

Matthew

Chapter 1



As you prepare for this week's study, begin by praying and asking God to open your heart and mind to understand the truths He has for you this week. Then read this week's chapter, Matthew 1. As you read through the entire chapter, what are your first impressions? What stands out to you?

Mission 119: Search Matthew and listen to the commentary for Matthew 1-2.

Day 1 - Meet My Ancestors

More than 400 years had passed since the last Old Testament prophecies, and faithful Jews all over the world were still waiting for the Messiah. Matthew wrote this book to Jews to present Jesus as King and Messiah, the promised descendant of David who would reign forever. The Gospel of Matthew links the Old Testament and contains many references that show how Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy.

Matthew 1:1-17

In the first 17 verses we meet 46 people whose lifetimes span 2000 years. All were ancestors of Jesus. Some were heroes of the faith, some had shady reputations, many were very ordinary, and others were evil. God used all kinds of people to bring His Son into the world.

- 1) Find a reference source, such as a dictionary or Bible commentary, and define the term "Gospel" in the Bible.

2) Why do you think Matthew started with the genealogy of Christ?

3) How did the other Gospel writers begin their accounts of Jesus' life? Note their similarities and differences.

a) Mark 1:1-10 _____

b) Luke 1:26-2:21 _____

c) John 1:1-5 _____

4) What names do you recognize in the Matthew genealogy?

5) What unusual aspects do you notice in this genealogy? Why didn't this genealogy fit the common practice of the day?

6) Investigate the stories of the women in the genealogy. What stands out in each of their stories? What choices did they make? What choices were made for them? What blessings were received?

a) Tamar (Genesis 38:1-30) _____

b) Rahab (Joshua 2 and 6:22-25) _____

c) Ruth (Ruth 4:13-22) _____

d) Bathsheba (2 Samuel 12:7-24) _____

7) What was Matthew's purpose in framing the genealogy this way?

8) What theme(s) or repeated words do you see? What was their significance?

9) How did Matthew categorize the historical timeline?

10) What is the difference between the genealogy found here and the one found in Luke 3:23-38?

Day 2 - Happy Birthday!

Matthew 1:18-24

1) What was the status of Mary and Joseph's relationship? (v.18)

2) What did Mary discover? (v.18)

3) What was Joseph's original plan? (v.19)

4) What did the angel say that changed his mind? (v.20)

5) What was Joseph's heart attitude? (v.19) What does Proverbs 22:4 say about this virtue?

6) Why was the baby called Jesus? (v.21)

7) What was the meaning of Immanuel? (v.23)

8) What information do we get in verse 25? Why was this important?

9) **Where do you see God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit in the birth narrative?

10) What new information in the story of Jesus' birth is found in Luke 1:26-38?

11) **Is there anything in this chapter new to you?

Day 3 - Connecting the Dots...

- 1) Read Isaiah 7:14. What do we learn from this prophecy and why did it matter?

- 2) Read Isaiah 9:6-7. What names would be given to Jesus?

- 3) Read Genesis 12:3b. How was Mary a part of this prophecy?

- 4) Read Mary's Song (or "Magnificat") in Luke 1:46-55. Commentators state there are at least 35 references to Old Testament passages in her song. What was Mary's heart posture? What was she saying in her song?

- 5) How did her song end?

- 6) Compare Mary's song to Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2:1-10.

Day 4 - Walking the Way of Jesus

- 1) Read Romans 11:17-24. Check a reference and define "grafted in." What does it mean to you?

2) Read Ephesians 1:5. Check a reference and define "adoption." What does it mean to you?

3) **What did the inclusion of these four women in Christ's genealogy tell you about Jesus?

4) How do you see God's purpose and sovereignty within their completed stories?

5) **How do you see them in your story?

6) **Have you ever been instructed by the Lord through a dream? What was it? What did you do?

7) How would you have responded to the angel's message? (v.21-25)

8) **In what ways would you like to emulate Mary?

9) **What key point did you learn this week about walking the way of Jesus?

Day 5 - What Do You Think?

“But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Matthew 6:33, NIV)

Today, read chapter 1 with a seeking posture, and be attentive to where God is forming your heart, reordering your priorities, and inviting you into His kingdom life. As you do, take time to reflect on how God’s living Word is at work in your life.

Use the questions below to notice where you sense His invitation, conviction, or encouragement. You do not need to answer every question each week. Instead, choose two or three that stand out and spend time with them. Pay attention to where God is leading you toward deeper trust, understanding, and transformation.

- 1) **What part of God’s redemptive story became larger, stranger, or more beautiful after studying this chapter?

- 2) **What insights gained from this chapter challenged you to think or act differently?

- 3) Where do you see yourself in this story? Are you the hero, someone in the crowd, or someone in need of the grace being revealed?

- 4) What part of God’s kingdom seemed upside down in this passage compared to the kingdom of this world?

5) Did any mystery remain unresolved after reading this chapter? Rather than solving it, how might living with that mystery deepen your trust in God?

6) What invitation did Jesus extend here to experience transformation in your life?

7) If we lived out the truths we've read about in this chapter in our families, workplaces, churches, and neighborhood, what might become more beautiful about our community? What might become uncomfortable?
