



Read the entire New Testament in a year.

- *One Chapter each day,
Monday-Friday.*
- *Daily reading notes
& reflection questions.*
- *Excellent for
Small Group discussion.*

Guide #1

Weeks 1-4 Matthew Chapters 1-20



NEW HORIZON
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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WELCOME TO NT365

As you read this week...

- *What stands out as remarkable, intriguing, or challenging?*
- *What did you discover that you've never noticed before? What raises questions?*
- *In what ways do you feel God is speaking to your heart?*

WEEK #1: MATTHEW CHAPTER 1-5

Matthew—The First of the Four Gospels. One of the three synoptic Gospels (similar in their comprehensive view), methodically written by a Jewish tax collector (Roman civil service employee) whom Jesus selected to become one of the Twelve Disciples. This “bridge” from the Old Testament to the New Testament is filled with references to the Old Testament and was primarily written to Jews and to the early church, with a universal outlook and an emphasis on discipleship. John the Baptizer comes as a herald, preparing the way for the arrival of the king. The many prophesies about the Messiah come true in Jesus; He is Christ the King.

Chapter 1

1. In vs.16, instead of the typical, expected, “Joseph the father of Jesus”, we find “Mary, of whom was born Jesus”. Why do you suppose Matthew chooses to emphasize Mary instead of Joseph? (vs.18, 20, and 23)
2. Matthew gives the reason for Jesus’ birth in vs.21. In what ways might this apply to you personally?
3. In vs.23, Matthew defines “Immanuel.” When have you experienced God with you?

Chapter 2

1. We see the Magi’s plan in vs.2. What was their response to Jesus (vs.11)? What is your response to Jesus?
2. In chapters 1 and 2 (vs.12, 13, 19, 22) we find people who are obedient to the guidance they received from God through angels and dreams. How are you obedient to the guidance God gives you?
3. What does it mean to you that so many of the details in the life of Jesus are the fulfillment of prophecy (vs.5-6, 15, 17-18, 23)?

Chapter 3

1. What does “repent” mean to the people of chapter 3, and to us today (vs.3, 6, 8, 11)? God loves and is well pleased with Jesus (vs.16, 17)? Why?
2. Why do you think He says so at this time? Have you heard those words from a parent? How often do you speak these words to the young people, family, and friends in your life?

Chapter 4

1. Jesus responds to each temptation with, “It is written”, referring to Old Testament Scripture (vs.4, 7, 10). What is your greatest temptation right now? Can you stand up to temptation with the truths of God’s Word? What do you need to do to make that happen more consistently?
2. The first disciples followed Jesus immediately (vs.19-20, 21-22). In what ways has God called to you? How have you responded?

Chapter 5

1. The Beatitudes reflect God’s goodness towards His followers (vs.3-11). Which ones do you relate to most?
2. Why are Christ followers called to be salt and light in the world (vs.16)?
3. In light of vs.13-16, do your good deeds glorify you or Father in heaven?
4. How does vs.18 speak to you about the importance of God’s Word? How can you actively respond to that importance?

WEEK #2: MATTHEW CHAPTER 6-10

Chapter 6

1. The Sermon on the Mount (Ch. 5-7) continues with the Lord’s Prayer (vs.9-13). It is sometimes difficult to forgive others (vs.12, 14,15) What is the relationship between forgiveness and prayer?
2. Where is your treasure (vs.19-21)? Who is your Master (vs.24)?
3. In vs. 25 we are commanded not to worry. What are the ill effects of worry? Are you more often immobilized by worry or moved to action out of genuine concern?

Chapter 7

1. How do you typically judge others (vs.1-5,12)? Would you like for people to judge you in the way you judge them? How can you improve in this area?
2. In vs.7-11, Jesus teaches about the way God responds to our prayers. What are examples of when you “asked,” “sought” or “knocked?” How did God respond?
3. Where have you built your house(vs.24-27)? Think about any foolish areas of your life that might be built on sand. How can you be wise and “put the words of Jesus into practice” in those areas (vs.24)?

Chapter 8

1. Sometimes Jesus healed with a touch (vs.2-3,14-15). Where do you need His touch today?
2. In vs.10, Jesus commends the centurion for his faith. How confident are you of Who Jesus is? What is evidence of your confidence?
3. What storms in your life do you need Jesus to calm (vs.23-27)? Pray for the calm that only He can give.

Chapter 9

1. In vs.9-13, Jesus spends time with tax collectors and “sinners.” What are ways you can step outside your social circle and interact with those who are easily disregarded?
2. How did Jesus view opportunities and “interruptions” (vs.18-23)? How do you handle opportunities and interruptions?
3. In vs.12-13, Jesus identifies His target audience. In what ways are you part of this audience?

Chapter 10

1. Simon the Zealot was one of the guerilla fighters committed to freeing the Jews from Roman oppression; Mathew collaborated with the Romans and became wealthy at his Jewish people’s expense (vs.2-4). How did Jesus bring these men, and the other ten, to a common purpose as His disciples?

2. Around the world, more Christ followers are suffering persecution now than ever before. What warnings did Jesus give us (vs.14,17-19, 21-22, 24-25)? What comfort did He give us (vs.16,19-20, 22, 24-25, 26, 27,28, 29-31, 32-33)?
3. In vs.29-31, Jesus helps us understand the value God places on each person. How does this impact the way you think about yourself?
4. What are some of the "little things" you do in Jesus' Name (vs. 42)? What more could you do?

WEEK #3: MATTHEW CHAPTER 11-15

Chapter 11

1. Jesus answered John's doubts with evidence and a promise (vs.2-6). In "prison" periods of doubt, unforgiveness, grief, self-pity, and discouragement, what renews your faith and courage?
2. In vs.20-24, Jesus denounces three cities for their lack of repentance. Are you refusing to follow God in any area of your life?
3. Jesus' yoke brings rest (vs.28-30). Farmers always yoked an older, stronger, experienced animal with a young, weak, inexperienced animal; for a rabbi, his yoke was his teaching. How do you experience both of these definitions?

Chapter 12

1. In vs.3-8 Jesus quotes what God repeatedly told His people in the Old Testament. How do Christ followers offer sacrifice but neglect mercy?
2. In vs.30 we learn that it is impossible to be neutral about Jesus. In what ways might your lifestyle reflect differently than what you claim to believe about God?
3. The Bible has a lot to say about our speech (vs33-37). How can we be ready to give account for every careless word we have spoken?

Chapter 13

1. In the parable of the sower (vs.3-9, 18-23), where do find yourself? How are the worries and deceitfulness of wealth affecting your productivity (vs.22)?
2. What promise does Jesus give when a small seed is sown (vs.31-32)? When have you seen that happen?
3. In vs.53-58, Jesus is rejected in His own hometown, and is unable to do many miracles because of their unbelief. In what ways do we demonstrate unbelief in our daily lives?

Chapter 14

1. What does Jesus do with the small gifts we place in His hands (vs.13-21)? What are the results?
2. Why do you think Jesus wanted to pray alone (vs.22-23)? Where is prayer in your list of priorities?
3. How does fear affect us (vs.24-33)? To whom do you cry out, or reach out, for help when in trouble?

Chapter 15

1. In vs.7-9, Jesus is speaking of people who only pay lip-service to God. When do you speak about God in one way and act in another?

In vs.32, Jesus experiences "compassion" towards the crowds. When do you sense God's compassion towards you and others? When have you been tempted to think that God *isn't* compassionate?

WEEK #4 MATTHEW CHAPTER 16-20

Chapter 16

1. In vs.15, Jesus asks the most important question we will ever face, determining both our life on earth and our eternal life. How did Peter know Who Jesus is (vs.17)? How is God helping you understand?
2. Jesus re-names Simon, "Peter," meaning "rock" (v.18). Standing on faith in Christ assures a firm foundation for our lives. When have you experienced God to be your "Rock" in times of personal challenge?
3. Jesus predicts his death, the first of three times (vs.21-23), and then reacts strongly to Peter's response. What is an example of when God's way didn't make sense to you?

Chapter 17

1. Of the twelve disciples, Jesus often shares more personally with Peter, James and John (vs.1-3). How can you demonstrate your willingness to be one in whom God can confide?
2. Jesus once again tells His disciples that His mission will conclude with suffering (vs.12,22-23). Why do you suppose it was so difficult for them to comprehend? When have you had difficulty comprehending your own suffering?

Chapter 18

1. In vs.6, Jesus calls His followers to "become like little children" in their willingness to trust and believe Him. When have you believed without question? When have you objected?
2. Jesus teaches we are to forgive indefinitely (vs.21-22). When have you been called upon to forgive over and over again? Whom might you need to forgive again today?

Chapter 19

1. In vs.8, Jesus acknowledges divorce as a result of "hardness of heart." Who in your life has suffered divorce? How are you able to care for their broken heart? Do you sense God's love and compassion for their suffering?
2. Vs.21 is difficult. Jesus is calling us to put our greatest treasures behind us and follow Him. What are the things in your life that receive more attention than God?
3. Jesus teaches in vs.27-30 that faith, obedience, and service will be rewarded, in this life, or in the next. What do you feel God has asked you to sacrifice in order to follow Jesus?

Chapter 20

1. This parable (vs.1-16) teaches about salvation and God's generous grace. When have you been envious of God's blessing towards others (vs.15)?
2. Jesus didn't come to be served, but to serve, and calls us to live likewise (v.26-28). When have you humbled yourself to serve others? When have you refused to do so?