



Bible Study



**Matthew: Following Jesus in a
Modern World**





The Gospel of Matthew is a powerful call to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Written to both Jews and Gentiles, it bridges the Old and New Testaments, revealing Jesus as the fulfillment of God's promises. Through His teachings, miracles, and sacrificial love, Matthew shows us what it truly means to be a disciple.

In today's fast-paced, distracted world, following Jesus can feel challenging. The values of the kingdom of God often stand in stark contrast to modern culture. Yet, Matthew reminds us that Jesus' call is just as urgent and relevant now as it was 2,000 years ago. His words guide us through life's uncertainties, teaching us how to live with faith, love, and boldness.

Throughout this study, we'll explore key lessons from Matthew, examining how they shape our daily walk with Christ. We'll learn what it means to live out the Beatitudes, stand firm in faith, and embrace the mission Jesus gives us. By diving into Matthew's Gospel, we'll discover how to follow Jesus in a modern world that desperately needs His light.





Lesson 1: The Call to Follow Jesus

When Jesus called His first disciples, they immediately left everything to follow Him. There was no hesitation, no weighing of pros and cons—just pure faith and obedience. This radical response may seem extreme in today’s world, where commitments are carefully considered, and comfort is often prioritized over conviction. Yet, Jesus’ call remains the same: to follow Him without reservation. This means surrendering our plans, ambitions, and securities, trusting that His way is better than our own.

Following Jesus requires an all-in commitment. It’s not just about attending church, reading Scripture occasionally, or agreeing with His teachings; it’s about reorienting our entire lives around Him. We often find ourselves holding on to comfort, success, or relationships that compete with our devotion to Christ. But Jesus makes it clear—discipleship has a cost. It demands sacrifice, perseverance, and unwavering trust, even when the road is uncertain.

The world tells us to chase after security, success, and self-fulfillment, but Jesus invites us into something far greater: a life of purpose, love, and eternal significance. When we respond to His call, we step into a journey that may not always be easy but is always worth it.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 4:18-22 – Jesus calls the first disciples.
- Matthew 16:24-26 – The cost of discipleship.
- Luke 9:57-62 – Counting the cost of following Christ..

Reflection Questions

What does “following Jesus” look like in your daily life?

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What are some things that might be holding you back from fully following Him?

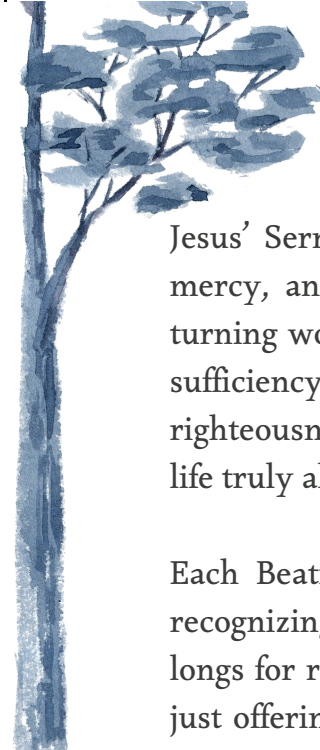
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Lesson 2: The Beatitudes – A New Way of Living

Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount presents a radical way of living—one that values humility, mercy, and righteousness. The Beatitudes redefine what it means to be truly blessed, turning worldly priorities upside down. In a culture that glorifies power, wealth, and self-sufficiency, Jesus calls His followers to embrace meekness, peacemaking, and a hunger for righteousness. These values may seem countercultural, yet they form the foundation of a life truly aligned with God’s kingdom.

Each Beatitude offers a glimpse into the heart of God. To be “poor in spirit” means recognizing our deep need for Him. To “mourn” is to have a heart that grieves over sin and longs for righteousness. To be “pure in heart” is to seek holiness above all else. Jesus isn’t just offering comforting words—He’s inviting us into a transformative way of life. It’s not about external appearances but about the posture of our hearts.

Living out the Beatitudes is a challenge, especially when the world pushes us toward selfish ambition and instant gratification. But as we align our lives with these truths, we begin to experience the fullness of God’s kingdom, both now and in eternity. When we embrace the Beatitudes, we reflect Christ’s love and righteousness, becoming lights in a dark world.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 5:1-12 – The Beatitudes.
- Psalm 1:1-3 – The way of the righteous.
- Galatians 5:22-23 – The fruit of the Spirit.

Reflection Questions

Which Beatitude speaks to you the most? Why?

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How can you embody the Beatitudes in your daily interactions?

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Lesson 3: Living by Faith, Not Fear

Fear and anxiety are natural human responses, yet Jesus calls us to a higher way of living—a life rooted in trust. When He tells us not to worry about tomorrow, He isn't dismissing our struggles but inviting us into deeper faith. Worry often stems from a lack of control, but Jesus reminds us that God, who provides for the birds and clothes the flowers, will certainly care for us. Faith is choosing to trust in God's provision, even when the future feels uncertain.

True faith is not passive; it requires intentional surrender. It means replacing fearful thoughts with God's promises, shifting our perspective from earthly concerns to eternal security. Anxiety can consume our thoughts, but when we fix our eyes on Jesus, we gain peace that surpasses all understanding. This kind of faith is not about ignoring reality but about believing in God's power over it.

Living by faith transforms the way we navigate life's challenges. When we trust God's plan, we can walk forward without fear, knowing He goes before us. Each step of faith strengthens our relationship with Him, reminding us that no matter what lies ahead, we are never alone.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 6:25-34 – Do not worry about tomorrow.
- Philippians 4:6-7 – Present your requests to God.
- Isaiah 41:10 – God is with you in every fear.

Reflection Questions

What are some fears that you struggle with?

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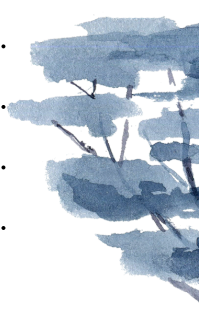
How can you shift from worry to trust in God's provision?

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Lesson 4: Loving as Jesus Loved

Jesus simplifies the essence of faith: love God and love others. Yet, living this out can be one of the greatest challenges we face. The world often equates love with fleeting emotions, but Jesus shows us that love is a deliberate act of selflessness, service, and sacrifice. His love was not conditional; it reached the broken, the outcasts, and even His enemies. As His followers, we are called to reflect this radical love in our everyday lives.

Loving others isn't always easy. People can hurt us, disappoint us, and test our patience. But when we love as Jesus did, we see people through His eyes—valuable, worthy, and deeply loved by God. This love requires humility, forgiveness, and a willingness to serve, even when it's inconvenient.

Choosing love transforms relationships, communities, and even our own hearts. When we prioritize love, we demonstrate Christ to the world in a tangible way. It is through love that we fulfill His greatest commandment and reflect His presence in a world longing for true connection.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 22:36-40 - The greatest commandments.
- John 13:34-35 - Love one another.
- 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 - The definition of love.

Reflection Questions

How do you show love in your daily life?

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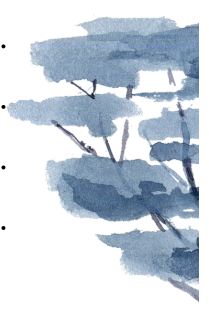
What barriers keep you from loving others as Jesus does?

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Lesson 5: The Power of Prayer

Prayer is more than just words; it is communion with God. Jesus teaches us to pray with sincerity and confidence, knowing that our Father hears and responds. The Lord's Prayer is not just a model but a blueprint for aligning our hearts with God's will. It shifts our focus from our needs to His kingdom, reminding us that prayer is not just about requests but about transformation.

Through prayer, we gain strength, wisdom, and peace. It deepens our relationship with God, allowing us to hear His voice and receive His guidance. A prayerful life is a life marked by dependence on God, not self-reliance.

When we commit to a life of prayer, we experience the power of God at work. Prayer can change circumstances, but more importantly, it changes us. Are you making space for intentional, heartfelt prayer in your life?

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 6:9-13 - The Lord's Prayer.
- Philippians 4:6 - Present everything to God in prayer.
- James 5:16 - The power of a righteous person's prayer.

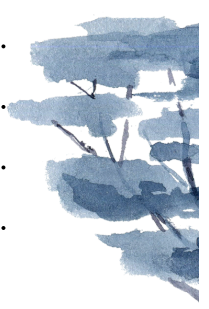
Reflection Questions

How does prayer impact your relationship with God?

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What steps can you take to deepen your prayer life?

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Lesson 6: The Great Commission – Living with Purpose

Jesus’ final command to His disciples was to go and make disciples, a call that extends to every believer. This Great Commission is not simply a task for missionaries or pastors—it is the heartbeat of the Christian faith. Sharing the gospel isn’t about eloquence or perfection; it is about a willingness to share what God has done in our lives. Evangelism is an overflow of a heart transformed by Jesus, and it takes many forms—through acts of love, speaking truth in kindness, and living a life that reflects His grace. The Great Commission is not about our abilities but about our obedience to God’s leading.

Discipleship is a continuous journey. It is not just about bringing people to Christ but walking alongside them, helping them grow in faith, and equipping them to do the same for others. This process mirrors Jesus’ ministry—He didn’t just preach; He invested deeply in His disciples, teaching and demonstrating what it meant to follow God fully. Today, we are called to that same relational discipleship, mentoring others and creating a ripple effect of faith that extends far beyond our individual reach.

Living with purpose means embracing this call in whatever sphere God has placed us. Whether it is in our workplace, community, or family, we have the opportunity to reflect Jesus to those around us. Sharing the gospel does not always mean dramatic actions; sometimes, it is the quiet consistency of faith, the willingness to serve, and the courage to speak truth when prompted by the Holy Spirit. The Great Commission is a lifelong mission—one that transforms not only others but also deepens our own walk with Christ.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 28:18-20 – Go and make disciples.
- Acts 1:8 – Be witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 – God gives us boldness, not fear.

Reflection Questions

What does the Great Commission mean for your life?

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How can you actively share the gospel in your everyday life?

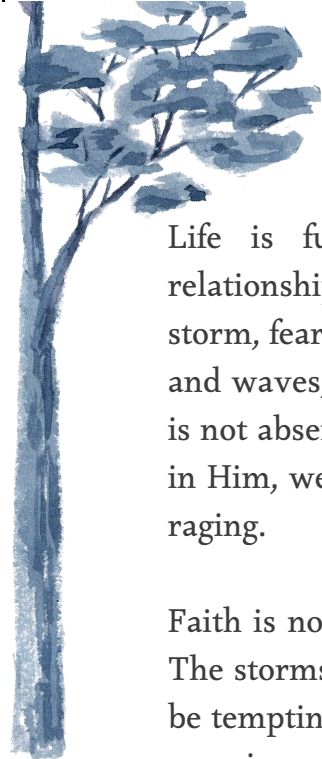
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Lesson 7: Trusting Jesus Through Life's Storms

Life is full of unexpected storms—health struggles, financial difficulties, broken relationships, and times of uncertainty. When the disciples found themselves caught in a storm, fear took hold, and they panicked. But Jesus, calm and in control, rebuked the wind and waves, demonstrating His power over creation. This moment is a reminder that Jesus is not absent in our struggles—He is present, guiding us through the chaos. When we trust in Him, we experience a peace that surpasses understanding, even when the storm is still raging.

Faith is not the absence of fear, but the choice to trust in God despite our circumstances. The storms of life test our faith, refining and strengthening our dependence on God. It can be tempting to focus on the waves around us, but Jesus calls us to fix our eyes on Him. His promises are steadfast, and His presence is unwavering. Even when we don't see immediate relief, we can trust that He is working all things for our good. Trials shape us, teaching us endurance and drawing us closer to His heart.

Trusting Jesus in life's storms means surrendering control and resting in His sovereignty. It doesn't mean ignoring our hardships but recognizing that we are not alone in them. As we navigate the difficulties of life, we can lean on His Word, seek His wisdom in prayer, and rely on the support of the Christian community. When we anchor ourselves in Him, the storms lose their power to shake our faith, and we emerge with a testimony of His faithfulness.

Scripture Readings

- Matthew 8:23-27 - Jesus calms the storm.
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 - His grace is sufficient.
- Romans 8:28 - God works all things for good.

Reflection Questions

How has God helped you through past storms in your life?

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What steps can you take to trust Him more fully?

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The Gospel of Matthew is not just a historical account—it is a guide for modern discipleship. Jesus’ words are alive and active, calling us to live counterculturally, to trust in God’s plan, and to spread His love boldly. Throughout this study, we have explored what it means to follow Jesus, but knowledge alone is not enough. True discipleship requires action—it is a lifestyle of obedience, service, and unwavering faith. The question now is: how do we take what we have learned and apply it to our daily lives?

Living out our faith begins with intentional choices. It means waking up each day with a mindset of surrender, asking God, ‘How can I serve You today?’ It’s in the small acts of kindness, the quiet moments of prayer, and the courage to stand firm in truth when the world pressures us otherwise. Faith is not just about church on Sundays—it is reflected in how we treat our coworkers, our families, and even strangers. It is choosing to love when it is difficult, to forgive when it is undeserved, and to trust when the path ahead is unclear.

The call to action is clear: be the light of Christ in a world that desperately needs Him. Step out in faith, whether that means sharing the gospel with a friend, mentoring a new believer, or finding ways to serve in your community. Jesus didn’t ask His followers to stay in their comfort zones—He sent them out to make disciples. This same mission continues today, and we are part of it. If we truly believe in His promises, we must walk in them. Are you ready to step forward boldly and live the life of faith God has called you to?

