

Study Guide





LifeLight

LifeLight Expands

Available NOW!

The Bible: An Overview
 Genesis, Pt. 1
 Genesis, Pt. 2
 Exodus, Pt. 1
 Exodus, Pt. 2
 Wilderness Wanderings
 Joshua
 Judges
 Ruth/Esther
 1 & 2 Samuel
 Life of David
 1 & 2 Kings
 1 & 2 Chronicles

Ezra/Nehemiah
 Job
 Selected Psalms
 Proverbs
 Ecclesiastes/
 Song of Solomon
 Isaiah, Pt. 1
 Isaiah, Pt. 2
 Jeremiah/Lamentations
 Ezekiel
 Daniel
 Hosea/Joel/Amos
 Obadiah/Jonah/Micah
 Minor Prophets

Nahum/Habakkuk/
 Zephaniah
 Haggai/Zechariah/
 Malachi
 Matthew, Pt. 1
 Matthew, Pt. 2
 Mark
 Luke, Pt. 1
 Luke, Pt. 2
 John, Pt. 1
 John, Pt. 2
 Acts, Pt. 1
 Acts, Pt. 2

Romans, Pt. 1
 Romans, Pt. 2
 1 Corinthians
 2 Corinthians
 Galatians/Philippians/
 Colossians
 Ephesians/
 1 & 2 Thessalonians
 Timothy/Titus/Philemon
 Hebrews
 James/Jude
 1 & 2 Peter
 1, 2, 3 John
 Revelation

LifeLight Foundations

Baptism
 Bible Feasts
 Creation, New Creation
 The Christian's Mission

End Times
 Heaven & Hell
 Law & Gospel
 Ministry

Miracles
 Parables
 Prayer
 Prophecy

Time between the
 Testaments
 Triune God
 Worship

Preparing to Study Matthew

*Distribute at least one week before the first session.
Use enrichment magazine pages 3-6.*

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study and at the week's assembly.

Call to Worship

Leader: Teach me, O LORD, to follow Your decrees;

Assembly: then I will keep them to the end.

Leader: Your word is a lamp to my feet

Assembly: and a light for my path.

Leader: May my cry come before You, O LORD;

Assembly: give me understanding according to Your word.

Hymn

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to nought all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise triumphantly.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Martin Luther; trans. Catherine Winkworth, alt.

Prayer

Lord, as we approach Your Word, send Your Spirit to enlighten us. As we look into Your book, let us see Jesus. Amen.

Getting Acquainted with Matthew's Gospel

Digging Deep My Personal Study for Week 1

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Day 1 • Matthew's Authorship

1. Find a clue to the authorship of this Gospel as you look up these passages that list the names of the disciples: Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:14-19; Luke 6:13-16.

a. What differences do you find in the lists?

b. How does the difference in the way Matthew is listed help us identify the author?

2. Only Matthew records the incident in Matthew 17:24-27. How does this support the belief that Matthew was the author of the Gospel?

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Day 2 • Matthew's Original Audience

3. Compare in a general way the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew (1:1–17) with that in Luke (3:23–38).

a. Who is the earliest ancestor of Jesus named in Matthew's genealogy? in Luke's genealogy?

b. What does this clue suggest about Matthew's original audience?

4. Compare Matthew 15:2 with Mark 7:2–5. Why do you think Matthew failed to include the explanation provided by Mark?

5. **Challenge question.** a. Scan the first four chapters of Matthew. How many quotations from the Old Testament can you find?

b. If the Bible you are using indicates Old Testament references at the bottom of the page or in the margins, flip through Matthew and notice the number of Old Testament passages cited. Do the same with any one of the other Gospels. Does Matthew cite the Old

Testament more or less frequently than the others, or about the same?

c. What does this tell you about Matthew's original audience?

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Day 3 • Matthew's Message

6. a. What words or similar words are repeated in Matthew 1:22; 2:15, 17, 23; and 3:3?

b. What does this indicate about Matthew's main message?

7. a. Compare Matthew 2:13–18 with Genesis 41:53–47:12. How are these parallel events?

b. How is Matthew 3:13–17 parallel to Exodus 13:17–14:31? See also 1 Corinthians 10:1–2.

Introducing Jesus the Messiah

Distribute at the end of session 1 for use in session 2.
Use enrichment magazine pages 7-15.

Matthew 1-2

Resources for Worship

Use these resources for your daily study and at the week's assembly.

Hymn

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.

O seed of Israel's chosen race,
Now ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

Edward Perronet, sts. 1-2, alt.; John Rippon, st. 3, alt.

Prayer

Praise and honor to You, heavenly Father, for offering the promises of Your love to all people in the world.

Praise and honor to You, dear Jesus, for being the Light of the whole world.

Praise and honor to You, Holy Spirit, for blessing the work of pastors, teachers, and missionaries and for bringing people everywhere into the Christian family.

Make us glad for the oneness we share with others in You. Enable us to shine like stars, pointing others to You. Amen.

All God's People Sing! p. 31 © CPH 1992.

Digging Deep My Personal Study for Week 2

Day 1 • Read Matthew 1:1-17

1. Look again at Matthew's genealogy (1:1-17) and Luke's genealogy (Luke 3:23-38).

a. What similarities do you find?

b. What differences? Consider individual names, the number of names in each list, the order of the lists, and so forth. Be as specific as possible.

c. What different purposes might each genealogy be serving?

2. a. In Matthew's genealogy, what names stand out for you as either familiar or unusual?

b. Can you name the person who

- was a prostitute (see Joshua 2:1-13)?

- committed adultery with his general's wife (see 2 Samuel 11:1-5)?

- renounced her pagan gods to serve the God of Israel (see Ruth 1:16)?

- built the great temple in Jerusalem (see 1 Kings 6)?

c. What does the inclusion of these names and others tell you about Matthew's purpose for writing?

3. a. What is the significance of Matthew identifying Jesus Christ as the Son of David? Read Matthew 1:1; 1 Chronicles 17:11-14.

b. Why does he refer to Jesus as the Son of Abraham (Matthew 1:1; Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:15-18)?

c. What do these two titles, Son of David and Son of Abraham, mean to you as a New Testament Christian (Romans 4:16-17; Galatians 3:26-29)?

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Day 2 • Read Matthew 1:18-25

4. Put yourself in Joseph's place. When he discovered that Mary was pregnant, what problems did he face? Read Deuteronomy 22:23-24.

5. a. How did Joseph decide what to do?

b. How does God reveal His will to us today (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 1:1-2; James 1:5)?

6. a. What is the importance of the virgin birth in Matthew's Gospel? Read the Old Testament prophecy in Isaiah 7:10-14.

b. Which words in Matthew 1:20-21 tell us that the promised baby would be true God?

c. Which words in the same passage tell us that this baby would also be true man?