? Why does it matter that He went there?
2. What can you see about Jesus' view of Scripture?
3. How is Jesus' view helpful for us as we think about what we are reading?

**Prayer:** Ask God to work in our hearts, and the hearts of all believers, so that we would be a people who love His Word and want to hear and obey it.

# Opposing the King

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 19:1-12

1. Do you remember where Jesus said He was heading (see 16:21)?
  - a. Jesus has moved closer geographically to His destination (19:1), how can you also see opposition rising that would take Jesus to the cross?
  
2. This topic was obviously controversial back then, how do you think people would take Jesus' teaching in this passage today?
  
3. How might we face similar opposition if we hold to this teaching?
  - a. Why should we hold it regardless of opposition?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us fear Him and His words above the words of humans. Pray that we would be defined by His revealed truths in the Scripture and not the ever-changing teaching of this world.

# WEEK 6: MATTHEW 19:1-12

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 19:1-12

1. What do the disciples end up concluding from Jesus' teaching? Why do you think they land here?
2. Why does Jesus say some should consider not marrying?
3. Have a look at the similar teaching of Paul in 1 Corinthians 7:29-35. What priorities should shape decisions about whether or not to marry?
  - a. How do these passages give priorities that shape the single and the married?

**Prayer:** Ask God to shape you and all God's people with a kingdom heart that prioritises seeing people saved from eternity in Hell through the life-giving, hope-filled gospel of Jesus.

# Opposing the King

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 19:13-30

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 19:13-15

1. What mistake do the disciples make?
2. What does Jesus want the disciples to see about children? (See also 18:1-4)
3. What is it about children that we should try and mimic?
  - a. Have a look at Hebrews 5:11-14. What shouldn't we try and mimic from children?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would give us humility like children and so depend on our heavenly Father. Pray that as you grow in Christlikeness, you would remain humble before God.

# Kingdom Blessings

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 19:16-21

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 11-15; Psalms 119:1-48; Job 16-20;  
1 Corinthians 7-8

1. What is the man's question for Jesus?
2. Where do the commands in verse 18-19 come from? What's surprising about the command in verse 21?
3. Why is it necessary for the man to sell everything?
  - a. How does Jesus' teaching recall what He said earlier in 16:24-27?
  - b. What things might stop us from following Jesus?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see that things in this life are perishing. Pray that we'd have faith to see Jesus for the worthy king He is and so follow Him no matter the cost. Pray that God would grow all His people to love Jesus more than this world.

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 19:13-30

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 19:16-30

1. Have a look at these Old Testament passages: Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Job 42:10; and Proverbs 3:9-10. Under the Old Covenant, what did it look like to be blessed by God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How does this help explain the disciples' astonishment at Jesus' teaching?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How should we see riches differently in the New Covenant compared with the Old Covenant?
  - a. How does Jesus help us see the shape of true blessing?

**Prayer:** Ask God to work in our hearts, and in the hearts of all believers, to be a people who love His Word and want to hear and obey it.



# Kingdom Blessings

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 19:13-30

1. What does Jesus say is key to entering the kingdom?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How is being like a child linked to following Jesus and depending on God?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. At this point in the story, Jesus calls people to literally follow Him to the cross where He will do his saving work. As the rich man rejects Jesus' call to follow Him, he rejects salvation. How might people reject salvation for similar reasons today?
  - a. What things might we need to drop in order to take hold of salvation? How do these things compare with following Christ?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us see the things in life and the sin that would stop us from trusting in the salvation that comes from Jesus. Pray for the Central Coast that we would all see Jesus clearly and trust in Him for salvation.

# WEEK 7: MATTHEW 19:13-30

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 19:16-30

1. How does Peter take comfort in Jesus' teaching in this passage?
2. How does this passage encourage us to pursue eternal blessings instead of temporary blessings?
3. Living where we live, we experience a lot of blessings in this life, how are we in danger of missing out?
  - a. How can we live lives now that seek eternal treasures and not treasures in this world?

**Prayer:** Ask God that you would value His kingdom above all else in this world, regardless of how much (or little) you may have. Pray this for all believers across the world.

# Kingdom Blessings

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 20:1-16

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 19:28-20:16

1. How does the “For” in 20:1 help you see the connection between the two passages?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What’s the point of the parable (see 19:30 and 20:16)?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. What kind of person would you consider to be “first” in life? What kind of person would you consider to be “last”?
  - a. How does this passage help us see the flip that happens with God’s kingdom?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you strive for His kingdom and not to look to be first in this life.

# Grace: The Last First

## DAY 2

### Read Matthew 20:1-16

#### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 21-25; Psalms 119:49-96;  
Job 26-30; 1 Corinthians 9-10

1. Who might the different workers represent?
  - a. Have a brief look at some, or all, of these passages. Matthew 9:12; 11:25-26; 19:14, 23; 21:15-16, 31. Who are the first and the last in Matthew?
  
2. Why is humility essential to receiving the benefits that Jesus brings?
  
3. Humbleness has always been the way God wants His people to act in light of His rule (Psalm 138:6; Isaiah 66:2). How might a Christian be stunted in their growth without humility?
  - a. How can you grow in humility?
  
  - b. What are signs of humbleness and signs of pride to look out for in yourself?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see more of His majesty and so also see how much you desperately need His salvation. Pray that as you understand more of who God is that you would grow in humility.

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 20:1-16

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 20:1-16

1. Why are the first hired workers upset?
  - a. How is the master being just?
  
2. What is Jesus trying to help us see about the grace God is offering?
  
3. How might growing as a Christian over time give you a false sense of entitlement?
  - a. Why is entitlement out of place for God's people?
  
  - b. How can we grow to delight in God's generosity and not assume upon His grace?

**Prayer:** Ask that God would help us understand His incredible gracious gift of Jesus so that we would delight in His generosity. Pray that all Christians would grow to love God and not assume on His grace.

# Grace: The Last First

## DAY 4

### Read Matthew 20:1-16

1. How is this parable a picture of God's grace?
2. Of all the things our world needs, how is God's grace the ultimate good news?
3. How could you invite someone to consider God's grace?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help us see our own need for grace. Pray that the Central Coast would see the grace of God in Jesus and trust Him for their salvation.

# WEEK 8: MATTHEW 20:1-16

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 20:1-16

1. What would have been the outcome for the workers if it wasn't for the landowner?
2. How should this have shaped the response of all the workers?
3. Why is a life of gratitude possible and appropriate for a Christian?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you see His grace and so live a life of gratitude that brings contentment in all circumstances of life.



# Grace: The Last First

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 20:17-34

## DAY 1

### Read Matthew 20:16-34

1. How do you see “the last will be first” theme continue into this week’s passage?
  
2. In this series, we have seen the disciples continually getting it wrong (e.g. Matthew 17:19-20; 18:1; 19:13; 20:24). What hope does Jesus’ physical healing of the blind men give for those who are spiritually blind?
  
3. What is Jesus heading for?
  - a. Why is it significant that the blind men follow Him (verse 34)?
  
  - b. This week we will see more of what Jesus’ death will achieve but the call is to follow Him to the cross, to read on in the story, and see it all unfold. How is the Christian life today still a call to follow Jesus on the way of the cross?

**Prayer:** Ask God to help you follow the way of Jesus through suffering to eternal glory. Pray that you would have the goal of eternity as you seek to obey Jesus now.

# The Suffering Servant to Die as a Ransom

## DAY 2

**Read Matthew 18:1-4; 20:17-28**

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 31-35; Psalms 119:97-144;  
Job 36-40; 1 Corinthians 11-12

1. What was the disciples' questions in 18:1? How does Jesus change the subject to a bigger topic?
2. How does chapter 20 help you see that Jesus is the greatest?
3. How is greatness redefined by Jesus' example?
  - a. If people said at your funeral that you were a "great" person, what do you hope they would mean by it?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you see true greatness as service. Thank God for the ultimate servant, Jesus. Pray that your love for Him would be shown in a life lived like His.

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 20:17-34

## DAY 3

### Read Matthew 19:16, 26 and 20:17-28

1. What was the rich man's question?
  - a. Why might it be impossible to enter the kingdom without God?
2. In chapter 19, we aren't told how God will make it possible, but chapter 20 gives us some clues. Have a look at Isaiah 51:17, what is the cup that Jesus is referring to?
  - a. The baptism probably refers to the idea of being overwhelmed like in Psalm 69 where David is overwhelmed with troubles like "waters... up to my neck" because God had turned His face away (Psalm 69:1-4, 14-15, 17-19). How does this help you see the cup and baptism referring to God's judgement?
3. If Jesus' death can take away God's judgement, how can this make the impossibility of sinners entering the kingdom possible?
  - a. How could you express your thankfulness for Jesus' death on your behalf today?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus' death took the punishment of God for the sins of those who will trust Him. Pray that many would turn and trust in Jesus' death for their forgiveness and so enter God's kingdom.

# The Suffering Servant to Die as a Ransom

## DAY 4

### Read Isaiah 53:4-12; Matthew 20:25-28

1. Yesterday we started seeing why Jesus is going to His death. How else is Jesus' death described in today's passage?
  - a. What does the prophecy from Isaiah show us about Jesus' death?
  
2. What similarities can you see in Isaiah 53 and Matthew 20?
  - a. What does the prophecy from Isaiah show us about Jesus' death?
  
3. If someone interested in Jesus asked you why He died, how could you use these passages to answer them?
  - a. How does knowing what Jesus' death achieved help us better know the heart of God?

**Prayer:** Thank the Father that He crushed the Son so that His death could be a ransom for our sin. Pray that we would live knowing that we have been bought by Jesus' death to live for Him.

# WEEK 9: MATTHEW 20:17-34

## DAY 5

### Read Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 20:17-28

1. Yesterday we saw that Jesus fulfills the prophecy about the Suffering Servant from Isaiah. What do we learn from Daniel 7 about who will be given an everlasting kingdom?
  - a. What similarities can you see between Daniel 7 and how Jesus refers to Himself in Matthew 20?
  
2. Why is it strange that Jesus says He will suffer when He is claiming to be this great Son of Man?
  
3. The way Jesus combined the prophecies of the Son of Man and the Suffering Servant seemed shocking to the Jews who were expecting a triumphant Messiah not a humble suffering Messiah (see Matthew 11:3; 16:21-22; 27:39-44; Acts 1:6). How might Jesus' authority, or humility shock people today?
  - a. What would be the danger of seeing Jesus only as Lord, or only as Saviour?
  
  - b. What difference does it make in life knowing Jesus as your Lord and Saviour?

**Prayer:** Thank God the Father for sending His Son, Jesus to be the Suffering Servant to die in our place and raising Him to be the authoritative Son of Man who rules. Pray that we would live rightly with Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

# The Suffering Servant to Die as a Ransom

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 16-20

## DAY 1

**Read Matthew 16:21; 17:22; 20:17-19**

1. What details are added with each of Jesus' predictions?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. How has the cross shaped Jesus' teaching in this part of Matthew?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Why is the cross so significant for Christians?
  - a. What does the cross achieve?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. What does Jesus' path model for us?

**Prayer:** Thank God that His Son went to the cross to suffer in our place. Pray that we would be willing to follow His path.



# The Shadow of the Cross

## DAY 2

Read Matthew 16:24-27;

Matthew 20:25-28

### BIBLE IN 2 YEARS

Job 41-42; Ecclesiastes 1-8; Psalms  
119:145-176; 1 Corinthians 13-14

1. What does Jesus teach about discipleship?
2. How does Jesus' path shape the path of His disciples?
3. What might it look like to live a cross-shaped life today?

**Prayer:** Pray that God would help you to live a cross-shaped life to see many saved. Pray that as a church we would serve to see people saved.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 16-20

## DAY 3

### Read Isaiah 53:1-12 and 20:17-28

1. In Isaiah, what will people think they are seeing? What is actually happening?
  - a. How does Jesus' death make salvation possible?
  
2. How does Jesus fulfill this prophecy?
  - a. How does Jesus' death make salvation possible?
  
3. How will knowing this save us from ever thinking we could be right with God without Jesus?
  - a. How does this help us deal with guilt?
  
  - b. How does this help us deal with pride?

**Prayer:** Thank God that Jesus made a way for us to be right with God based on His merits and not our own. Pray that God would help us see that our sin has been dealt with, and that there is no condemnation for those in Christ. Pray that God would save us from the lie of self-righteousness.

# The Shadow of the Cross

## DAY 4

**Read Matthew 16:21-27**

1. What does Jesus predict will happen after His suffering?
  
2. How does a conviction of future hope drive Him?
  
3. If we have a future hope, how does it change the way we view life now?
  - a. When is it easy to use money, time, and effort to gain things in this world?
  
  - b. How might we use those things for eternity?

**Prayer:** Thank your heavenly Father that Jesus is reigning in glory, and because of His death, we will be with Him. Pray that your future hope would shape your life now to have an eternal focus for God's glory.

# WEEK 10: MATTHEW 16-20

## DAY 5

### Read Matthew 20:25-28

1. How does Jesus shape our view of greatness?
2. According to this passage, why is Jesus the greatest?
3. What does Jesus' greatness mean for our world?
  - a. People don't like talking about the need to repent, but why is it necessary?
  - b. How might appreciating Jesus' greatness help us to share Him boldly?

**Prayer:** Thank God for sending His Son to serve us and for exalting Him as Lord. Pray that we would be captured by His greatness so that we might be eager to help people see the need to come back and the beauty of coming to their Lord.

# The Shadow of the Cross

## **PRAYER POINTS AND NOTES**

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