

Bible Study Guide for New Believers



Book of Matthew

New Believer's Bible Study Guide Resource

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About the Authors

This guide is written by a married couple that wishes to remain anonymous. Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ asked us to write this guide together to help new believers understand the Gospel of Matthew. We pray that this guide will be useful to you in understanding God's truth.

Preface

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16, ESV)

The Bible has promised blessings to believers, who read, meditate upon and apply its timeless truth and wisdom. This is a Bible study guide that is designed to instill daily habits of prayer, meditation on the word and life application. It is our prayer that this guide be used to build up believers everywhere for the work that needs to be done for the kingdom of God.

How to Use this Guide

This bible study guide can be used for your individual study or can be a part of a Bible study group. In either setting, the authors suggest that the believer(s) first pray and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit in understanding scripture. Then read the passage and consider it carefully. Once that is done, we encourage the believer to read the commentary.

We also want to emphasize that reading and understanding the Word of God requires time, patience and (most importantly) the leading of the Holy Spirit. We do encourage you, however, to be consistent in your Bible reading habits (i.e. daily reading). In time you will begin to see and understand the many spiritual riches the Word of God has to offer. It is our prayer that God will speak to you individually as you spend time reading his word one day at a time.

The Gospel of Matthew

Chapter 1

Ancestry of Christ (Matthew 1:1-17)

Points to think about:

1. This portion of scripture describes the genealogy of Jesus. Jesus is a descendant of Abraham, which is an Old Testament prophecy that was fulfilled in the New Testament. God tells Abraham that one of his descendants will bless all the earth. (See Genesis 12:1-3)
2. Abraham is an Old Testament example to the believer regarding faith and obedience. (See Hebrews 11:8-12)

Birth of Christ (Matthew 1:18-25)

Points to think about:

1. Mary was with child through the power of the Holy Spirit. This was a prophecy in the Old Testament that was fulfilled in the New Testament. (See Isaiah 7:14)
2. Joseph obviously thought that Mary was pregnant through human means. Joseph, being someone who was faithful to the Law, did not want to be a partaker with what he saw as sinful behavior.
3. Joseph was determined to quietly end his relationship to his fiancée and to distance himself from Mary (as it was undesirable to be associated with a woman who was pregnant outside of wedlock).
4. God intervened in this difficult situation, and told Joseph to take Mary to be his wife. God told Joseph to take Mary to be his wife as Mary was pregnant (not through human means), but through the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. Joseph's and Mary's act of obedience in getting married (despite facing public ridicule) led to the birth of the Savior of mankind, Jesus Christ.

Matthew Chapter 2

Visit of Wise Men (Matthew 2:1-12)

Points to think about:

1. The birth of Christ was **not** welcomed by the whole world.
2. Only those who were watchfully waiting for his coming welcomed the birth of Christ.
3. The birth of Jesus was a threat to the plans of Satan and wicked rulers (See Revelation 12:4-5).
4. The wise men brought Jesus the gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These three gifts symbolically represented parts of Jesus Christ's character. Gold represented His kingly heritage (See Revelation 17:14, and 19:16). Frankincense represented Jesus Christ's priestly ministry (See Hebrews 4:14). Myrrh represented His burial and resurrection (See John 19:38-42).
5. Jesus Christ was born into this world to fulfill the will of God and to set into motion God's plan of salvation for humanity.
6. From the moment of his birth until his death he was obedient and fulfilled God's purpose for his life.
7. What can God accomplish in your life if you were as obedient as Jesus Christ?

Escape into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-18)

Points to think about:

1. Joseph and Mary had to trust God to flee into the land of Egypt. This also fulfilled an Old Testament prophecy. (See Hosea 11:1)
2. Joseph and Mary's obedience allowed their family to avoid the persecution from Herod. (See Jeremiah 31:15)
3. King Herod felt threatened that there was another king that was born (Jesus). He wanted to kill Jesus to end any future opposition to his physical kingdom.
4. Herod did not understand that Jesus was born to establish his spiritual, not physical kingdom. This is an example of how the enemy (Satan) has been trying to destroy God's plan for salvation of the world.
5. God had a plan for Joseph and Mary even when persecution and hard times loomed. Their willingness to listen and obey God's will and commandment led to the protection of all their lives.
6. If God can protect Joseph, Mary and Jesus, how much more can he provide and protect us in our darkest hours?

Jesus returns to Nazareth (Matthew 2:19-23)

Points to think about:

1. Joseph and Mary had to wait and be patient for God's instruction to move from Egypt to Nazareth. If they had moved too soon, they could have risked all of their lives.
2. Waiting on God's timing is an important part of being a believer.
3. Often in life, there are many instances where we expect God to move quickly. When God does not move at the speed we desire, we are often disappointed and discouraged. We often lose sight of what God's purpose is in our life in our disappointment.
4. Does God want you to wait on his timing for something in your life? If so, why do you think God wants you to wait on his timing?

Matthew Chapter 3

John the Baptist Prepares the Way (Matthew 3:1-6)

Points to think about:

1. John the Baptist was sent before Jesus to prepare the way for him (See Isaiah 40:3).
2. John the Baptist's baptism was a baptism of repentance. Repentance showed a willingness to turn from sin; it did not remove sin from the person. Jesus was the only one who can remove mankind's sins.
3. This baptism (of repentance) was no longer needed once Christ died and was resurrected.
4. The baptism of a believer (in the New Testament) physically and publically demonstrates how a person spiritually has accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior (and has their sin removed from them). In so doing, the old person has died and is buried (the immersion or going into the water) and a new person is raised with Christ (the arising or lifting up out of the water). (See Romans 6)
5. Physical baptism does not solve the problem of sin. Baptism is a public declaration of your faith and hope in Jesus Christ. Faith and hope in Jesus is what saves you.
6. Have you put your faith and hope in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins? If not, why are you not putting your faith in Jesus Christ to save you from your sins?

The Preaching of John the Baptist (Matthew 3:7-12)

Points to think about:

1. John the Baptist exposes the hypocrisy of the Pharisees and Sadducees (the Jewish rulers and spiritual authorities). The actions and attitudes of the Pharisees and Sadducees were contradictory to what God would desire for his people. (See Genesis 12)
2. John the Baptist also tells the Pharisees and Sadducees that they cannot say they are Abraham's descendants and deny their need for a Savior to save them from their sins. They themselves have to turn from their sin and to a Savior.
3. Abraham is a prophet from the Old Testament book of Genesis. He was called the first patriarch (male leader) of the Jewish people. Abraham is noted to be an example to both Jews and non-Jews (Gentiles) of faith and obedience to God. Through Abraham's obedience and faith, God was able to provide a Savior (Jesus Christ) that would redeem humanity from sin.
4. John's baptism is contrasted with the baptism of Jesus. John's the Baptist's is a physical act of repentance. Jesus' Baptism is a spiritual filling of the Holy Spirit and removal of sin.
5. A true believer in Jesus Christ will have nothing to fear on the Day of Judgment; a false believer or an unbeliever has much to fear on the Day of Judgment.

6. Being a follower of Jesus Christ means more than doing the “right things” outwardly. It means a total change of their thoughts, attitudes and physical actions.
7. Are your actions, thoughts and attitudes what God wants them to be?
8. We need to produce fruits or actions in keeping with repentance. That means living a life that God desires.
9. The fruits of the Holy Spirit, someone who is filled with the Holy Spirit will have these characteristics: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self- control. (See Galatians 5: 22)
10. God develops these characteristics in a believer who diligently seeks him and allows his spirit to work in their lives.
11. Judge your walk with God based on your fruits or actions. (Read Galatians 5:18-22) Do you have fruits of man or fruits of the Holy Spirit? Ask God to enable you to have the fruits of the Holy Spirit, and he will begin to work in your life.

The Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17)

Points to think about:

1. Jesus allowed John to baptize him for all righteousness to be fulfilled; he demonstrated his humility in taking on the form of a man (despite being the eternal God). (See Hebrews 4:15)
2. Jesus Christ did not need to be baptized for repentance because he was sinless. (See 1 Peter 2:22)
3. Since Jesus Christ was willing to take upon himself the form of a man and humble himself, God the Father was pleased with him and glorified the Son (Jesus Christ) for his obedience.
4. After the baptism of Jesus, The Trinity is present: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
5. The Trinity describes how God is in three separate persons and is yet one entity. He is God the Father, God the Son (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. An example to explain this can be used when you think of water. Water can be in the form of solid, liquid or gas, but it is still water.
6. We need to follow Jesus’s example and have water baptism. Baptism is a symbolic representation of a person being born again. Have you been water baptized after being born again? Pray and consider following Jesus’s example of water baptism.

Matthew 4

Jesus is Tempted in the Wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11)

Points to think about:

1. Jesus fasted and prayed for spiritual strength before he began his public ministry.
2. Jesus resisted the devil and he fled. This is how we should act when we are tempted by Satan. (See James 4:7)
3. God does not tempt man to commit sin, but the enemy tempts us so that we may fall into sin. It is not a sin to be tempted (as everyone, including Jesus, is tempted) but giving into temptation is where sin is present. (See James 1:12-15)
4. The devil tempts Jesus by using the word of God. The enemy often twists the word of God so that believers who are ignorant or unlearned often do what is opposite of what God would have them do. Jesus Christ gives us an example of how being knowledgeable about the Word of God can help us resist the attacks of the enemy. (See 2 Timothy 2:15 and Hebrews 4:12)
5. When tempted, God wants us to resist the devil and he will flee from us (see James 4:7). We also need to know and use the word of God to fight the spiritual battles in our minds. (See Hebrews 4:12)
6. We have a battlefield in our mind, where the devil tempts us and causes us to sin. (Ephesians 6:12)
7. What do you do when you are tempted? Do you resist or do you give in? Do you study the word of God so you can be prepared in the spiritual battle? Consider making a commitment of reading and studying God's word daily.

Jesus Begins His Ministry (Matthew 4:12-17)

Points to think about:

1. It is noted that once again a prophecy from the Old Testament is fulfilled through Jesus. It also shows that our steps are ordained by God, like Jesus's was. (See Isaiah 9:1,2)
2. Jesus knew that John the Baptist purpose was finished and he began preaching, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near".
3. Jesus has come into the world and is the light of the world. He also tells us that we are the light of the world. We need to let our light shine in this dark world. (Matthew 5:14)

Jesus Calls His First Disciples (Matthew 4:18-22)

1. Jesus calls his disciples to be “fishers of men”. He is telling them to follow him and he will help you change of lives of mankind by the salvation message of Jesus Christ.
2. The disciples were willing to leave everything and come follow Jesus.
3. God has called us for a specific purpose on this earth. It is to spread the good news about forgiveness through Jesus. Will you willing to follow Jesus and do what he commands?

Jesus Ministers in Galilee (Matthew 4:23-25)

1. Jesus is fulfilling his purpose on this earth by preaching about the kingdom of heaven, healing the sick, and casting out demons.
2. Jesus is able to heal our diseases. It can be are physical, emotional or spiritual. We can come to him with our needs and he will heal us according to his will.
3. When God heals a person it can be in many ways, either through conventional methods or a miraculous healing. However, we must pray for wisdom regarding all aspects of our well being.

Matthew 5

The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12)

Points to think about:

1. The Beatitudes can be thought of as “believer attitudes”. God considers these attitudes and actions to be blessed by him. The poor in spirit and meekness are referring to being humble.
2. He will lead the humble in what is right and show them his ways (See Psalms 25:9). It is blessed to be humble because God can guide you, correct you and show you his will. On the contrary, a prideful person feels that “they know it all” and do not need God (See Proverbs 16:18).
3. Mourning is not talking about mourning in vain or without cause. It is a person who mourns and looks towards God for help; they will be comforted and even find God in their sorrow.
4. God definitely blesses those who are persecuted for following him with a sure reward in heaven. This is something that gives us a great hope and comfort in the difficult times we face being a Christian.
5. God desires for us to be humble and he will guide us in all of our ways. The world around us however, wants us to rely on ourselves, which is pride.
6. There are many blessings that are promised for believers who take on the humble character of Christ. Even though living a life as a humble believer may be difficult, God has promised us a sure reward for those who are faithful.

Salt and Light (Matthew 5:13-16)

1. As followers of Christ, we are the light of the world. This is demonstrated by our good deeds, and our kindness towards others.
2. We are his representatives and need to ask God for his grace, to always show real character.

Jesus Fulfills the Law (Matthew 5:17-20)

Points to think about:

1. Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament law. He was fully God and he was fully human. Jesus was born of a virgin through the Holy Spirit, and did not have a human father. Therefore Jesus had no sin at birth. He was tempted and went through the same things we go through except he never sinned. He is our great high priest (See Hebrews 4:15).
2. The Old Testament nation of Israel had a high priest who would make sacrifices for their sins in the temple (See Romans 6:23).
3. Sacrifices for sins were done daily. In addition, there was one sacrifice done yearly for the sins of the nation of Israel.
4. Today the Jewish people remember the yearly sacrifice of atonement as Yom Kippur. Once Jesus Christ died on the cross, he performed the atoning sacrifice for all of mankind once and for all.
5. God takes sin very seriously. He even required animal sacrifice to cover for the sins of the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. He did this to demonstrate that sin leads to death. (See Romans 6:23) Have you dealt with the issue of sin in your life by asking God for forgiveness?

Adultery (Matthew 5:27-30)

Points to think about:

1. Jesus is saying that we should not even look at a man or woman with lust. This is because we will commit adultery in our hearts if we lust after others. God looks directly into our hearts and he wants it to be right in his eyes.
2. God is not literally saying to blind or maim yourself. This is used as figurative language to remove from your life anything that causes you to turn away from God.
3. Jesus speaks about looking at a woman with lust in your eyes as bad as having an affair. The reason is because God is judging our hearts and our thoughts. When you open the door to sin in your life, by looking at a man or woman with lust in your eyes you are slowly opening the door for the enemy to cause you to sin. Is there anything in your life that causes you to sin? How can you take it out of your life in a practical way?

Divorce (Matthew 5:31-32)

Points to think about:

1. God abhors divorce and wants us to stay married. (See Matthew 19:6)
2. God wants to be the center of your marriage to make it last, so that you will not have a divorce. (See Ecclesiastes 4:12)
3. A man and a woman (prior to marriage) need to be born again. They both need to seek God's will regarding their spouse.
4. Marriage (as defined by the Bible), should be honored by both spouses. There are many blessings for preserving or obeying your marriage vows. Marriage was never meant to be done without God. Those who attempt to have a marriage without God often have considerable difficulty. Pray about making God the center of your life and your marriage if you are married.

Oaths (Matthew 5:33-37)

1. God does not want you to swear by his name, yourself or anything. Let your words be the truth at all times.

Retaliation (Matthew 5:38-42)

1. Vengeance belongs to the Lord. (See Romans 12:19) He does not want you to take matters into your own hands.
2. God will deal with unfair situations and people for you.

Love for Enemies (Matthew 5:43-48)

1. God wants us to love our enemies and bless those who curse you. God also wants you to do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who persecute you.
2. This is a complete contradiction to what the average person would do. However, this is one way how people will know that you are a child of God.

Matthew 6

Charitable Deeds (Matthew 6: 1-4)

1. When you give to someone in need, do it privately so only God sees what you are doing.
2. The praise from people is the reward you for doing good deeds to show others. Treasures in heaven are the reward you receive for doing good deeds to show only God.
3. In today's society, it is often encouraged to put yourself on a pedestal. We often live for praise and acceptance from others. God wants you to do good deeds for an audience of one.

Prayer (Matthew 6:5-15)

1. God says when you pray don't be like hypocrites who pray to show others. Again God says their reward is the praise of people, not treasures in heaven.
2. God instructs us to go to our room, close the door and pray in private. What God sees you do in private, He will honor.
3. You don't need to make your prayers extremely long and keep repeating phrases. Instead, pray to God with faith and know that He will answer your prayer according to his will. The Lord's Prayer is an example of how we should pray. God wants to hear our prayers to him with words from our own heart.

Fasting (Matthew 6:16-18)

1. Fasting is abstaining from food for a time for prayer and meditation.
2. Fasting and prayer are recommended for spiritual growth and strengthening of your faith.
3. Again when you fast do it in private and don't try to let people see you, so they will think you are so spiritual.
4. God wants a genuine relationship, where you are doing things to improve your relationship with him, not to get other people to notice you and praise you.
5. When you do things with the intention of getting people to praise you, there will be no reward in heaven.

Treasures in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21)

1. God wants us to be kingdom focused. If you store up all your treasures on earth that is where your heart will be.
2. We are here only for a short period of time. Our permanent home is with Him in heaven.

Eyes (Matthew 6:22-23)

1. Be careful with the things you watch and read as they can influence your mind and make you focused on other things rather than God.

God and Money (Matthew 6:24-25)

1. Money is not evil in and of itself. The love of money, however, is the root of all evil. (1 Timothy 6:10)
2. People sometimes put money (or this world), before God. In so doing, they often destroy their relationship with Jesus Christ. (See Matthew 16:26-27)

Do not worry (Matthew 6:25-34)

1. This passage is telling us not to be worried about what you will eat, and wear.
2. This does not give us the right to be lazy and say “God will provide”.
(See Proverbs 10:4)
3. Our focus in life needs to be about the kingdom of God and His righteousness.
4. When you put God first in your life he will provide for everything else you will need.

Matthew 7

Judging Others (Matthew 7: 1-6)

1. God has **not** called us to judge others. He is the only one who can judge people because he is perfect. We do not have the right to judge anyone because we ourselves are sinful humans.
2. “Giving to dogs what is sacred” and “throwing your pearls before pigs” is discussing spiritual matters with those who do not value it. The person will not understand the heart of God or the significance of the spiritual matter.
3. When tempted to judge other people, we should pray for them to come to a place of repentance and salvation. We should also look at our own lives and judge ourselves.
4. Is there anything in your life that is not right with God? How can you make an effort to change those things?

Ask, Seek, Knock (Matthew 7: 7-11)

1. When asking God for a request it needs to be within his will for it to be answered.
2. “Good gifts” are speaking about the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is God. He lives inside of you and will be your Comforter and Counselor. (See John 14:16).
3. Jesus did not leave us on this earth as orphans. Instead He sent us the Holy Spirit to be with us until he returns. The Holy Spirit is our Comforter and Counselor. He will guide us and lead us to follow Jesus. (John 14:16-26).
4. To receive the Holy Spirit all we need to do is ask God for him to fill us with the Holy Spirit.
5. A person can only ask to receive the Holy Spirit once they are saved. To be saved, you must ask God for forgiveness of your sins and invite Jesus into your heart as your Savior. In doing this, you are accepting his ultimate sacrifice for your sins and that is how you are forgiven and made right with God. Then you can ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

If you are not saved or not filled with the Holy Spirit, here is a prayer to say out loud to God:

Dear God,

I am sorry for my sins, please forgive me. I ask you Jesus to come into my heart to my Lord, my Savior and my friend. Please fill me with your Holy Spirit and help me to follow you. I ask this in Jesus name. Amen.

Golden Rule (Matthew 7:12)

1. Treat others the way you want to be treated.

The Narrow and Wide Gates (Matthew 7:13 -14)

1. The road to heaven is a narrow road because there are a few people who are willing to follow Jesus. It is not easy and we have to pick up our cross daily and follow him. The cross is the difficulty that we face for being a Christian.
2. It means following God's way instead of the world's way. (See Mark 8:34)
3. The road to hell is a wide road, and many follow that road. It is doing whatever your sinful nature desires. There is no thought of consequences, either spiritual or physical. This road leads to death and destruction.
4. The road that God desires for us to be on is the narrow road. It is a more difficult and we battle with our own sinful desires. However, God will give us the grace to persevere. (See 2 Corinthians 12:9)
5. What can you do to stay on the narrow road? Are there any friendships or people in your life keeping you from staying on the narrow road to heaven?
6. Pray and consider what actions you can take to stay on the narrow road.

A Tree and Its Fruits (Matthew 7:15-23)

1. The good tree represents a born again Christian filled with the Holy Spirit. The fruits are symbolic representation of a person's behavior once they are born again.
2. The fruits of the Holy Spirit are the following: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (See Galatians 5:22,23)
3. The bad tree is an unbeliever filled with evil and thus having the fruits of the sinful nature: sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery (excessive indulgence in sensual pleasure), idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions (quarrelsome), factions (rebellious), envy, drunkenness and orgies. (See Galatians 5:19-21)
4. Those who live like this with the fruits of the sinful nature will not enter the kingdom of God. (See Galatians 5:21)
5. The fruits or actions of people will be your guide whether they are true followers of Jesus. Whenever you listen to a pastor or teacher, always test everything against what the bible says in context. (See 1 John 4:1)
6. Also examine the characteristics of the preacher to know if this person has the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Jesus warns us to watch out for false prophets who appear to be his followers, but are not.
7. This is also a guide for you to know if you are walking in the way that God desires for your life.
8. Examine yourself with the verses. (See Galatians 5:19-21). What are the fruits in your life?
9. Pray for God to develop the fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life.

The Wise and Foolish Builders (Matthew 7:24-29)

1. The wise man represents a born again Christian. The house represents a person's heart. The rock represents Jesus. Therefore, a born again Christian builds his life on the rock that is Jesus Christ.
2. The rain and the storms represent the difficulties we face on this earth. The Christian does not fall apart when this happens. This is because a true Christian relies on God and the promises of the Bible to get through the difficult times.
3. In contrast, the foolish man (a non-believer) builds his life on himself and his own beliefs (the sand).
4. When there are difficulties in life, as there are for everyone, they cannot rely on the promises of the Bible. The non-believer often falls apart in such times.
5. Jesus wants us to be like the wise man and build our life upon him and the promises that are given in the Bible.
6. Are you the wise or foolish builder? Pray that God may enable you to be like the wise builder and build your life on Jesus.

Matthew 8

Jesus Heals a Man With Leprosy (Matthew 8:1 -4)

1. The man with leprosy exercises his faith when he says Lord if you are willing you can make me clean. That is how we need to approach God, with faith and asking if it is his will.

The Faith of the Centurion (Matthew 8:5 -13)

1. The centurion had incredible faith that with Jesus's word his servant will be healed. Since he had that kind of faith it was done for him.
2. It is impossible to please God without faith. (See Hebrews 11:6)
3. Jesus was referring to the Jewish people who were not truly following God. They are the subjects of the kingdom who were thrown outside of heaven.
4. The Jewish people who were not following God will not enter God's kingdom. They were blinded with their own teachings.
5. They did not believe Jesus was the Messiah, nor did they follow God wholeheartedly.

Jesus Heals Many (Matthew 8:14 -16)

1. Jesus heals Peter's mother –in- law from a fever.
2. The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament prophesied that the Messiah will heal our diseases and take infirmities (sin) by dying on the cross for our sins. (See Isaiah 53:4)

The Cost of Following Jesus (Matthew 8:18-22)

1. Jesus did not feel at home on this earth, his home and kingdom are the kingdom of heaven.
2. "Let the dead bury the dead" is talking about unbelievers who will not understand spiritual matters. Unbelievers will never understand a calling that God may have for a believer.

Jesus Calms the Storm (Matthew 8:23-27)

1. Jesus can calm the storms in our lives. In other words, when we are going to through difficult times, call on him and he will calm the storm in your heart.
2. He will give you guidance to deal with the situation, and wisdom with what you should do.

Jesus Restores Two Demon-Possessed Men (Matthew 8:28-34)

1. Jesus had power and authority over the evil demons, but people did not want the help and they pleaded for him to leave.

Matthew 9

Jesus heals a paralytic (Matthew 9:1-8)

1. The men carrying the paralytic man had faith that Jesus could heal him. He saw their faith and forgave the paralytic man's sins.
2. It does not mean that the man was paralyzed because of sins; however he needed to repent from his sins to receive God's healing.

Matthew the Tax Collector (Matthew 9:9-13)

1. Matthew was willing to answer God's call on his life immediately.
2. God desires mercy not sacrifice. He desires our heart and attitude to be right with him, rather than mere sacrifice. (See Hosea 6:6)

Fasting (Matthew 9:14-17)

1. Old Testament fasting was related to mourning and repentance for sin.
2. The bridegroom is referring to Jesus. Soon he will be taken to heaven and the disciples will fast for spiritual strength.
3. We no longer fast for mourning and repentance, because Jesus paid it all on the cross.

Wineskin Parable (Matthew 9:16-17)

1. An unshrunk cloth (new cloth) placed on an old garment will tear because the new cloth will shrink and make the tear worse. This parable was used to explain a believer cannot mix his former life as an unbeliever and his current life as a believer.
2. New wine is the Holy Spirit; the new wineskin is the new creation in Christ. Therefore, the new creation, (a believer), is filled with the Holy Spirit.
3. When a person is born again, the old ways of life are done away with. The believer is a new creation in Christ. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17)
4. Now that you are a new creation in Christ, what are some of the old ways (not God's ways) that you need to surrender to God?
5. Pray and ask God to show you the things that you need to change about yourself as a follower of Christ. Ask for the grace to change those things about yourself as well. (See 2 Corinthians 12:9)

Jesus Raises a Dead Girl and Heals a Sick Woman (Matthew 9:18-25)

1. The ruler had faith in Jesus and his daughter was raised to life.
2. The woman with a bleeding disorder was healed because of her faith in Jesus.
3. God is able to heal believers if they ask in faith, and if it is according to his will.
4. Is there an area in your life that you need healing? It can be physical, mental, emotional, or spiritual in nature.
5. Pray and ask God to show you if there is an area that you need healing. Ask for healing in this area in your life with faith, and ask for God's will to be done.

Jesus Heals Two Blind Men and a Mute Man Speaks (Matthew 9: 27-34)

1. Jesus heals two blind men according to their faith.
2. Jesus casts a demon out of a man who was previously mute.
3. The Pharisees still did not believe that Jesus was God; even after all these miraculous signs.

The Workers Are Few (Matthew 9:35-38)

4. The harvest is the people who need to hear about Jesus. The laborers are the believers who are willing to spread the gospel.
5. God has called us to be laborers and to spread the good news about Jesus Christ.
6. God has called us all to spread the good news about Jesus to the world. (Matthew 28:16-20)
7. What are some ways that you can spread the truth about Jesus to your friends and family? Are there any gifts and talents that you can use for God in your community and local church?

Matthew 10

Jesus Calls the Twelve Disciples (Matthew 10:1-4)

1. The twelve disciples that Jesus called were the following: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James, Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas.

Jesus Instructions to the Twelve Disciples (Matthew 10: 5-40)

- 1 Jesus told his disciples initially to preach the gospel to the Jewish people. This is because salvation came to the Jewish people first (in the form of Jesus Christ), and then to the Gentile (non-Jew). (See Romans 1:16)
- 2 There will be persecution/rejection when preaching about Christ. Jesus tells us do not be afraid and not worry. He will guide us with everything we need to do.
- 3 We must pick up our cross and follow Jesus. The cross is referring to the sacrifices that we make when following Jesus.

Matthew 11

Jesus revealed to John the Baptist (Matthew 11: 1-6)

1. Jesus reveals that he is the Messiah to John. Jesus gives examples of the blind receiving their sight, the lame being able to walk, physical healing of illnesses, and the good news being preached.

John's Identity is revealed (Matthew 11: 7-18)

1. John was the messenger sent ahead of Jesus that was prophesied in Old Testament. (See Isaiah 40:3)

Curses to the Unrepentant Cities (Matthew 11: 20-24)

1. Jesus denounced the cities that did not repent even after all the miracles were performed.

Rest for the Weary (Matthew 11:25-30)

1. Jesus wants us to go to him with our burdens and troubles, and he will give us rest.
2. We can come to Jesus with all our burdens, problems, and troubles. He will take the burden from off our shoulders.
3. Are you tired, weary and burdened? Pray and lay all your burdens before Jesus.

Matthew 12

Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath (Matthew 12: 1-14)

1. Jesus says I desire mercy, not sacrifice. (See Hosea 6:6).
2. The Pharisees were following rules and rituals, and hearts were far away from God.

Jesus is God's Chosen Servant (Matthew 12:15-21)

1. Jesus performed miracles and preached the gospel, which was prophesized by Isaiah in the Old Testament. (See Isaiah 42:1-4)
2. Jesus was falsely accused of working through Beelzebub (the prince of demons).
3. Jesus points out that the belief that he would defeat demons through evil methods is not true. No nation or kingdom can stand if there is conflict within itself.
4. Jesus also says that the sin that is unforgivable is the blaspheming of the Holy Spirit. This is saying the work of God (through the Holy Spirit) to be a work of the devil.

Jonah (Matthew 12:38-42)

1. Jonah was a prophet in the Old Testament that God called to speak to the people of Nineveh about repentance. (See Jonah 1:2)
2. Jonah refused and was swallowed by a large fish and lived in its belly for three days. Eventually the fish vomited Jonah on to dry land. (See Jonah 1:17).
3. Jonah preached the message of repentance to the people of Nineveh and all the people in Nineveh repented and were saved from destruction. (See Jonah 3:10)
4. Jonah being in the belly of a large fish was a foreshadowing of Jesus. Jonah was in the belly of whale for three days and three nights. Jesus was in the heart of the earth (when he was buried) for three days and three nights.
5. Jesus then compares the leaders of the Jewish people and their followers to both the people of Nineveh and the Queen of the south
6. The Queen of the South, (she is also known as the Queen of Sheba, a region south of the kingdom of Israel) (See 1 Kings 10:4-10).
7. She came to the court of King Solomon to witness his wisdom. In witnessing Solomon's wisdom, she gave praise to God for all the blessings that God gave to Solomon. (See 1 Kings 10:9)
8. The people of Nineveh and the Queen of the South are representations of those who are unbelievers and are destined for punishment.
9. Jesus notes that on the Day of Judgment, that both (the people of Nineveh and the Queen of Sheba) will condemn the current nation of Israel.
10. The people of Nineveh will condemn the people of Israel because of their inability to believe the message of repentance.

11. The Queen of the South (Sheba) will condemn the people of Israel because of their inability to understand the wisdom of God through his salvation.

Evil Spirits (Matthew 12:43-45)

1. In continuing with the thought of the people of Israel being unable to believe the message of repentance and salvation, Jesus speaks about evil spirits.
2. Jesus notes that when the people of Israel when they were calling out to God had no room for the enemy and evil.
3. However, since the people of Israel have turned away from God and his message of salvation, an evil worse than what was initially present will be present in the actions of the people of Israel.
4. In so doing, the current state of the people of Israel (spiritually) is worse than when they first followed after God.

Jesus Mother and Brothers (Matthew 12:46-50)

1. Those who follow Jesus are considered his family.

Matthew 13

The Seed Sower Parable (Matthew 13:1-23)

1. The seed represents the gospel which is salvation through Christ Jesus. Soil is the person's heart.
2. Once a person becomes born again, they need to continue to read and study the Bible to grow spiritually, similar to a seed becoming a tree.

Parable about the Weeds and the explanation

Matthew 13:24-29, Matthew 13:36-43)

1. We as born again Christians are surrounded by unbelievers and false believers everywhere we go.
2. When Christ returns in his second coming, he will call his followers to come to his kingdom, and those who chose to reject him will face eternal punishment.

Parable about Mustard Seed and Yeast (Matthew 13: 31-35)

1. The mustard seed represents the word of God regarding salvation.
2. The field represents a person's heart. The tree represents a mature believer. The birds of the air represent people in the world.
3. Therefore, a person accepts Christ in their heart is like a mustard seed planted.
4. The way a seed needs sunlight and water to become a tree, a believer needs the word of God to grow spiritually.
5. A mature believer can provide comfort to the people of the world regarding the Bible.
6. In the parable of the yeast, the yeast represents the word of God working in every aspect of a person's life.

Matthew 14

John the Baptist was Beheaded (Matthew 14: 1-12)

1. God commands a man not to commit adultery. (See Exodus 20:14)
2. It is the 7th out of the Ten Commandments given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Adultery is having sexual relations with someone who is married.
3. The wickedness of Herodias caused her to commit another sin and kill God's prophet. Commandment number six thou shall not kill. This is another example of how one sin leads to another.
4. The daughter was prompted to commit this sin because of mother. In life we need to discern (distinguish) if people's requests are Godly.
5. The king knew that what he was doing was wrong. The king's pride caused him to commit the murder of John the Baptist.

Five Thousand People are Fed by Jesus (Matthew 14: 13-21)

1. Although Jesus was upset about the death of John the Baptist, he was still compassionate towards the crowd.
2. He healed the sick and provided food for them.
3. Through this miracle you see God's provision. He is indeed a provider for those who have faith and call on his name.
4. The crowds were not only fed physically, but spiritually as well. They saw God's hand of provision in meeting their needs.

Jesus walks on Water (Matthew 14: 22-36)

1. Jesus went up to mountainside to a private place to pray. This is the way God commands us to pray privately. (See Matthew 6:6)
2. Peter was able to walk on water when he kept his eyes on Jesus, once he doubted he started to sink.
3. The enemy brings doubt into our lives. If we keep our eyes on Jesus and have faith, he will give us grace to deal with the many troubles of life.

Matthew 15

Clean and Unclean Things (Matthew 15:1-20)

1. This passage is talking about clean and unclean things in a spiritual sense.
2. The Pharisees made their own man made traditions of hand washing before they eat, thinking that certain foods can make you unclean or unholy.
3. Jesus corrects the Pharisees and lets them know it is a person's heart towards God that is important, not man made rituals.
4. He called Pharisees blind guides, because they follow rules and rituals but their hearts are far from God's truth.

Jesus and the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:22-28)

1. Jesus came to save the lost sheep of Israel, which are the Jewish people.
2. The Jewish people rejected Jesus to be their king, and salvation was also given to the Gentiles.
3. Jesus is figuratively speaking when saying that the Gentiles are dogs .However, since the woman had such great faith her daughter was healed at that very moment.

Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (Matthew 15:29-39)

1. Jesus had compassion on the crowds of people following him. He healed them from their diseases.
2. Once again you see God's provision to multiply seven loaves of bread and a few small fish to meet their physical need of hunger.

Matthew 16

The Demand for a Sign (Matthew 16: 1-4)

1. The Pharisees and Sadducees were too blind to see all the signs Jesus already performed to show he is the Son of God.
2. Jonah was an Old Testament prophet. (See the book of Jonah for details).
3. Jonah stayed in the belly of a whale for three days and three nights.
4. It was a foreshadowing of Jesus death, burial and resurrection on the third day.

The Yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matthew 16:5-12)

1. Jesus spoke in parables to explain about the kingdom of God.
2. He told them to be careful about the teachings of Pharisees and Sadducees.
3. We can also have teachers that may be teaching false doctrine.
4. Everything you learn has to be tested against what the bible says. (See 1 John 4:1)

Peter's Confession of Christ (Matthew 16:13-20)

1. The Holy Spirit has revealed to Peter that Jesus is the Son of God.
2. Jesus tells him that on this rock (which is Jesus), he will build his church.
3. The church refers to born again believers. The enemy will not overcome it. Hades refers to hell.

Jesus Predicts His Death (Matthew 16:21-28)

1. Jesus knew about His death and what how much pain he had to endure for the sake of our salvation.
2. Peter was trying to deter Jesus from dying, but he did not have things of God in his heart, only the things of man.

Matthew 17

The Transfiguration (Matthew 17: 1-13)

1. During the transfiguration God confirms to the disciples that this is his Son in whom he is well pleased and commands them to listen to him.
2. Elijah was a prophet in the Old Testament. Elijah represented the prophets of the Old Testament. (See 1 King 18)
3. Moses was also a prophet in the Old Testament who was given the Ten Commandments. (See Exodus 20) He represented the law.
4. Jesus is the new covenant. Elijah and Moses appeared to show the law being fulfilled, and God's plan unfolding.

The Healing of a Boy with a Demon (Matthew 17: 14 -23)

1. Jesus had the power and authority to cast the demon out of the boy.
2. We can tell the enemy to depart from ourselves as well but only in Jesus name.
3. Jesus predicts His death and resurrection for the salvation of mankind.

The Temple Tax (Matthew 17: 24-26)

1. Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords, and is God and did not have to pay the temple tax.
2. To show he was an abiding citizen, he paid the taxes that were due.
3. Jesus relied on God, and knew that there would be a fish with a coin in its mouth to help pay for his tax.

Matthew 18

The Greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 18: 1-9)

1. Jesus asks us to have the characteristics of a child. As a little child believes and trusts their parents to provide for them, we must put our trust in our heavenly Father.
2. Jesus talks about how we should never lead anyone astray especially little children, and there will be a great punishment for that.
3. Jesus is speaking figuratively here regarding cutting your arm or gouging out your eye.
4. Anything that takes us away from God needs to be cut out of our lives.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep (Matthew 18:10-12)

1. Jesus speaks about how we should never look down upon those who are lost.
2. Jesus speaks about how God does not want anyone of us to go astray.
3. He rejoices when a sinner comes back to him.
4. Jesus is figuratively mentioned as a shepherd and the people of God as sheep.

A Brother Who Sins Against You (Matthew 18:15-20)

1. Jesus gives guidelines on what to do if someone sins against you. First approach the person and discuss the issue. If he or she will not listen to you, then bring two witnesses to help solve the issue.
2. If they refuse to listen to you or to the two witnesses, then tell it to the church.
3. If they refuse to listen to the church, then they are treated as unbelievers.
4. Jesus refers to binding and loosing things in heaven and on earth. This is in context of a disagreement with your fellow believer. If you are in disagreement with your brother even after the steps outlined above, you can pray so that it may be resolved by God himself. In this manner, you are trusting God to resolve your issues.
5. Jesus speaks about unity, two believers coming in his name to pray for spiritual matters, will be answered by God according to his will.

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant (Matthew 18: 21-35)

1. Jesus wants us to forgive others the same way God has forgiven us from our sins.
2. This parable is referring to how God canceled our debt of sin through Jesus.

Matthew 19

Divorce (Matthew 19:1-11)

1. Jesus speaks about marriage. Jesus defines marriage as being between a man and a woman.
2. Both man and woman are supposed to leave their father and mother. They are supposed to become one flesh.
3. One flesh refers to oneness physically, spiritually, and emotionally. This happens by putting God in the center of the husband's and wife's life as well as their marriage.
4. Placing God as the center means putting God first and submitting to his will in your life and marriage.
5. Moses permitted a certificate of divorce because of man's inability to keep the marriage vows.
6. Divorce is only permitted when one spouse commits adultery, however God is able to redeem and restore marriages through his grace.

The Little Children and Jesus (Matthew 19:13-14)

1. Again Jesus mentions the kingdom of God belongs to children (symbolically) because of their total reliance on their heavenly Father.

The Rich Young Man (Matthew 19:16-29)

1. Jesus does not require for His followers to literally sell all their possessions. That would be irresponsible.
2. He is speaking figuratively, to put God above all things in your life, and to follow his commands.
3. Following God's commands can only be done through the power of the Holy Spirit.
4. Those who have made sacrifices for the kingdom of God will surely be rewarded on earth as well as in heaven.

Matthew 20

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1-16)

1. The landowner is God the Father. He gives salvation to everyone freely which represents the denarius.
2. The vineyard is referring to the earth; the work is spreading the gospel of Jesus.
3. When a person becomes born again, they are redeemed from their sins.
4. God is merciful to give salvation to everyone not based on our works but his grace.

Jesus Again Predicts His Death (Matthew 20:17-19)

1. Jesus speaks about the chief priest and teachers of law will condemn him to death.
2. This was God's plan for salvation, Christ being the perfect sacrifice for our sin dying and being raised to life on the third day.
3. Jesus being betrayed, mocked, dying and raised on third day was also prophesied many times in the Old Testament.

A Mother's Request (Matthew 20: 20-28)

1. Drinking of the cup is symbolic representation of the sufferings Jesus will face in his death.
2. We will share in his sufferings as believers, with the persecution we face in spreading the gospel and the sacrifices we make to follow Christ. We will also share in his resurrection, as we will be raised to life when Christ returns.
3. Our placement in heaven is determined by God the Father.
4. We are supposed to be like Christ and be a servant of the most high God.

Two Blind Men Receive Sight (Matthew 20: 29-34)

1. The blind men had faith and called on Jesus and he healed them.
2. Jesus had compassion on them, as he has compassion and love towards us.
3. Once the blind men were healed they followed him, once God works in your life, you need to continue to follow him to be blessed.

Matthew 21

The Triumphal Entry (Matthew 21: 1-11)

1. Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey and the people praising him was an Old Testament prophecy fulfilled in the New Testament. (See Zechariah 9:9)
2. Notice the same people praising Jesus in this chapter will later betray him knowing that he is God.
3. Hosanna is a Hebrew word that means "save us now".
4. Jesus was humble and gentle, riding on a donkey as he was on earth to fulfill his purpose. However, his second coming he will be riding a white horse, coming to rule and reign. (See Revelation 19:11)

Jesus at the Temple (Matthew 21: 12-17)

1. Jesus had the power and authority to drive out those who were making God's house into a marketplace.
2. The Pharisees and high priest were not happy with Jesus.
3. They used the temple for their own purposes to make money rather than for prayer.

The Fig Tree Withers (Matthew 21:18-22)

1. Jesus speaks about how it is important to pray with faith, and if it is God's will it will be answered.
2. Notice also how Jesus had to depend on God for food, as he was preaching city to city during his earthly ministry.
3. As a loving Father, he will answer your prayers with our best interest which is according to his will in our lives.

The Authority of Jesus Questioned (Matthew 21:23-27)

1. Jesus knew that the chief priest and the elders were not asking out of curiosity, but they were deliberately disobedient to God.
2. They knew John the Baptist was a messenger of God. They persecuted and killed him though he was sent by God.

The Parable of the Two Sons (Matthew 21: 28-32)

1. The man with the son represents God; the first son is the Gentiles. The second son is the lost sheep of Israel.
2. The Gentiles originally rejected God, but was willing to accept Christ's message of salvation.
3. They did not know God or the laws of Moses, but when they saw Jesus they repented and believed.
4. The second son presents the Jewish leaders who praised God with their mouths but their hearts were far from Him.

The Parable of the Tenants (Matthew 21:33-46)

1. The landowner represents God the Father. The vineyard represents the earth. People on earth represent the tenants because we are only here for a short time.
2. Soon Jesus will come and redeem his people and judge the world.
3. The landowner's servants represent God's prophets and messengers. They were trying to help people change and repent to live for God and produce fruit.
4. The Son of the landowner is Jesus, whom the world killed.
5. The stone the builders rejected is Jesus and it became the capstone. He died and was resurrected and is seated on the right hand of the father.
6. The stone represents Christ. Falling on the stone is surrendering to God. It represents a person being broken before him and allowing him to change you.
7. The stone that falls on someone represents judgment.

Matthew 22

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet(Matthew 22: 1-14)

1. The king represents God the Father, the son is Jesus, the wedding banquet is when Christ returns and takes the church (body of Christ, or believers) to heaven.
2. The servants are God's prophets who called his people to repentance by various signs and miracles. The people who rejected the invitations were God's own people; the lost sheep of Israel, the Jewish followers.
3. Jesus came for the lost sheep of Israel and they rejected him. After the lost sheep of Israel rejected him, he focused on the Gentiles and anyone willing to be saved.
4. Wedding clothes represents being covered underneath Christ's blood. We can't enter the kingdom of God without repenting from our sins.

Paying Taxes to Caesar (Matthew 22:15-22)

1. Paying taxes is our responsibility as citizens of a country. Jesus agrees that is the right thing to do, give the government what belongs to them and be honest.

Marriage at the Resurrection (Matthew 22:23-33)

1. At the time of Christ's return we will be transformed in the twinkling of an eye with new bodies, we will be like angels worshiping God not concerned about earthly relationships. (See 1 Corinthians 15:52)

The Greatest Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40)

1. In the Ten Commandments, the first four are about loving God. (See Exodus 20:3-11).

Commandments 1-4

- 1) Do not worship any other gods.
- 2) Do not make any idols
- 3) Do not misuse the name of God.
- 4) Keep the Sabbath day holy.

2. The following six are regarding treatment of others. (See Exodus 20:12-17)

Commandments 6-10

- 5) Honor your father and mother.
- 6) Do not murder.
- 7) Do not commit adultery.
- 8) Do not steal.
- 9) Do not lie.
- 10) Do not covet.

3. If you love God with all your heart then you will obey commandments 1-4.
4. If you love your neighbor like yourself, you will obey commandments 5-10.

Whose Son Is the Christ? (Matthew 22:41-45)

1. Jesus is God's Son and is God. He sits at God's right hand in heaven. The earth is his footstool.

Matthew 23

Seven Woes (Matthew 23:1-39)

1. Jesus speaks about the hypocrisy of the Jewish leaders to the disciples, and tells them not to follow their examples.
2. However, Jesus tells them to follow the teachings of Moses.
3. Jesus says to be humble and willing to serve rather than to be served.
4. The woes Jesus mentions is speaks about hypocrisy; the outward appearance of holiness but having evil intentions.
5. There is a great punishment for hypocrisy because it will lead others astray.

Matthew 24

Signs of the End of Age (Matthew 24:1-35)

1. There will be many false prophets and deceivers.
2. Test everything against the bible and in context of scriptures.
3. Wars, rumors of wars, nations against nation, famine and earthquakes will happen.
4. We will endure persecution as Christians for what we believe. However, God will give us his grace and help to stand firm. We have to stand firm till the end to be saved.
5. Christ will return once everyone has heard the good news. (Matthew 24: 14)
6. A false Christ will appear but do not be deceived. By the fruits you will know who are the true followers and the teaching needs to be biblically applicable.
7. The enemy also knows the bible as he tempted Jesus in Matthew 4. You must pray for discernment to distinguish if a teacher is teaching through the spirit of God.
8. When Jesus returns the angel will blow the trumpet and then the dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who are alive will be gathered to be with Jesus in the sky. At that time we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and transformed into immortal heavenly bodies to reign with Christ forever!
(See 1 Thessalonians 4:16)

The Day and Hour Unknown (Matthew 24:36-51)

1. No one knows the day or the hour for Christ's return.
2. We should be prepared and be doing God's will when he comes back.

Matthew 25

Ten Virgins (Matthew 25: 1-13)

1. The five wise virgins represent the believers who are ready for Christ's return.
2. The five foolish virgins represent the unbelievers who are not ready for Christ's return.
3. The bridegroom represents Christ and his return to earth.

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. Talent can be interpreted as money, spiritual gifts and abilities God has entrusted us with.
2. The servants with the first and second are like the Christians who use their gifts and talents for God's glory.
3. The third servant is a person who only has one talent but does nothing with it and hides it, and does not use it for God's kingdom.
4. God holds us accountable with all that he has given us.

The Sheeps and Goats (Matthew 25: 31-46)

1. Sheep are the believers who will enter the kingdom of God, and those who followed Christ.
2. Goats represent the unbeliever and their destination is hell.
3. We are called to help the needy, but good works without faith is dead. (See James 2:26)
4. When we do good deeds for others we are doing it for God.

Matthew 26

The Plot Against Jesus (Matthew 26:1-5)

1. A conspiracy was formed with the leaders of the Jewish people against Jesus to execute him.

Jesus Anointed at Bethany (Matthew 26:6– 13)

1. Jesus was anointed with an expensive perfume by a woman.
2. This was in preparation for his burial.

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus (Matthew 26: 14–16)

1. Jesus was betrayed for thirty pieces of silver as prophesied in the Old Testament. (See Psalms 41:9, Zechariah 11:12-13)

Lord's Supper (Matthew 26:17– 30)

1. The bread symbolized Jesus's body that was broken on the cross.
2. The cup symbolized Jesus's blood that was shed for the forgiveness of our sins.

Jesus Predicts Peter's Denial (Matthew 26: 31– 35)

1. Jesus's disciples also abandoned him, fulfilling an Old Testament prophecy. (See Zechariah 13:7)

Gethsemane (Matthew 26: 36– 46)

1. Jesus, in his most sorrowful moments, went to the Father to pray.
2. He prayed for God the Father's will to be done.
3. We often have great intentions for doing the Lord's will in our life; however, we know that practical application is often difficult.

Jesus Arrested (Matthew 26:47 – 56)

1. Jesus demonstrated his humility in that he was arrested by his own creation as a criminal.
2. God the Father could have sent twelve legions (60,000) angels to rescue Jesus if he commanded it. However, he endured this humiliation for our sake.

Before the Sanhedrin (Matthew 26:57-68)

1. Jesus was executed by the Sanhedrin for truthfully stating that he was God himself as well as the Messiah.

Peter Disowns Jesus (Matthew 26: 69–75)

1. Peter denied Jesus thrice as Jesus predicted.

Matthew 27

Judas Hangs Himself (Matthew 27:1-10)

1. Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies about the Messiah in Old Testament. However, the Jewish people were too blind to see that he was the Messiah.
2. Judas hangs himself because of guilt.

Jesus Before Pilate (Matthew 27:11-26)

1. Pilate knew that Jesus was innocent, yet he had him crucified to please the crowd.
2. Jesus gave no reply to the accusations because it knew that this had to happen for the salvation of mankind.
3. The chief priests and the elders led the uproar to have Jesus crucified.
4. He was rejected by his own people, the ones he came to save.

The Soldiers Mock Jesus (Matthew 27:27-31)

1. Jesus endured this harsh treatment for our salvation so that we may have eternal life.
2. Notice the humiliation of wearing a crown of thorns. This was in ridicule of his claim of being the King of the Jews.

The Crucifixion (Matthew 27: 32-44)

1. The casting of lots for his clothes was prophesized in the Old Testament, another Messianic prophecy fulfilled. (See Psalms 22:18)
2. Jesus was talking about his body being the temple which would be destroyed and he would be raised to life in three days.
3. Jesus endured pain, suffering and moments of despair for the sake of our salvation. This is something we must always be thankful for all the days of our lives.

The Death of Jesus (Matthew 27: 45-56)

1. The darkness that covered the earth was because of God the Father turning away from Jesus. This was because the sins of all mankind were placed upon Jesus.
2. God loved the world so much he was willing to have his only Son suffer and die for the forgiveness of mankind's sin. (See John 3:16)
3. The curtain in the temple separated the people from the presence of God. The curtain tore from top to bottom. It symbolized a divine message that there is no separation between God and man because of Jesus's sacrifice. He is our mediator to the Father. (See 1 Timothy 2:5)
4. We can now approach the Father and are made right with him because of the perfect sacrifice that was made through Jesus.

The Burial of Jesus (Matthew 27: 57-61)

1. Jesus's body was wrapped in clean linen and placed in the tomb. The entrance was sealed with a large stone

The Guard at the Tomb (Matthew 27: 62-65)

1. The hearts of the Pharisees were so hardened that even after they witnessed all the events at the crucifixion, they still refused to believe.
2. They ordered the tomb to be guarded so that they could prove that there was no resurrection as Jesus prophesied.

Matthew 28

The Resurrection (Matthew 28:1-10)

1. Jesus Christ rose from the dead on the third day, as the scriptures had promised.
2. Our God is not dead but alive. He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven.
3. We will also be raised to life like Jesus on the last day, when he returns.
4. If we share in his sufferings we will also share in his glorious resurrection. (See Philippians 3: 10-11)

The Guard's Report (Matthew 28:11-15)

1. The stubborn and unrepentant hearts of the elders and chief priests still denied the resurrection of Jesus.
2. Their hearts were so far from God, they were willing to spread false testimony about God himself.

The Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. Jesus commands us to spread the gospel to others. We are to tell others about the good news, so that they can be forgiven of their sins through Jesus Christ.

