

Matthew Part 2
Leader Guide

(NASB and ESV)

THE CHRIST, THE SON OF
THE LIVING GOD
(MATTHEW 14–28)

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

© 2008, 2009, 2013, 2020 Precept

Published by Precept Ministries of Reach Out, Inc.
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37422

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise—without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Unless otherwise noted Scripture quotations are from the New American Standard Bible®

© The Lockman Foundation, 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995.

Used by permission. www.lockman.org

Scripture quotations marked ESV are taken from ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)

© 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

4th Edition (5/2020)

USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

PRINTED PAGE NO.	L E S S O N S	PDF PAGE NO.
1	LESSON ONE: Matthew 14–15	5
7	LESSON TWO: Matthew 16–17	11
13	LESSON THREE: Matthew 18–19	17
21	LESSON FOUR: Matthew 20–21	25
29	LESSON FIVE: Matthew 22–23	33
35	LESSON SIX: Matthew 24–25	39
43	LESSON SEVEN: Matthew 26	47
49	LESSON EIGHT: Matthew 27–28	53

To locate a particular lesson in the pdf, click on  in the grey bar on the left side of the window. Bookmarks will appear for each of the lessons. Select the lesson you need.

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 14–15

MATTHEW 1–13

To begin this discussion you might ask for a review of Matthew 1–13, if most in your group studied that course. Otherwise, use the page in the lesson which tells that information, and discuss briefly. Tell your group to look at their At A Glance charts also.

What is the repeated phrase in Matthew 7:28; 11:1; and 13:53?

Jesus finished saying or teaching something

What are the segments in Matthew 1–13?

Matthew 1–4	Established Jesus as the King, and the message in 3 and 4 was: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
Matthew 5–7	Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount About the righteousness needed to enter the kingdom.
Matthew 8–9 Matthew 10	Jesus healed many and demonstrated His authority He instructed the 12 before He sent them out. He gave them some of His authority.
Matthew 11–12 Matthew 13	Jesus gave warnings to people about judgment to come. Parables about not hearing/understanding His Word, resulting in judgment.

What does Matthew 13:53–58 say? Tell your group to look at the map.

Jesus went to Nazareth after He taught the parables by the Sea of Galilee.

Nazareth took offense at Him; so He didn’t do many miracles there because of their unbelief.

But they did wonder where He got His miraculous powers / mighty works.

MATTHEW 14

Verses 1–12

What / who are these verses about?

Look at Herod's Family Tree and the map as visual aids for this part of your discussion.

Herod Antipas and Archelaus his brother were both sons of Herod the Great. Herod Antipas, of Matthew 14, heard about Jesus' miraculous powers and thought He was John the Baptist risen from the dead.

This Herod had John beheaded. John's message of repentance had been directed at Herod Antipas because he had Herodias, his brother Philip's wife.

NOTE: Herodias divorced Philip to marry Antipas.

Herod Antipas might have been a man of lust and fear, based on what verses 1–9 say about him.

You might ask your group how making regrettable public statements can cause them problems.

Verses 13–21

What are these verses about? What was Jesus' reaction when He heard about John's death?

He withdrew to a secluded / desolate place by Himself.

He didn't stay withdrawn because of sadness.

He continued His ministry of healing because of His compassion toward the many who followed Him. He even fed them when it was late and they were hungry.

True compassion for others is demonstrated in our Lord Jesus Christ.

How do the cross-references about Jesus feeding 5,000 add to Matthew's account?

Luke says it took place in Bethsaida.

John 6:5–15

Jesus asked Philip where they could buy bread to test him.

The people's response to the miracle was, "This is truly / indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world." They had seen the sign and realized who He is.

Jesus then withdrew to the mountain alone, because He perceived they were going to make Him king by force.

You can ask your group what Jesus is capable of, even now. Give time to discuss application.

Verses 22–33

What happened in these verses?

Jesus sent the disciples out on a boat in the sea at dark.

Verses 24–25 tell what the conditions on the sea were like. The boat was a long distance from shore, and it was probably between 3:00 and 6:00 am—still dark.

He came to them—again demonstrating who He is and His authority

What did Peter do, and what did Jesus say about him?

Peter's faith got him out of the boat to walk on water until he looked at his circumstances, then he started to sink.

Jesus said Peter had little faith, and because of doubt Peter began to sink. When he cried out to Jesus, He saved him from sinking.

Then the disciples knew He was certainly God's Son.

You can ask your group if they think they have enough faith to get out of the boat, and do they want to walk to Jesus? Why? How?

Verses 34–36

You might direct your group to look at their maps and find Nazareth, then the Sea of Galilee, then Gennesaret.

What happened in these verses?

He continued healing those who came near to Him. Compassion.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a possible theme for Matthew 14.

Herod behead John; Jesus fed 5,000 and walked on water

MATTHEW 15

Verses 1–20

What happened in these verses? Continue to use the map as a visual aid.

Pharisees and scribes came from Jerusalem, not a short trip, to question Him about keeping traditions.

They held their traditions above God's Word.

Ask your group to discuss how this might happen now.

You can ask if anyone in your group learned some things they want to share about the Pharisees and traditions.

How does Matthew 13:36-43 relate to Matthew 15:13-14?

Jesus' parable about the tares was a warning about the devil putting unrighteous among the righteous who are truly part of the kingdom. The unrighteous Pharisees fit that description.

What was the root of their problem, according to Jesus in Matthew 15:15-20?
What did He say about it?

Their hearts were far from God.
Their worship was in vain as they upheld their traditions.

One's heart is the root of worship and defilement.

The mouth speaks from what is in the heart.

Jesus wanted His disciples to understand that defilement comes from within a person, not from without.

Verses 21–28

Where did Jesus go? What did He do? Continue using the map as your visual aid.

He went to Tyre and Sidon, Gentile territories.

The Canaanite woman, a Gentile, didn't argue with Jesus' statement that He was sent to the lost sheep of Israel. But she did believe that He would heal her daughter.
Jesus said her faith was great.

What does Hebrews 11:6 say about faith?

To please God one must have faith, believing that He is / exists and He rewards those who seek Him—as the Gentile woman did.

How does that compare with Matthew 6:30 and 8:26?

Jesus' disciples had a little faith. It was growing.

You can ask your group about their faith and give them time to evaluate it.

How do the cross-references in Romans and Acts relate to this incident in Matthew 15?

Romans 1:16

This gives the pattern of Jew first, then also Greek or Gentile.

Jesus said in Matthew that He was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel, but His compassion was extended to the Gentiles, too.

Acts 1:7-8 and 2:36-39

At the end of His time on earth with His apostles, Jesus told them that when the Spirit came, they would be His witnesses. The places in verse 8 begin with mainly Jewish territory and then moving to the rest of the earth—primarily Gentile territory.

A few days after Acts 1, Acts 2 records what happened in Jerusalem when Peter preached to Jews there. The promise is for them and their children, but also to those far off—Gentiles.

Verses 29–39

What happened in these verses? Also, ask about the cross-reference in Mark 7.

Verse 21 says Jesus was in the region of Tyre and Sidon, but He departed from there going by the Sea of Galilee and went up on a mountain.

Again, large crowds who needed healing came to Him. They marveled / wondered and glorified God when they saw the healings. They glorified the God of Israel although they were probably Gentiles.

Mark 7:31–8:10

Jesus went within the region of Decapolis. That was Gentile territory.

He demonstrated His compassion for the Gentiles by healing and feeding the 4,000+. They had stayed with Him for three days.

Does this seem like the same feeding as in Matthew 14? Why or why not?

Two different feedings:

5000+, 5 loaves and 2 fish, 12 baskets left over, Jews

4000+, 7 loaves and a few fish, 7 baskets left over, Gentiles.

What is a possible theme for this chapter? Look at the At a Glance chart.

Pharisees and traditions; healed Canaanite woman's daughter; fed 4,000

You might end your discussion by asking what kind of people Jesus had compassion for? Who do they have compassion for? Why?

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 2

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 16–17

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember from Matthew 14–15. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart if they need help.

Matthew 14

Herod had John the Baptist beheaded
Jesus fed the 5,000 Jews
He walked on water, and Peter did

“You are certainly God’s Son! / Truly you are the Son of God!” Matthew 14:33.
The disciples said this after seeing Him walk on the water.

Matthew 15

Jesus confronted the Pharisees and scribes who held traditions above God’s Word.
He healed the Canaanite woman’s daughter.
And He fed the 4,000 Gentiles

Tell your group to look at the map also as a visual aid for this discussion.

MATTHEW 16

Verses 1–12

How does this chapter begin? Who and what are these verses about?

The Pharisees and Sadducees tested Jesus by asking Him for a sign from heaven.

Jesus described them as an evil and adulterous generation.
He told them the only sign they would get is the sign of Jonah.

Then in verses 5-12, He warned the disciples about the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees. At first they thought He spoke of food, and He reminded them of feeding the 5,000 and 4,000.

Then they understood that Jesus warned them about the Pharisees and Sadducees’ teaching.

Ask what the cross-references say about the Pharisees and scribes.

Mark 7:3, 5-8

Jesus quoted what Isaiah said about them—they were hypocrites. They neglected / left God's commandment and held to traditions. They worshiped in vain.

Luke 18:9–14

Jesus told a parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector. The Pharisee exalted himself above others.

Matthew 23:1–7

Scribes and Pharisees seated themselves in the chair of Moses (ESV—Moses' seat)—a special seat in the synagogue. They did things to be noticed / seen by men, and they laid heavy burdens on people.

Luke 11:53–12:2

They became very hostile in questioning Jesus (ESV—pressed Jesus hard) so they could catch Him and use it against Him. He said to His disciples that their teaching was hypocrisy, but it would be revealed.

How do the cross-references in Matthew 12 relate to what Jesus said in Matthew 16?

Matthew 12:38–41

Jesus referred to the scribes and Pharisees before as an evil and adulterous generation who craved / sought a sign. Then He said that Jonah was in the belly of the sea monster 3 days and 3 nights like the Son of Man would be in the heart of the earth. His death and resurrection was the sign.

Matthew 12:41-42

Jesus is greater than Jonah the prophet and greater than Solomon the king.

How is Jesus' warning about the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees to His disciples a warning for believers now?

Verses 13–20

What happened in these verses?

Jesus questioned His disciples about who others and they said He was.

Peter answered with the statement which was revealed to him by God in heaven.

Jesus is the Christ—first time stated by a person in Matthew, the Son of the living God. The Christ means the anointed, i.e. the Messiah.

Jesus blessed, commended Peter for his statement, told him about building His church and gave him the keys of the kingdom.

Ask your group who they say Jesus is. Give time for application discussion.

Ask them about verses 18–19 and the cross-reference in Ephesians 2.

In verse 18 Jesus said He would build His church on this rock—Peter’s statement in verse 16 that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God.

NOTE: Jesus named Simon Barjona “Peter” at some time before this. Peter means “stone”; it’s from the same Greek word as “rock.” Therefore, some might read in commentaries that Peter himself is the rock Jesus builds on.

Ephesians 2:19-22

Jesus is the cornerstone, and the apostles and prophets are the foundation of God’s building—the church.

“Hades” is the place of the dead—even death itself will not overpower / prevail against His church.

In verse 19 Jesus gave Peter the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Keys unlock.

NOTE: Peter is the one who presented the gospel to the Jews in Jerusalem in Acts 2, and thousands of them were saved. Peter was also the one who presented the gospel to the Gentiles first in Acts 10, and all of those present were saved. Perhaps that is what Jesus meant by the keys, unlocking, of the kingdom.

The binding and loosing on earth is already done in heaven by God Himself. His will is carried out on earth.

After saying these things to Peter and the disciples, Jesus told them not to tell anyone that He is the Christ—the time was not yet. Later that message was proclaimed by them to all.

Verses 21–28

How do these verses begin? What’s significant about this?

“From that time” The last time that phrase was used in Matthew is 4:17, the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry.

Here it’s used to mark the time when He began to tell the disciples that He would go to Jerusalem, suffer, be killed, and raised on the third day.

Relate this to the beginning of this chapter.

The sign of Jonah—Jesus’ resurrection

What happened next? With whom?

Peter again spoke up, but this time it was contrary to God’s will. He had his mind set on man’s interests (ESV—the things of man) this time. Satan’s interests.

How did Jesus explain? Discuss application.

Anyone who wants to follow Him—be His disciple—must deny himself and take up his cross, signifying death.

Those who focus on this world have their reward in full and forfeit their souls.

Jesus' disciples give their earthly lives up in exchange for saving their souls.

Ask about the cross-reference in Matthew 10.

Matthew 10:34-39

The one who does not take up his cross—die to self—is not worthy of Jesus.

The relationship with Jesus Christ is life and has priority over all other relationships.

Lead the discussion back to Matthew 16. What did Jesus say in verses 27-28?

Then Jesus explained what will happen after His own death and resurrection. He will come again, in glory, to repay every man according to his deeds (ESV—each person according to what he has done).

Verse 28 is connected to the promise of His return in verse 27. He'll come in His kingdom, and some of those disciples saw it.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter.

Beware of Pharisees' and Sadducees' teaching; You are the Christ, Son of living God

MATTHEW 17

Verses 1–13

What is the event?

Jesus was transfigured while Peter, James, and John saw it.

Moses—who wrote the Law—and Elijah a prophet were also there.

But God Himself spoke from heaven telling the disciples to listen to His beloved Son. He equated Jesus' words with that of His own in the Law and Prophets.

NOTE: Many think verses 1-8 fulfill Jesus' statement in Matthew 16:28.

What happened when they left the mountain?

He told Peter, James, and John not to tell the vision to anyone until after He'd risen from the dead.

The disciples asked why the scribes said that Elijah must come first.

Jesus agreed with what the scribes said and added that Elijah will restore all things.

How do the cross-references in Malachi relate to this?

Malachi 3:1–3 and 4:5.

The messenger will come to clear / prepare the way of the Lord’s coming.
Elijah will come before the day of the Lord—the time of His judgment.

Then Jesus told them that Elijah had come, referring to John the Baptist.

Relate this to what He told the crowds in Matthew 11:14.

John was not recognized for who he was and was killed.

The same, Jesus said, will happen to the Son of Man.

Verses 14–21

What are these verses about? Who was involved?

Jesus cast out a demon from a boy whose father asked for mercy on him.

This is another example of Jesus’ compassion on the generation that He described as evil, adulterous, unbelieving / faithless, and perverted / twisted. He put up with that generation while He was on earth, and showed compassion to many of them.

When His disciples asked why they couldn’t cast out the demon, He said to them what He had said before—little faith.

Then He said that with faith even the size of a mustard seed (ESV—like a grain of mustard seed) nothing is impossible.

You might ask your group to examine their faith: do they have little, or is it growing?

NOTE: Some in your group might notice that the NASB footnote in their Bible for verse 21 says that the verse is not in the early manuscripts of Matthew. The ESV does not include this verse in the text, but footnotes it. Such verses in ESV Observation Worksheets are bracketed and italicized.

Verses 22–23

What did Jesus restate in these verses?

He repeated that He was to be given to men: elders, chief priests, and scribes in Jerusalem, and they would kill Him.

But He also repeated that He would rise on the third day.

They were grieved / greatly distressed. They understood.

Verses 24–27

What was the situation? What happened?

Peter and Jesus again

Jesus questioned Peter to consider a spiritual truth from paying taxes.
Sons are exempt; only strangers pay.

So as not to offend, Jesus sent Peter to get the coin from the fish and pay taxes for both of them.

Encourage your group to focus on who they say / believe Jesus is.

How is that lived out in everyday life?

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 18 –19

REVIEW

You can begin this discussion by asking your group what they remember about Matthew. What is it about and who? What are some main points? Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts if they need help remembering.

Matthew is about the King and His kingdom.

Jesus described the righteousness necessary to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus taught, healed, showed compassion, and did miracles.

He taught crowds and His disciples.

If not already discussed with the above questions, ask what Matthew 14–17 is about.

Matthew 14 fed 5000, walked on water

Matthew 15 warned about Pharisees and scribes' traditions;
healed Gentile and fed 4000

Matthew 16 warned about Pharisees and Sadducees' teaching; build My church

Matthew 17 transfiguration; told disciples of death and resurrection; paid taxes

MATTHEW 18

Verses 1-14

What is the question the disciples asked Jesus, and what did He say?

Who then is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

To enter the kingdom, one must

Be converted / turned

Become like children

He set a child in their midst.

Simple, helpless, dependent on others

The one who humbles himself as a child is the greatest in the kingdom.

What is the contrast in verses 5-7?

Receive a child in Jesus' name—receive Jesus

Receiving one such child in Jesus' name might picture one who is humble.

That's contrasted with causing a little one who believes in Him to stumble / sin.
Better for that one to drown than face what's before him.

Woe to the one through whom the stumbling block comes (ESV—by whom the temptation comes).

Ask your group how this applies to everyday life. Their life? Give time to discuss what Jesus' teaching has to do with them and what they think about children and greatness in the kingdom.

What did Jesus say is a prevention for stumbling? Discuss application.

Better to enter life than eternal fire. Stumbling blocks / temptations prevent entering the kingdom of life eternal. Do whatever is necessary to get rid of them.

How do the cross-references about personal sin relate to this?

Romans 6:12-13

Don't let sin rule actions. Believers are to present their bodies and actions as instruments of righteousness to God.

Romans 8:12-13

By the Spirit believers put the deeds of the body to death.

Colossians 3:5

Consider—think about—the body as dead to sin (ESV—Put to death what is earthly in you). Believers' bodies are dead to the sins of the flesh.
It's a choice to sin.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 18.

Who does Jesus go back to in verses 10-14, and what is the illustration?

One of these little ones

They have angels who see the Father's face continually / always.
It's not His will for any of them to perish.

A man searches for his one lost sheep out of 100 and rejoices when it's found.

The Father in heaven is not going to lose even one of His sheep, little ones.

NOTE: Many think that the references to children in these verses refer to believers.

Early manuscripts don't have verse 11 in them. Some in your group might mention this. But it doesn't interrupt the context here. The NASB Observation Worksheet brackets this verse for that reason. The ESV does not include this verse in the text, but footnotes it. Such verses in ESV Observation Worksheets are bracketed and italicized.

Verses 15–35

How does the subject change in these verses?

This is about a brother who sins.

What are the steps to take when a brother sins?

Go and show him his fault in private . . . hopefully he'll listen.

If not, then take one or two more with you for witnesses of the facts.

Hopefully, then he'll listen.

If he does at this point, then only three other people know of his sin.

If not, then tell it to the church.

If he doesn't listen to the church, then treat him as a Gentile or tax collector.

The Jews had no dealings with them.

Ask your group what they learned from the lesson about the word "church."

It indicates a gathering.

Although the church didn't exist yet, the Jews were acquainted with gatherings of Jewish brothers.

How does Deuteronomy 19 relate to this situation?

Deuteronomy 19:15

Part of God's Law for Israel says that a matter is only confirmed (ESV—a charge is only established) when there are at least two witnesses.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 18. How do verses 18–20 fit into this context?

God's will in heaven worked out on earth.

He's in their midst / among them when brothers correct sin among themselves.

How does this apply to the church now? Give time for your group to discuss application.

What is the question Peter asked and how does it relate to this context?

How often does one forgive a brother who sins against him?

Forgive brothers from the heart.

The illustration tells of the great debt people owed God because of sin. He had compassion and forgave the debt people could never pay—it was beyond comprehension.

Therefore, believers should also have compassion toward one another and forgive. This is the main point of the parable—forgiveness as God has forgiven us.

You might ask if anyone in your group has to forgive the same person often. How does he or she do it? And why?

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter.

Don't cause little ones to stumble and forgive brothers

MATTHEW 19

How does this chapter begin?

When Jesus had finished these words / sayings

At this point, ask for a review of the other places where these words are repeated in Matthew.

7:28 This was after Jesus taught the Sermon on the Mount
Chapters 1–7 establish Jesus as the King and tell about His kingdom—repentance and righteousness.

11:1 He instructed His 12 disciples and sent them out.
Chapters 8–10 tell of Jesus' healings and authority.

13:53 He finished the parables in this chapter
Chapters 11–13 warn of judgment for those who are not part of the kingdom.

What are chapters 14–18 about?

Who Jesus is—Son of God, Christ

His disciples saw more miracles by Jesus.

Jesus began to tell them that He was going to Jerusalem to suffer, die and be raised again.

Then in chapter 18 He taught about entering the kingdom and the greatest in the kingdom, humility, correction, and forgiveness toward brothers.

Verses 1–12

According to verses 1 and 2, where did Jesus go and what happened there?
Tell your group to look at the map.

He left Galilee for the region of Judea . . . toward Jerusalem
Large crowds followed and He healed them.

What are verses 3-12 about? Who is involved? What's the application?

The Pharisees asked Jesus a question to test Him.

This question is very relevant to many societies now.

As Jesus answered, He referred to Genesis and Deuteronomy—what God said in the Law.

God's design for marriage from the beginning was that the husband and wife become one and not separate.

Moses permitted, in the Law, divorce because of hardness of heart; but it was not God's heart.

Jesus answered that anyone who divorces, except for immorality, and remarries commits adultery.

Ask your group what they learned about marriage from 1 Corinthians 6 and 7.

The believer's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit—flee immorality and glorify God.

Because of immoralities (ESV—temptation to sexual immorality), each is to have his/ her own spouse and should fulfill their duty to one another (ESV—give their conjugal rights to one another).

But Paul says that it's good for the unmarried and widows to remain as they are (ESV—remain single); however, if they don't have self-control (cannot exercise self-control), they should marry.

Paul's opinion / judgment—he had no command of the Lord—was that it's good for virgins to remain as they are in view of the present distress, but it's not a sin to marry.

One who is unmarried can be concerned / anxious about things of the Lord and how to please Him—undistracted / undivided devotion to the Lord, whereas the married person's interests are divided.

NOTE: 1 Corinthians 7:26-28 is directed to believers. Released from a wife means by death or divorce. If a person released from a wife becomes a believer in Jesus Christ, he should remain as he is—unmarried. But if he marries, he hasn't sinned. That does not contradict what Jesus said in Matthew 19:9 to the religious hypocrites.

Lead the discussion back to Matthew 19. What did the disciples understand in verses 10–12?

If marriage and divorce are that serious, then it's better not to marry

But only those to whom it's been given can accept that—eunuch for the Lord, not marry.

Ask how Jesus' and Paul's teachings about marriage relate to your group. Give them time to discuss personal application.

Verses 13–15

What should the disciples have known already from Jesus' teaching in chapter 18?

Don't despise the little ones; don't rebuke or hinder them coming to Jesus.

The kingdom belongs to such as these.

Verses 16–30

Who and what are these verses about? Also discuss cross-references.

Jesus was asked another question; this time by a rich man who wanted to know what he had to do to obtain eternal life.

Jesus answered that keeping the commandments is necessary to enter life.

Leviticus 18:1–5

A man may live by keeping God's statutes and judgments.

Deuteronomy 28:1–2; 30:19–20; 32:45–47

If they diligently / faithfully obeyed, the Lord would set Israel high above other nations, blessings would overtake them. They were to choose life through obedience.

He told the rich man to sell possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him.

His wealth was a stumbling block which he was not willing to put away.
He went away grieved.

How do the cross-references in Matthew compare with what Jesus told the rich man?

Matthew 6:19–21, 24, 33; 10:38–39; 16:24–26

Jesus had already taught about wealth and life.

Store / lay up treasures in heaven.

One cannot serve God and wealth / money.

Seek first His kingdom and righteousness.

Lose earthly life to follow Him. Deny self.

Lead the discussion back to Matthew 19. Who asked the next question and what was it?

The disciples were astonished and asked who can be saved.

Salvation is equated with eternal life in these verses, as is the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God.

Salvation is impossible for people; only God can do it.

Peter asked Jesus another interesting question in verse 27. What is it? The answer?

He confessed that he and the other disciples had done what He told the rich man to do. They had left all and followed Jesus, so what would there be for them?

In the regeneration of Israel (ESV—new world) when the Son of Man returns and sits on His throne, the twelve will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Anyone who leaves earthly relationships and things for the kingdom will receive many times more. They'll inherit eternal life.

Ask your group if they are sure they have eternal life.

Ask what they noted as a possible theme for Matthew 19 on their At a Glance chart.

Divorce and eternal life

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 20–21

REVIEW

NOTE: Tell your group to get in front of them their At a Glance chart and the map from the Appendix. Also tell them to look at the text they marked—either their Bible or Observation Worksheet.

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember that Matthew is about. Give them a few minutes to discuss what they remember. If they need help, tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

What question did the rich man ask Jesus in Matthew 19:16, and how did He answer?

The rich man wanted to know what he must do to obtain / have eternal life.
Jesus' answer was to keep the commandments, sell his possessions, give to the poor, and follow Him.

What did the disciples ask in 19:25, and what did Jesus say?

Then who can be saved?
Jesus' answer was that salvation is only possible with God.
People can't do anything to save themselves.

What's the last question of chapter 19? And what did Jesus answer?

Peter asked what there was for the disciples who had left all to follow Jesus.

He answered:

- Sit on 12 thrones judging 12 tribes of Israel in the regeneration / new world
- Receive many times (ESV—a hundredfold) as much as left
- Inherit eternal life
- But many first will be last, and last, first.

MATTHEW 20

Verses 1–16

How does this flow of thought continue into Matthew 20?

This is connected with Matthew 19:30 as the statement in 20:16 is almost the same.

The parable of the generous landowner demonstrates that all who enter the kingdom receive eternal life.

Ask your group what they think about the last / first and first / last regarding the kingdom. Give time for discussion.

Verses 17–19

What are these verses about?

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus told the disciples again—

- The Son of Man will be delivered to the chief priests and scribes—rulers of Israel
- They will condemn Him to death
- They'll hand / deliver Him over to Gentiles
- The Gentiles will mock, scourge / flog, and crucify Him
- On the third day, He'll be raised

What does Luke 18:31–34 add to this?

What was written in the prophets had to be accomplished.
The disciples didn't understand.

Verses 20–28

How does the flow of thought continue into these verses?

James and John's mother asked Jesus to let her sons sit at His right and left in the kingdom. She didn't understand what it would take from her sons for that to happen. They would have to "follow" Him in all ways—even sacrificially.

He described the cup He had to drink in verses 18–19.

What's the connection with James and John's mother's request?

Only the Father determines who sits where in the kingdom.

Jesus' illustration was that the rulers and great men / ones of the Gentiles lord it over them.

But whoever wishes to be great in the kingdom of God must be the servant of all.

How do the cross–references relate to who will be the greatest in the kingdom?

Mark 9:33-35

The one who wishes to be first shall be last and servant.

John 13:3-4, 12-17

Jesus gave the disciples an example of serving by washing their feet. No disciple is greater than the Master—servant of all.

Jesus was going to Jerusalem to demonstrate that. He came to give His life as a ransom.

Philippians 2:2-3, 19-30

Paul spoke of considering others as more important than oneself. He gave Timothy as an example of one genuinely concerned for the welfare of others in contrast to those who seek their own interests, rather than those of Christ. Epaphroditus who came close to death / nearly died for the work of Christ is another example.

Isaiah 53:11

Jesus is God’s Servant who will justify (ESV—account as righteous) and bear the iniquities of many.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 20.

Verses 29–34

How do these verses fit into the immediate context?

Two blind men called on Jesus, the Son of David, for mercy.

Although He knew that He was headed for suffering and death, He took time to show mercy to them as He opened their eyes.

His compassion / pity for others didn’t change because of where He was headed. This was another illustration of His servanthood.

Jesus was a servant in an evil, adulterous, unbelieving, perverted generation—for whom He came to die.

Ask your group what they learned about serving others, and if they’re doing it.

Ask what they noted as a possible theme on their At a Glance chart for Matthew 20?

Last first and first last; Jesus going to Jerusalem to give life as a ransom for many

MATTHEW 21

Where do the events of this chapter take place? Tell your group to look at the map.

Bethphage and Bethany are very close to Jerusalem.

NOTE: This is the first time Matthew recorded Jesus being in Jerusalem and the temple there, other than 4:5. The other Gospels tell that He had been there before, but Matthew didn't write about it.

What's the first event in verses 1–11?

Jesus sent two disciples to get a donkey and colt for Him to ride on into Jerusalem. This was fulfillment of OT prophecy about Israel's coming King, Zechariah 9:9.

Ask what your group learned from the definition of Hosanna and the cross-reference in Luke 19.

The people were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David."
Hosanna means "save, we pray"¹

Luke 19:28-44

The crowds also blessed Him as the King.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem because they, as a whole, didn't recognize the time of their visitation—by their Messiah King.

Therefore, He predicted the soon-coming fall of Jerusalem to the Romans in A.D. 70.

Ask what they learned from Revelation 19:11-16 about the next time Jesus comes to earth as King.

He judges and wages / makes war on the unrighteous.
He's the King of kings and Lord of lords leading the armies of heaven.
He strikes down the nations to rule them and treads the winepress of God's wrath.

It's a stark contrast with His first coming.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 21.

Verses 12–17

Where did Jesus go and what did He do?

The temple, God's house, was a holy house of prayer called by God's name, Isaiah 56:6–7.

¹¹ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998). G5614.

The religious of the day had turned it into a money-making place, “a robber’s den.” Jesus drove those out of it who were involved.

Then He healed the blind and lame in the temple.

The children were blessing Him, but the chief priests and scribes were indignant.

How does the cross-reference in Jeremiah relate to this?

Jeremiah 7:1–11

It was a similar setting to Jesus’ time. The Jews were going to the temple and even trusting in the temple and the supposed worship that they did there. But they were far from the Lord.

The house for prayer had become a den of robbers.

You might ask your group why they go to church? Any attitude or thinking they need to change?

Now go back to Matthew 21.

Verses 18–22

What happened? What was the lesson for the disciples?

As Jesus and the disciples were returning to Jerusalem the next morning, He was hungry and saw a fig tree with nothing but leaves on it. Then He spoke to it that it would no longer produce fruit, and it withered immediately.

The disciples were amazed / marveled and asked Him how that happened.

He then told them about having faith in prayer.

Ask what your group learned about prayer from the cross-references.

Matthew 6:9-10

Ask for His will to be done.

Matthew 17:14-21

Faith is connected with asking in prayer.
Nothing is impossible—if it’s God’s will.

James 5:17-18

Elijah prayed earnestly / fervently, and he was a man just like believers now.
His prayer was answered.

1 Kings 17:1; 18:1, 36-37

Elijah told King Ahab that it wouldn't rain because God had told him.
After the 3 ½ years, God sent him again to Ahab and rain came.
It was all to let Israel know that He is God.

How does what these passages say about faith and prayer relate to believers now?

Elijah heard from God—His word.
He prayed according to what God said—His will.
God did what He said He would do.
Elijah just had to believe what God said and act and ask accordingly.

The same is true for all believers.

Verses 23–46

Who asked Jesus a question to begin this discourse?

He went to the temple again where the chief priests and elders asked where His authority came from.

So he asked them a question about their belief regarding John's baptism of repentance which they didn't answer. It was about repentance and belief, neither of which they had.

How did Jesus illustrate His answer to their question?

Two parables

The first parable told of how the prostitutes and tax collectors who repented and believed would get into the kingdom of God before the self-righteous who didn't.

The second confronted them with their rejection of God's prophets and Son whom He sent to tell His people about the fruit of righteousness.

Then He challenged them regarding their knowledge of the Scriptures about the chief corner stone which the builders rejected. They stumbled over the stone, and Jesus told the consequences of it.

The kingdom of God was taken from the rulers of Israel and given to the people producing the fruit of it—fruit in keeping with repentance.

Because of this confrontation the chief priests and Pharisees wanted to seize (ESV—sought to arrest) Jesus but didn't because of fearing the people.

This began the progression of Him being given into the hands of men, the religious leaders of His own people.

The King was headed toward giving His life as a ransom for many. He was the Servant King, and His followers are to be compassionate and a servant as He is.

Ask what your group noted as a possible theme on their At a Glance for this chapter.

Hosanna to the King; fig tree and faith in prayer; Jesus' authority questioned

End the discussion by asking if there is any other personal application that hasn't been discussed.

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 22–23
- Jesus silenced the Pharisees' and Sadducees' questions

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart.
What and who is Matthew about?

The kingdom of heaven and the King, Jesus

You might ask what your group remembers as some of the main events in Matthew 14–21.

Jesus miraculously fed thousands of people.
He warned about the Pharisees and scribes' traditions and teaching.
Peter, James and John saw Him transfigured.
He healed many and taught about children, forgiveness, eternal life, and greatness.

He told His disciples that death and resurrection were coming.
They went to Jerusalem, and Jesus cleansed the temple.
His authority was questioned.

Pharisees tested Jesus and wanted to seize / arrest Him but didn't because of fearing the people.

He spoke in parables about the kingdom of heaven.
Parables about God sending His prophets and Son to call Israel, and its leaders,
but they were unwilling, unworthy.

They killed the prophets and were conspiring to kill His Son.

MATTHEW 22

Verses 1–14

What is this parable about?

A wedding feast for a king's son and the invited guests
Those invited didn't come so others were invited and came
Good and evil were invited and came to fill the wedding hall

The king saw one man not in wedding clothes / garment and said to throw / cast him out.

Verse 14 states the main point of it. Many were invited to the wedding feast, but in comparison only a few came. The ones who were invited were the called of Israel, but the ones who came were the chosen.

NOTE: Jesus predicted the soon coming destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 by the Romans, verse 7. It was because they were unwilling to come to Him.

Verses 15–22

What was the response to the parable?

Pharisees and Herodians then plotted how to trap / entangle Jesus into saying something for which they would have grounds for accusation.

But they knew that He was truthful, taught God’s way, and deferred to no man (ESV—do not care about anyone’s opinion), not partial (ESV—not swayed by appearances).

They asked Him if it was lawful to pay tax to Caesar.

As Jesus answered, He again referred to them as hypocrites and their testing of Him. His answer, though, amazed even them.

Give to Caesar what is his and to God what is His.

Ask your group how this applies to them.

Verses 23–33

Who questioned Jesus next? What happened?

The Sadducees asked Him a question about the resurrection.

He pointed out to them that they didn’t understand / know the Scriptures or the power of God.

The Sadducees didn’t believe in resurrection which shows God’s power. Jesus said that God is the God of the living, not the dead.

Again, people were astonished at His answer.

This silenced the Sadducees.

Ask your group what they’ve learned about answering questions from people who only want to trap them in their answers. What have they learned from Jesus about how to answer?

Verses 34–46

What are these verses about?

Some Pharisees again gathered to question Jesus.
They were all trying to have grounds to accuse Him and get rid of Him.

A lawyer asked what the greatest commandment is.

Jesus answered and gave a second great commandment.
Love God and others, fulfilling all commandments.
The whole Law and Prophets depend on these two.

How do the cross-references relate to this?

Deuteronomy 6:4–9, 17–25

God commanded Israel to love Him with all their heart, soul, and might.
His words were to be on their hearts so that they taught their children to obey as they did.

Teach the commands, words, of God diligently
Bind them
Write them
Diligently keep them

1 John 4:7–12, 19–21

Jesus said to love one another. Obedience to that is showing love for Him.

The demonstration of such love is that God sent His Son to be the propitiation,
satisfaction, for sins so that believers can have eternal life.

Ask your group if they truly love God and how they know they do.

Direct your discussion back to Matthew 22:41–46.

What happened when Jesus asked the Pharisees a question?

No one was able to answer and from then on asked Him no more questions.

Whose son is the Christ? The son of David
Then how did David call him “Lord”?

He silenced both the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

Ask your group what they noted as a possible theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Parable of wedding feast; Pharisees and Sadducees’ questions—then no more

MATTHEW 23

Verses 1–12

What was Jesus' warning to the crowds and disciples?

The chair of Moses / Moses' seat was the seat of honor and teaching in the synagogue.
Jesus said not to follow the Pharisee's deeds / works.
They love honor from men.

In verses 8–10 He gave three negative commands.

Don't be called Rabbi
 only one teacher, others are brothers
Don't call anyone your father
 only one Father in heaven
Don't be called leaders / instructors
 one leader / instructor—Christ

What teaching did Jesus repeat in verses 11–12?

Greatest = servant, humble

Contrast this with the scribes and Pharisees.

Ask your group about any application from these verses.

Verses 13–33

What are the repeated words in these verses?

Woe
Scribes and Pharisees
Hypocrites

How does the lesson define a hypocrite? How does Isaiah describe one?

An actor; in the Bible, one whose acts appear righteous, but is evil and unloving inside

Isaiah 29:13

Jesus quoted this about the hypocritical scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 15.
Their hearts were far from God, although they honored Him with their lips.
Obedience is the demonstration of loving God.

What did the hypocrites do? What showed them to be hypocrites?

With the scribes and Pharisee's religious hypocrisy, they were keeping people from entering the kingdom. They shut it off with their traditions and teachings.

They took advantage of the helpless--devoured widows' houses,
But they'll receive greater condemnation for their pretense.

NOTE: Some in your group might notice that the NASB footnote in their Bible for verse 14 says that the verse is not in the early manuscripts of Matthew.

They made their proselytes sons / children of hell twice as much as they were.

They were blind guides, fools
Swear by gold of temple which was more valued by them than the holy temple
offering on altar which was more valued than altar which sanctifies it

They had no understanding of the holiness and magnificence of God.

They tithed, but neglected
justice
mercy
faithfulness

They looked clean outside . . . inside, robbery / greed and self-indulgence
Repentance and true righteousness make both clean.

Only outwardly appear righteous . . . inwardly—hypocrisy and lawlessness

They religiously build prophets' tombs but are like their fathers who murdered the prophets.

Brood of vipers who will not escape the sentence of hell

Verses 34–39

What did Jesus say clearly in these verses which He'd already said in parables?

He's sending Israel—particularly the scribes and Pharisees—prophets and wise men and scribes. Some they'll kill and crucify, and others they'll scourge and persecute.

NOTE: That's what happened in Acts.

They claimed the value of the temple's gold and the altar's offering but committed murder between the temple and the altar.

Although He mentioned the blood of all the prophets killed, His point was that those present were as guilty as their forefathers who had murdered all the prophets.

He wanted to gather Jerusalem to Himself, but they were unwilling. Therefore, her house was being left desolate.

NOTE: The Romans would come on that generation and destroy Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70.

According to Matthew 21:23 and 24:1, where does it seem that Jesus was when He said all these things?

In the temple—God’s holy dwelling on earth
which was soon to be destroyed
because of hypocrisy and unwillingness to repent and come to Him

To end this discussion, ask your group about any application they want to discuss.

Then ask them about a possible theme for Matthew 23.

Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 24–25
- Jesus' coming

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group about the segments of Matthew. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and the map.

NOTE: Watch your time; there is a lot to discuss in this lesson.

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 His authority / He instructed and sent out 12 to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–23 Jesus went to Judea, to Jerusalem / Woe to hypocrites

Who was Jesus' primary audience for His works and words?

Jews of Galilee and Judea

What did He know was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem?

The leaders would hand Him over to the Gentiles and He would be killed. But He told His disciples that He would rise again from the dead.

What did He say at the end of Matthew 23 about Jerusalem?

Because they killed the prophets and those sent to them, He predicted the fall of Jerusalem in A.D. 70—all these things will come upon this generation.

They won't see Him again until they say blessed is He who comes in the Lord's name—until they recognize who He is at His second coming.

MATTHEW 24

What are Matthew 24–25 about?

Jesus' second coming

Who was this teaching directed to and why?

Jesus had told His disciples that He was going to die and rise again.

In these chapters, He told them that He will come again and what His kingdom will be like then.

He prepared then for His death by teaching about His return.

What were His repeated warnings in this teaching for His disciples? For Jerusalem?

Don't be misled / led astray by false Christs and prophets.

Be alert / stay awake and ready for His coming.

Be faithful until He comes.

What place and people does this prophecy primarily speak to and about?

Jews in Jerusalem, Judea

The nations are mentioned briefly in Matthew 24 and in the judgment at the end of Matthew 25.

According to Matthew 26:1–5 who did Jesus speak to and when?

He spoke to His disciples two days before Passover—the Passover when He would be put on the cross. It was two days before His death.

As your group discusses Matthew 24–25, you might use a simple timeline for a visual aid. See the last page of this guide.

Verses 1–14

What did Jesus say about the temple in verse 2?

It would be torn / thrown down— A.D. 70, by the Romans.

What did the disciples ask Him in verse 3?

The disciples asked Jesus three questions.

When will these things happen / be?

What will be the sign of Your coming?
the end of the age?

What did Jesus teach His disciples in verses 4-14 as He answered their question about the end of the age?

He repeated a warning to them about being misled / lead astray regarding those claiming to be Christ—Him.

Many will come claiming to be the Christ and mislead many, Jews.

There will be wars, famines, and earthquakes—the beginning of birth pangs.
But He told them not to be frightened / alarmed.

Those who follow Him will face tribulation, hatred by all nations.

False prophets will lead many astray; others will fall away, betray, and hate one another.

Lawlessness will increase and love will grow cold.

What's the warning to His followers, disciples? Discuss the Hebrews cross-references, too.

The one who endures to the end will be saved—endures tribulation, hatred, betrayal.
The disciples watched as Jesus endured all these things.

Hebrews 3:6, 12–14

Those who hold fast to the end prove that they're of Christ's house, partakers of Him.
Those who fall away have evil and unbelieving hearts.

Ask your group how endurance relates to their lives. Give them time to discuss application.

What did Jesus say in Matthew 24:14? How does the cross-reference in Revelation 14 relate?

The gospel will be preached / proclaimed to all nations, and then the end will come.

Revelation 14:6–7

Right before the hour of judgment, an eternal gospel will be preached / proclaimed to all.

Verses 15–35

When and what did Jesus tell about as He answered the question about the sign of His coming?

He warned those in Judea to flee when they see the abomination of desolation in the holy place. There is a sense of urgency to quickly leave the area when this happens.

How do the cross-references help explain the abomination of desolation?

Daniel 9:27 and 12:9-11

After making a covenant for a week, one who makes desolate will stop sacrifice and offerings in the middle of the week (ESV—for half of the week).

A complete destruction is decreed and poured out on that one.

This is prophecy about the end time and the abomination of desolation.
Abolishing the sacrifice and the abomination of desolation happen at the same time, and from that time there will be 1,290 days.

Many will have insight (ESV—have wisdom) into this and understand it.

At this point you can ask your group who the prophecies in Matthew and Daniel are about.

The Jews

Daniel—a Jewish prophet

The holy place—in the temple where the Jews worship
Judea

Sabbath—Jews would be concerned about traveling on the Sabbath

Sacrifice and offerings—Jewish

This fits with the context of Matthew, which was written primarily for a Jewish audience.

How does 2 Thessalonians fit with this? Who is this written to?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-4

Paul wrote to the church about things that will happen before the day of the Lord.
The warning is not to let anyone deceive you, a similar warning to those in Matthew.

The man of lawlessness will be revealed by sitting in the temple and exalting himself as God. This is probably the abomination of desolation Matthew and Daniel refer to.

According to Matthew 24:21, what will follow the abomination of desolation in the holy place? Also, ask about the cross-references in Joel, Daniel and Jeremiah.

Then those in Judea are to flee because the tribulation will be so great that nothing like it has ever happened and never will.

Joel 2:1-2 and

Blow a trumpet in Zion—warn Israel that the day of the Lord is near.
A time of darkness for Israel such as not happened before.

Daniel 12:1

Sons of your people (ESV—your people)—Daniel’s people are Jews
A time of distress / trouble that hasn’t happened since Israel has been a nation
Those written in the book will be rescued / delivered—the elect of Matthew, believing Jews.

Jeremiah 30:5-7

The time of Jacob's—Israel's—distress
No time like it
Israel saved from it

Lead the discussion back to Matthew 24. What happens during the great tribulation?

False Christs and prophets will do signs and wonders during that time to mislead many—even try to mislead / lead astray the elect—Jewish believers during that time.

His coming will be so obvious that it's like lightning flashing or vultures over a dead corpse.

What will happen after the great tribulation?

The sun and moon will darken; the stars will fall and the powers of heavens shake.

Then all will see the sign of His coming in the sky with clouds and great glory.
He'll gather His elect from wherever they might be. No more tribulation for them.

What do the cross-references in Isaiah and Ezekiel say about God gathering His people?

Isaiah 27:12-13

In that day—the time of the end—God will gather Israel to worship Him in Jerusalem.

Ezekiel 11:14-17

Although God scattered Israel to the nations, He'll gather and bring them to Israel.

According to Matthew 24:30, what will others do when they see His coming?

They'll mourn when they see Him—the unbelievers who'll face judgment with the hypocrites.

Ask how the parable of the fig tree relates.

Just as you know that summer is near when you see a fig tree putting forth its leaves, recognize Jesus is near, at the door, when you see all these things.

The generation that sees these things happen—the events just prior to His coming—will not pass away until they all take place.

Verses 36–51

What are these verses about?

Jesus' coming is certain, but no one knows when except the Father.

His coming will be at an unexpected time—for the world—as was the flood.

As the wicked were taken / swept away in the flood, the wicked of this day will also be taken away when He comes. They'll be going about life as usual and they won't understand until they are taken for judgment.

Two men in a field
Two women grinding at the mill

One taken for judgment and one left

Ask how this might relate to Matthew 13:36–43, 47–50.

The tares, the wicked, are taken out from among the righteous.

What are Jesus' last two illustrations, and what do they illustrate?

Be alert / stay awake; be ready
The head / master of the household would have been on the alert if he'd known when the thief was coming.

Be faithful until He comes
The faithful and sensible slave / wise servant is ready at all times. He does what the master charged him to do. He'll be blessed when the master comes and puts him in charge of all his possessions.

But when the master comes unexpectedly, the evil slave / wicked servant will be cut in pieces and assigned a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth—judgment.

Ask your group if they are alert / staying awake, ready, faithful, enduring? Give time to discuss application.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what is a possible theme for Matthew 24.

The Son of Man coming; don't be misled, be ready

MATTHEW 25

What do the parables in verses 1–30 illustrate and teach about the time of His coming?

Then the kingdom will be compared to / like. . . .

The virgins who were ready, alert for the bridegroom's coming, were the ones who entered the kingdom—not those who weren't ready for it.

The parable about the talents illustrates “faithfulness” . . . until He comes.
Faithfulness is not passive; it's active.

Verses 31–46

What are these verses about?

Tell your group to look at the lists they made in the lesson about the sheep and the goats.

When He comes, He'll judge all the nations
the righteous—sheep
unrighteous—goats
of the nations at that time

What's the order, the sequence of events?

Jesus will come
He'll sit on His throne
All nations will be gathered before Him
He'll separate the righteous and unrighteous of the nations.

What will He say about the righteous and the unrighteous of the nations as He judges them?

The righteous will take care of the King's brothers,
the faithful in Israel at the time of His coming.

The unrighteous will not.

What will happen to the righteous and unrighteous of the nations at that time?

Righteous, blessed, inherit the kingdom and go into eternal life.
Unrighteous, accursed ones, depart from Him into eternal fire, eternal punishment.

How do the cross-references in Matthew 7, Isaiah and Matthew 3 relate?

Matthew 7:21-23

The one who does the Father's will enters the kingdom of heaven.
Jesus will tell others to depart from Him.

Isaiah 66:22-24 and Matthew 3:12

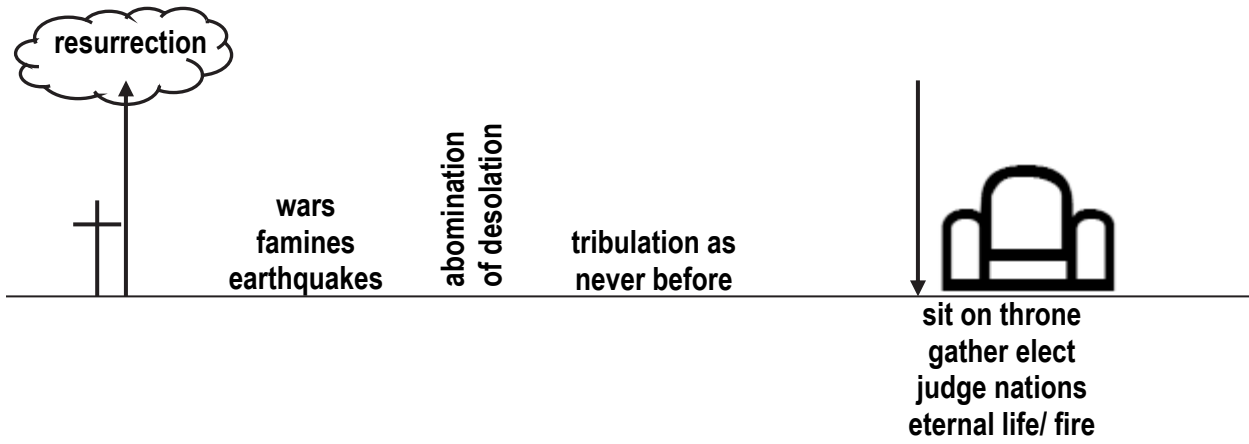
Some of Israel will endure / remain—Israel's name will endure.
Those of all mankind / all flesh who transgress / rebel against God will be in
unquenchable fire.
As He clears the chaff and gathers His wheat.

To end this discussion, you can ask what the main points are that Jesus wanted His disciples to know. How do they relate to daily life for believers now? For Israel?

Ask your group if they are ready, faithful, alert.

Tell them to look again at their At a Glance chart and ask about a theme for Matthew 25.

Parables—be ready and faithful; sheep and goats



Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 26
- Passover and covenant
- Jesus' betrayal and arrest fulfilled Scripture

REVIEW

You might begin this discussion by asking your group to review the main segments. Tell them to look at their At a Glance chart.

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 His authority / He instructed and sent out 12 to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–25 Left Galilee to Judea/ to Jerusalem

What were chapters 24 and 25 about?

Jesus' second coming

Why did He tell the disciples the things about His coming?

To prepare them for His death and to warn them about being misled/ led astray

MATTHEW 26

Verses 1–2

What does the statement in verse 1 indicate?

The end of a segment in Matthew

What did Jesus say to the twelve disciples in verse 2?

Again, He told them that He would be handed over / delivered up.

This time He added...in 2 days
for crucifixion.

Verses 3–5

Who are these verses about and what happened?

Caiaphas, the high priest, along with the other chief priests and the elders, gathered at his house / palace to plot Jesus' seizure / arrest and death.

They wanted it to be a private thing so the people weren't upset by it.
The time they planned was to be after Passover festival / feast for fear of the people rioting.

What is "Passover"? What significance did it have for Jesus' time?
Tell your group to look at the chart from the lesson about the Feasts.

God instituted the Passover as one of the holy feasts for Israel.
It was the time when He led His people out of bondage from Egypt.
He delivered them from death at that time.

If a lamb's blood was put on the doorposts and lintel, then death passed over that house.

1 Corinthians 5:7–8

Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed—He's the Lamb of God whose blood was shed for all. This Lamb's blood was shed at Passover in Jerusalem. Christians are to celebrate this redemption in sincerity and truth.

Verses 6–13

What are these verses about?

Jesus and His disciples were in Bethany, very close to Jerusalem.

A woman poured costly perfume / ointment on Jesus' head. It bothered the disciples, but He said that she prepared Him for burial.

Verses 14–16

Who did what in these verses?

After the event at Bethany, Judas went to the chief priests and asked what they would pay him to betray Jesus. Thirty silver pieces were enough for him to do it.

He, one of the 12 disciples, became part of the plot to kill Jesus. And he looked for opportunity to betray Him.

Verses 17–25

When/ where did the events of these verses take place? What happened?

Tell your group to look at the map in the lesson as a visual aid for the rest of this discussion.

On the first day of the festival week, sometimes called Passover and sometimes Unleavened Bread, Jesus’ disciples prepared the Passover meal for them to eat. Jesus told the twelve as they ate that one of them would betray Him. He prepared them for the soon coming events of that night.

Ask your group what they learned from marking “betray” in these verses.

Judas did it for money.
He dipped his hand in the bowl at dinner with Jesus.
It would have been better for Judas if he’d not been born.
Judas asked Jesus if it was him. He knew the answer.

Verses 26-29

What did Jesus say about covenant? Discuss relevant cross–references.

Tell your group to look at their lists about Old and New Covenants in the lesson.

He related His body—coming death—to broken bread.
Jesus broke bread for His disciples and said that it was His body...eat it.

He said the cup was His blood of the covenant.
Then He told them to drink from the cup...His blood of the covenant poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.

He was the Passover sacrifice which saves from sin’s penalty of death.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Israel broke the old covenant God made with them when they came out of Egypt.

The new one was not like the old.
His law within, written on hearts.
He’ll be their God and they His people.
They’ll all know Him.

Iniquity forgiven.
Sin remembered no more.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Paul wrote that all believers are to remember what Jesus did on the cross as they take the bread and the cup—remember His death for the new covenant of forgiveness. Proclaim it until He comes.

Give time for your group to discuss any application here.

What did Jesus refer to in verse 29?

The day when He will be with them in the Father's kingdom.
His life on earth was about to end, and He kept telling them.
But He will return. The kingdom was not about to end.

Where else in Matthew had Jesus spoken to His disciples about His death? What did He say?

Matthew 16:21

Suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and scribes.
Killed and raised the third day

Matthew 17:22–23

Delivered into the hands of men
Kill Him, raised the third day

Matthew 20:17–19

Delivered to chief priests and scribes, they'll condemn Him to death
Handed over to Gentiles who'll mock, scourge / flog and crucify Him
Raised the third day

Verses 30–35

What happened in these verses?

They left dinner and went to the Mount of Olives.

Jesus told the eleven what they would do that night—scatter, fall away that night. Again it was Scripture fulfilled.

They all said they would die with Him, but they did as He said and scattered.

He predicted Peter's three denials that night.

Jesus prepared the disciples for all that was to happen.

Verses 36–56

Where did these events take place and who was involved?

Jesus and disciples were in the garden of Gethsemane.
He told them to watch and pray while He went a short distance to pray.
After they slept instead of prayed, He told them about the weakness of the flesh.

Watch and pray...the spirit is willing
Keep watching and praying—continual action—so not enter temptation, Matthew 6:13.

What's the application for believers now?

Trials and tribulation face all Christians. Jesus called His followers to endure in those times. Being alert and prayerful are keys to endurance and not giving in to the flesh's weakness. He's the example in all of this.

He prayed about:

Going to the cross—doing the Father's will.

He knew what was ahead of Him.

He submitted to His Father's will.

He didn't give in to the weakness of His flesh. Believers can do the same.

He was truly willing to die for those He loved and had compassion for—
His disciples, along with other sinners.

What did He say to His disciple who used the sword?

Put the sword away.

Scripture has to be fulfilled...it had to happen that way.

What did He say to the crowd?

Though they'd heard Him teach in the temple, they hadn't seized / arrested Him. They came to arrest Him with swords and clubs. But it had to happen that way to fulfill Scripture.

Ask about the cross—references from Matthew here.

12:14—The Pharisees conspired against Jesus.

21:46—The chief priests and Pharisees hadn't seized / arrested Jesus in the temple, because they feared the people who considered Him to be a prophet.

22:15—The Pharisees plotted to trap / entangle Jesus in what He said.

What happened?

Ungodly men plotted and came with swords and clubs to seize Jesus. He could have called legions of angels to do whatever He needed. Yet He willingly submitted to the arrest—because it was His Father's will, written in His Word. The Lord was always in control—not the crowds nor Judas nor the chief priests and elders.

Then all the disciples left Him alone.

How does Acts 4:24–28 relate to this?

It was all as God the Father planned.

You might ask your group who is in charge...of everything. How does that fact relate to their lives?

Verses 57–68

Where did the events of these verses take place? What happened? Discuss cross-references.

Jesus was taken from Gethsemane to Caiaphas.
Peter followed at a distance.

Two men witnessed that Jesus said He would destroy the temple.

John 2:13-22

Jesus was asked for a sign showing His authority for driving out of the temple those who were doing business.

His answer was about destroying the temple, and He would raise it in three days.
He spoke of the temple of His body.

The high priest asked if He was the Christ, Son of God.
Jesus answered and told of His coming as the Son of Man.

Daniel 7:9-14 and Psalm 110:1

Daniel prophesied the Son of Man coming with the clouds, and the Ancient of Days giving Him an everlasting kingdom.

He will sit at the right hand of Power.

They understood what He meant and claimed that He blasphemed.
That was worthy of death.

Ask your group if they are looking forward to Jesus' return and why or why not.

Verses 69-75

How does this chapter end? Who are these verses about?

In the courtyard Peter did as Jesus had said, he denied Him three times before the rooster crowed in the early morning. Peter realized how weak his flesh was.

How does this apply to believers now?

Tell your group to look at their At A Glance chart and ask what they noted as a theme for this chapter.

Jesus was betrayed, arrested, and denied

Matthew Part 2 Leader Guide Lesson 8

Lesson emphasis

- Matthew 27–28
- Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection

REVIEW

To briefly review Matthew, you might ask what it's about.

Jesus—the King, Messiah, Son of God / Man; compassionate Savior

His kingdom—for those who repent, the righteous

Then you might ask about the main segments of Matthew.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart as a visual aid.

- 1–7 Jesus is King and Messiah / Repent, kingdom is at hand
- 8–10 He instructed twelve to preach kingdom
- 11–13 He called cities to hear and repent / Warning parables about kingdom
- 14–18 Miracles / Christ, Son of living God / Transfigured / Forgive
- 19–23 Jesus went to Judea, to Jerusalem / Woe to hypocrites
- 24–25 The Coming of the Son of Man
- 26–28 Arrest, Trial, Crucifixion, Resurrection

Then ask about the last segment of Matthew 26–28. When was it? Where did this take place? Use the map of Jerusalem from Lesson 7 as a visual aid for this discussion.

At the beginning of Matthew 26, Jesus was in Jerusalem with His twelve disciples.

The segment began two days before Passover.

Judas betrayed Jesus and led men to seize Him in Gethsemane.

The other disciples fled, but Peter followed at a distance.

Peter then denied three times that he knew Jesus.

Caiaphas the high priest asked Jesus if He was the Christ, the Son of God.

All was to fulfill Scripture.

MATTHEW 27

Verses 1–2

When did the events of this chapter begin?

The morning after Jesus was betrayed and arrested in Gethsemane, He was then taken before the high priest.

Next He was sent to Pilate, the Roman governor.

NOTE: Pilate’s headquarters in Jerusalem was at the Praetorium, Antonia Fortress on the map.

Verses 3–10

What / who are these verses about?

Judas felt remorse / changed his mind, but the text does not say he repented.

He realized Jesus’ blood was innocent, but the text does not say he believed Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of God.

After he hung himself and the chief priests had the returned money, they thought it unlawful to put it in the temple treasury—the price of blood.

It’s easy to understand from this why Jesus referred to them as hypocrites and deadly vipers.

Even the Potter’s Field was fulfillment of Scripture.

NOTE: The quote in verses 9–10 is from Zechariah 11:12–13. Matthew referred to Jeremiah which says similar things in chapter 19:1–11.

Verses 11–26

What question did Pilate ask Jesus?

Pilate asked Jesus if He was the King of the Jews.

What was Pilate’s reaction to Jesus not answering His accusers?

Compare Matthew 27 with Psalm 22:1–18 and Isaiah 52:13–53:12 as the discussion progresses.

He was amazed at Jesus’ silence.

Pilate knew the reason for Jesus being handed over / delivered up to him. It was because of envy.

Pilate’s wife sent a message about Jesus: “Have nothing to do with that righteous Man.”

Knowing that Jesus was a righteous man handed over / delivered up to him because of envy, Pilate tried to free Jesus and keep Barabbas. But he let himself be persuaded to keep Jesus.

The crowds were persuaded by the chief priests and elders to ask Pilate to crucify Jesus.

He knew that Jesus had done no evil, but he still didn't release Him when they called for His crucifixion.

Pilate declared himself innocent of Jesus' blood...but was he?

He had Jesus scourged, then handed over for crucifixion.

This compares with Isaiah 50:6.

What did the people there say about Jesus' innocent blood in verse 25?
Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about this.

Let it be on us—the Jews there—and our children.

Acts 3:12-20

Peter spoke to the people who 50 days earlier were the ones in Matthew 26–27. They put to death the Prince of life (ESV—killed the Author of life), the Holy and Righteous One.

He called them to repent and return / turn back so their sins would be wiped away / blotted out. That day about 5,000 of them did repent and were saved in Jerusalem.

Acts 4:24-28

This was the believers' response when Peter and John were released from jail.

Herod, Pilate, Gentiles, and Jews participated in Jesus' death.
All happened as planned and prophesied by God.

Acts 5:27-32

The Council, high priest, and chief priests accused the apostles of intending to bring Jesus' blood upon them. The apostles only spoke the truth.

Acts 7:51-53

This might have been a year or two later.

Stephen confronted the Council again about putting Jesus to death.

He said that they'd become Jesus' betrayers and murderers.
His blood was on them.

You might ask your group how these facts about Jesus in Matthew 27 relate to their lives.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 27.

Verses 27–44

Who did what in these verses?

Pilate’s soldiers, Romans

Stripped Jesus, put a scarlet robe on Him and crown of thorns

Mocked Him, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

Spat on Him

Beat / struck His head with the reed

Took off the scarlet robe, dressed Him in His own clothes

Led Him to be crucified, a place called Golgotha

Made Simon of Cyrene to carry His cross

Gave Jesus wine with gall to drink

Crucified Him

Cast lots for His garments

Kept watch over Him at the cross

Put over His head the charge, “This is Jesus the King of the Jews.”

Two robbers crucified with Jesus

One on the right and one on the left

Both insulting / reviled Him

Those passing by

Hurling abuse at Him (ESV—derided him)

Wagging their heads

“Save Yourself”

If God’s Son, come down from cross

Chief priests, scribes and elders

Mocking...can’t save Himself

Let God rescue / deliver Him if His Son

You can ask again how knowing these facts pertains to a believer’s life now, specifically to those in your group.

Verses 45–61

What happened in these verses? Ask about the cross-references and word study at relevant points.

Darkness for three hours, then Jesus gave up His spirit—He died.

Jesus cried out quoting Psalm 22 about being forsaken by God.

This Psalm has much in it which describes His crucifixion, as does Isaiah 53.

Mark 15:33-39

This compares with what Matthew wrote about some thinking Jesus called for Elijah.

But He asked why His Father had forsaken Him. It was because of sin, not His.

Luke 23:44-46

Jesus said that He committed His spirit into the Father’s hands.

John 19:30

Jesus said, “It is finished!” before He gave up His spirit.

teleō—complete, fulfill; carry out, pay out²

Colossians 2:13-14 and Hebrews 10:7-18

The sin debt was paid in full.

He canceled the certificate of debt—nailed it to the cross.

His body sacrificed, the offering for sins, took away sins.

There is no more offering for sins—He brought forgiveness.

God remembers sins no more.

Lead your discussion back to Matthew 27:51–54.

What happened? Also ask about cross-references.

The temple veil / curtain was torn from top to bottom.

Hebrews 10:19–22

The veil / curtain was His flesh, torn to give believers the new way to come before the Father with confidence. Hearts clean.

John 14:6

No one comes to the Father but through Him.

The earth shook and rocks split. Tombs were opened.

After Jesus’ resurrection, those raised were seen in Jerusalem.

The centurion and others with him realized from the events that He truly was the Son of God.

What happened in verses 55–61? Who was involved?

James and John’s mother was there looking at what happened from a distance, along with the other two Marys.

At evening of that day, a disciple named Joseph asked Pilate for Jesus’ body so he could bury it. He buried Jesus in his own new tomb and rolled a large stone over the entrance.

Two of the Marys were there sitting opposite the grave.

²Horst Robert Balz and Gerhard Schneider, *Exegetical Dictionary of the New Testament* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1990-c1993), 3:346.

Verses 62–66

What happened in these verses?

The next day

Chief priests and Pharisees told Pilate that Jesus—called Him “that deceiver / imposter”—said He would rise on the third day. So they asked him to place guards at the grave. He told them to use their own guards.

Tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart and ask what they recorded as a possible theme for Matthew 27.

Jesus before Pilate and His crucifixion

MATTHEW 28

What happened in verses 1–10?

At dawn on the first day of the week, the two Marys went to the tomb.

An angel had rolled away the stone to the entrance causing a great earthquake. The guards became like dead men when they saw the angel.

He told the women that Jesus had risen as He said...they were to tell the disciples.

As they went to report to the disciples, Jesus Himself met them and told them the same thing the angel had said. The disciples were to go to Galilee and wait for Jesus.

In Matthew 26:31–32, He quoted the prophecy of His, the Shepherd’s crucifixion and the sheep being scattered, and He told them He would go ahead of them to Galilee after He had been raised.

Ask what your group learned from the cross-references about resurrection.

2 Corinthians 5:14-21; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:12-22; Acts 2:22-24

Jesus died and rose again so men who believe in those facts about Him can live righteous lives. Believers have life and should look forward to the coming resurrection. God put an end to the agony of death (ESV—loosing the pangs of death) for believers when Jesus arose. It was impossible for death to hold Him.

What happened in verses 11–15?

The guards reported what happened to the chief priests who bribed them to tell a different story which circulated through the Jews of the time.

The story was that the disciples had stolen Jesus’ body.

How did Matthew end his Gospel, verses 16–20?

The eleven disciples went to Galilee as Jesus had instructed them.
They worshiped Him, as the women had, but some were doubtful.
He commanded them what to do, because He had all authority in heaven and on earth.

Go and make disciples of all nations
Baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Teaching them to observe all He commanded

He told them that He was with them to “the end of the age.”
They were obedient.

Who else took the message? To whom?

Acts 8:4–5, 12
Philip went to Samaria proclaiming Christ.

Acts 28:23–31
Paul preached the gospel in Rome to Jews and Gentiles.

According to 1 Corinthians 15:1-8, what’s the gospel message?

Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.
He was buried.

Christ was raised the third day according to the Scriptures.
He appeared to many.

Encourage your group to take the message of Matthew to all who will listen.
That’s how one makes disciples...teaching them to observe all Jesus commanded.

Ask them about a chapter theme for Matthew 28 on their At a Glance chart.

Jesus’ resurrection; He appeared; “Make disciples”

If you have time, ask your group what lessons for life they learned from studying Matthew.