

**Salt Block Ministries Bible Study Guide**  
**Matthew 1-10**

**Day One**

Read and pray Psalm 1. Read Matthew 1-2.

The first seventeen verses of Matthew's gospel seem hard for us to read; a long list of names, most of which we can't pronounce.

But to his first audience, the Jews, this was one of the most important parts of the gospel. The Jews were meticulous in keeping track of their ancestry. Jesus was proven to be in the tribe of Judah, the royal tribe of Israel, in this list of names. Go back and underline the names you do recognize. Notice the names of the women in the list. Write their names below and match these verses with their names.

Genesis 38:6, 26-30

Ruth 4:13-17

Joshua 2:1-4, 6:22-26

2 Samuel 11:1-6, 12:24-25

Matthew 1:20-23

Remember, there may be parts of the Scripture that do not speak to you but will to others. As you read the list of names, pray for Israel to see Jesus as the Messiah and be saved.

The rest of chapter one and all of chapter two will be familiar to you; it is known as the Christmas story. You must be careful not to miss deep meaning in something so familiar.

Read it again, and notice the number of times God spoke to the characters in dreams. List those whom God spoke to in dreams below. How many had a verse from the Bible that gave meaning to the dream?

Take note when you have a dream with Scripture in it.

**Matthew 1-10**

**Day Two**

Read and pray Psalm 2. Read Matthew 3-4

John the Baptist was the one who prepared Israel for the coming of Jesus, the Messiah, and to recognize Him when He appeared. Read again 3:1-12. The word "repent" is the Greek word *metanoia* (pronounced meta-**noi**-yah). It is made up of two Greek words, *meta*, which means to change, and *noia*, which means the mind. Repentance means to change your mind about something. Write below what John said would reveal that a person had "changed their mind." (see 3:8)

Write below what kind of "good fruit" you think is the result of repentance.

Now read 3:6. The combination of being baptized and confessing sin signified that a person was desiring a new beginning (baptism) and relationship with God (confessing sin), seeking Him. The Pharisees rejected John's message because they refused to admit that they needed anything new from God. Write below something you need "new" from God.

Notice in 3:16-17 the Trinity; God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

How did Jesus overcome the power of temptation in the wilderness in 4:1-11? Write your answer below.

Write down 4:17; memorize it for today and meditate on what God would have you "change your mind" about.

### **Matthew 1-10**

#### **Day Three**

Read and pray Psalm 3. Read Matthew 5-7

This is called the Sermon on the Mount. It describes the life that the Lord Jesus lived on earth. It is a message about His Life that He desires to live in you, with you, through you, as you, before the world around you. The theme of the message is found in 5:16. Write the theme below.

What would you say "your light" is and how is it connected with "good works" and "glorifying the Father?"

The only way you can fulfill the theme of this message is to receive Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, allowing Him to be Himself in you, with you, through you, as you, in the world around you.

As He does, your Light, His Life (the Holy Spirit), will shine through, glorifying the Father. Can you see the Trinity in that statement? How would you "allow" Christ to be Himself in you?

You may have written something about trusting His word and being obedient to it. As you do, He will also do. Obedience is the evidence of the creative work of God's Word at work in you, with you... (you know the rest). One of the ways of God is this: First He says it, then

He does it. Write below something from the Sermon on the Mount that you desire God to do in you, with you, through you, as you. What kind of “repentance” is associated with it?

### **Matthew 1-10**

#### **Day Four**

Read and pray Psalm 4. Read Matthew 8-9

This is one of the “miracle” sections of Matthew’s gospel. Write below a list of the miracles that Jesus did in these two chapters with the Scripture reference beside it. For example:

Cleansing the leper, 8:2-4;

The miracles of Jesus point to something greater. Look ahead to Matthew 11:20. Why did Jesus denounce the cities where He did most of His miracles?

Now pick out one of the miracles in chapters 8-9 and decide what it points to (hint: it will be a teaching of Jesus; about Him and what He wants to do in you, with you, through you, as you). Write that teaching below.

### **Matthew 1-10**

#### **Day Five**

Read and pray Psalm 5. Read Matthew 10

The gospel of Matthew is seen by most commentators as a collection of five sermons of Jesus that Matthew arranged for the early church to teach Christian doctrine in a catechism. The word “catechism” is from a Greek word that means “echo.” It was and still is used today as a form of oral teaching.

Matthew 10:1-42 is the second of these sermons of Jesus Matthew recorded for teaching new believers (the first is chapters 5-7, the Sermon on the Mount). This section of the catechism addresses the problem found in Matthew 9:35-38. Read that paragraph again and describe the problem in your own words below.

There has been and always will be more need than workers. What did Jesus do to address this problem with His disciples in 9:38-10:5?

Jesus prayed and asked others to pray with Him, then He empowered others and instructed them what to do in His Name. These instructions, for those who have been called out by

God, have fueled the missionary enterprise since the day Jesus first gave His disciples the teaching.

Go through these verses again and write down below all of the verses that talk about discouragement, rejection, opposition, and even violent rejection.

Now go back through and find the instruction from Jesus on how to deal with the opposition. Use the blank note page to record your thoughts about this.

### **Matthew 1-10**

**Day Six:** Read and pray Psalm 6.

Today reflect upon these events by briefly looking at them again:

#### **The birth of Jesus**

- His genealogy (1:1-17)
- The dream for Joseph (1:18-25)
- The arrival of and meeting with the Magi (2:1-15)
- The outrage of Herod and escape to Egypt and return to Nazareth for the silent years (2:16-23).

#### **The beginning of the teaching ministry of Jesus in Galilee**

- Jesus being baptized (3:13-17),
- Jesus being tempted (4:1-11),
- Jesus beginning His ministry in Galilee (4:12-25),
- Jesus preaching the Sermon on the Mount and missionary instructions (5-7, 10)

#### **The beginning of the miracle ministry of Jesus in Galilee**

- Jesus heals outcasts; the leper (8:1-4), the Roman (Gentile) servant (8:5-13), the demon-possessed (8:28-34).
- Jesus does what only God can do by calming the storm (8:23-27), forgiving sin (9:1-8), raising the dead (9:18-26).
- Jesus healing His own people; Peter's mother-in-law (8:14-17), the paralytic (9:1-2), the two blind men (9:27-31)

#### **The beginning of opposition to Jesus**

- By Satan (4:1-11)
- By the scribes (9:3)
- By some of the disciples of John (9:14)
- By the Pharisees (9:34)

Can you see how this could be taught in a catechism?  
Memorize the four sections in bold. Tomorrow pray Psalm 7.

### Matthew 11-21

#### Day One

Read and pray Psalm 8. Read Matthew 11-12. What did John the Baptist hear in prison about Jesus (11:2)?

What question did he send to Jesus by his disciples?

John had gotten confused about his own identity and the identity of Jesus from the reports of the miracles of Jesus. What did Jesus tell the disciples of John to go and tell him in verse 4?

Jesus places a priority on **hearing** before **seeing**. He sent back to John a word from the book of Isaiah to reassure John of His identity and of John's.

Apart from the Word of God, the deeds of God lose their meaning. Often when Jesus would heal someone, He would tell them **not to tell anyone**. This is because the miracles lose their meaning when separated from the teachings of Jesus.

Why did Jesus denounce the cities where He did most of His miracles (11:20)?

Jesus taught that His miracles were to lead to repentance. When people only **see** the miracle and do not **hear** the teaching, they have missed the most important **message** of the miracles.

Notice how this truth of the importance of **hearing then seeing** is demonstrated in chapter 12.

### Matthew 11-21

#### Day Two

Read and pray Psalm 9. Read Matthew 13-14. Look again at 13:18-23 and answer these questions about the four types of soils.

- Do all four (the hard soil, the shallow soil, the crowded soil, and the good soil) **hear the word**?

- Is there a relationship between the condition of the soil and bearing fruit?
- What makes a heart hard?
- What is the difference between being hard on the outside (the path) and hard on the inside (the rocky)?
- How can you prepare your heart to **receive** God's Word so that it bears fruit?

The feeding of the 5,000 is a turning point in the ministry of Jesus. Go back and identify how many miracles Jesus did including the multiplication of the loaves and fish in 14:13-21. (Check chapters 4, 8, 9, 12, and 14) Write the number.

As you read the next few weeks, keep track of the miracles. You will notice a trend.

## **Matthew 11-21**

### **Day Three**

Read and pray Psalm 10. Read Matthew 15-16. A couple of things are starting to develop in the ministry of Jesus in these chapters. First, notice how the opposition to Jesus from the Pharisees and religious leaders is starting to increase. Look back and see the progression of opposition in the following passage and briefly describe it:

- 9:10-13
- 12:1-8
- 12:9-14
- 12:22-24
- 13:53-57
- 15:1-2, 12
- 16:1 (also 12:38)

From these passages what do you think Jesus meant by what He said in 16:6, 12? What is the teaching of the Pharisees and Scribes?

In 16:21 Jesus begins teaching His disciples about His suffering, death, and resurrection. How did they receive it? Look again at 16:24-28.

Write down 16:24-26 and start memorizing it in order to meditate on the truth of it.

### **Matthew 11-21**

#### **Day Four**

Read and pray Psalm 11. Read Matthew 17-18. Go back to 14:22 and count the miracles through chapter 18. How many miracles did Jesus do up to 14:22?

How many miracles did Jesus do from 14:22 to 18:35?

Matthew arranges his gospel around five major teachings of Jesus (chapters 5-7, 10, 13, 18, and 24-25). Chapter 18 is one of those five. Go over this chapter again and write below what you think the major teaching is about.

Chapter 18 is about who is the greatest in the Kingdom of God. Beside the reference below, write what Jesus recognizes as greatness in His Kingdom.

- 18:4
  
- 18:5
  
- 18:12-14
  
- 18:19-20
  
- 18:23-35

From your answers above complete the following sentence;

Jesus taught that greatness in His Kingdom is when a person...

### **Matthew 11-21**

#### **Day Five**

Read and pray Psalm 12. Read Matthew 19-20.

Jesus' teaching on divorce is controversial. It certainly was in His day. When asked about divorce, Jesus answers with God's view of marriage. Why would He give anything less?

Look again at 19:4-6. This is a quote from the creation account in Genesis 1:27, and 2:24. God created the family. He gave creation the family as the crown of creation because the family reveals who God is clearer than anything else in creation.

God took two people, Adam and Eve, both made in His image, and gave them to each other in a relationship based upon Word, God's Word, and created the family. In other words, a loving relationship, a forgiving relationship, a creative relationship; a relationship based upon trust and commitment.

It is no wonder that Satan has been attacking the family from the very beginning. He sought to divide Adam and Eve in Genesis 3. He attacked their sons in chapter 4. In the same chapter he introduced polygamy with Cain's descendants (4:19). And by Genesis 13:13 and 18:20 you discover that homosexuality had become so rampant that it overtook a whole region; Sodom and Gomorrah. And in our day, it is gaining momentum again.

Look again at Matthew 20:29-34. Count back from this miracle to the feeding of the 5,000 (hint: 17:24-27, 14-21, 15:32-39, 29-31, 21-28, 14:34-36, 22-32). Now go back and add these to the number of miracles you counted from Matthew 8-14. Do you see a trend? Jesus did less and less miracles and more and more teaching as He drew nearer and nearer to the Cross. Think on that today.

## Matthew 11-21

### Day Six

Read and pray Psalm 13. Read Matthew 21. Notice the two miracles, the last two in Matthew's gospel (21:14-22). These two miracles are related. How do you think healing the blind and the lame in the Temple while the children were praising Jesus and the religious leaders were rejecting Him, and curing of the fig tree because it did not have any fruit on it, are related?

Now look again at 21:23-46; there are two parables (21:28-41) sandwiched between two teachings from Jesus (21:23-27, 42-44).

The first teaching and parable have to do with **repentance**. Look at 21:23-32 and see if you can see it.

The second parable and teaching is about receiving  **blessings**  from God but rejecting God's greatest gift, His own **Son**. See if you can see it.

In 21:43, Jesus sums up both parables and teachings. How would you describe the “fruits” Jesus is talking about?

Tomorrow review your memory verses. Read and pray Psalm 14.

## **Matthew 22-28**

### **Day One**

Read and pray Psalm 15. Read Matthew 22-23. The final chapters of Matthew are devoted to the last week of Jesus’ life on earth in Jerusalem. It was a time of intense teaching by Jesus and unrelenting questioning by the religious leaders. The parable of the wedding feast has a few disturbing turns in it. Read again 22:1-6. To refuse an invitation to a wedding feast was one of the greatest insults in the times of the Bible. There was no greater celebration in a family’s life than a wedding feast.

Refusing to come, paying no attention, then seizing the servants, mistreating them, and then killing them shows the progress of the opposition that Jesus had dealt with from the beginning of His ministry. The king’s actions to destroy the murderers was justified.

Then the man who got in to the feast without an invitation was punished (22:11-13). This sounds strange, and yet Jesus is making a clear point concerning the Kingdom of God in this parable; not everyone who is invited will come, and not everyone who does come has faith to enter in. Faith in Christ is the entrance, not just being around those who do have faith.

Chapter 23 is a seven-fold rebuke (“...woe to you...”) of the scribes and the Pharisees. This was their last chance to repent, but they did not.

Look again at the three groups that questioned Jesus in 22:15-40, and their questions, and how Jesus answered. Then see the question that Jesus asked in 22:41-46. Why could they not answer? Meditate today on the three questions and Jesus’ answers and His question and why they did not answer.

## **Matthew 22-28**

### **Day Two**

Read and pray Psalm 16. Read Matthew 24-25. This is the fifth sermon of Jesus that Matthew builds his gospel around. It is called the Olivet discourse because Jesus spoke it to His disciples on the Mount of Olives on the east side of Jerusalem. As they left the Temple area, Jesus makes a disturbing statement. What is that statement in 24:2?

What are the three questions that the disciples asked Jesus in 24:3?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Jesus answers their three questions, but not in the order that they asked. In 24:4-14, Jesus answers one question, in 24:15-28, another, then 24:29-44, another. Identify which of these three sections correspond to the questions the disciples asked.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

There are four stories in the rest of today's reading. Identify the four stories in 24:45-25:46.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

How would you say the first three are related to each other?

How does the last one fit in?

## **Matthew 22-28**

### **Day Three**

Read and pray Psalm 17. Read Matthew 26. Look again at the first two statements of Jesus in this chapter (26:2, and 26:10-13). The next thing that happens is Judas Iscariot deciding to deliver Jesus over to the chief priests. Why do you think Judas decided to do this at that particular time?

The Passover was one of three annual feasts of Israel; Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. All three celebrated and remembered something that God did for the nation.

Passover was celebrated by each family sacrificing a lamb to remember when God delivered Israel out of their bondage in Egypt (Exodus). Pentecost was celebrated 50 days later and celebrated the giving of the 10 Commandments at Mount Sinai. Tabernacles celebrated how God provided for Israel when they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years.

Jesus was crucified, buried, and rose again at Passover. The Holy Spirit came and filled the new believers at Pentecost (Acts 2:1). And we have yet to see what God will do in fulfillment of Tabernacles!

Read again the trial at the high priest's house (26:57-68). Find Daniel 7:13-14. Jesus is making the clearest statement of His identity to the high priest. He is identifying Himself as the divine Son of God, the Christ. For the high priest there was only two responses; fall down and worship, or call the Man standing before him a madman and have him killed. Caiaphas decided to reject the words of Christ Jesus and have Him killed. Meditate on that choice today.

### **Matthew 22-28**

#### **Day Four**

Read and pray Psalm 18. Read Matthew 27. It is time to take your shoes off. This is holy ground. Chapter 27 has five scenes; the death of Judas, the trial of Jesus before Pilate, the crucifixion of Jesus, the death of Jesus, and the burial. Write what stands out to you in each scene as you read it again.

- Death of Judas; 27:3-10
- Trial of Jesus before Pilate; 27:11-31
- Crucifixion of Jesus; 27:32-49
- Death of Jesus; 27:50-56
- Burial of Jesus; 27:57-66

A couple of verses that have raised questions for some are 27:52-53; the raising from the dead of some of the Old Testament saints. One of the ways of God is that He gives a preview before the main event. These resurrections can be interpreted in one of two ways; they were resuscitated, like Lazarus and Jarius' daughter, or they were actually given their resurrected bodies ("...after the resurrection...") and then taken into heaven, similar to Moses and Elijah on the Mt. of Transfiguration. But notice who proclaimed Jesus as the Son of God; not the high priest or Pharisees, but a Roman centurion and those who were with him (27:54).

## Matthew 22-28

### Day Five

Read and pray Psalm 18. Read Matthew 28. Notice the when, the what, and the “what now” of the events of the resurrection of Jesus as they unfolded.

- When: 28:1; the first day of the week. The Jews did not name the days of the week as we do, Sunday, Monday.... They called them by the account of creation in Genesis 1, First Day, Second Day...Sabbath Day (we call Saturday). Jesus was raised on Sunday, the First Day of the week.
- What: 28:2-15; angels were the first to announce His resurrection, just like they did at His birth. Jesus Himself appears to them, speaks and gives instructions for them to follow. There are believers and unbelievers after the resurrection.
- “What now?” 28:16-20; The disciples were obedient to the words of Jesus as to the time and place to meet Him (28:16). They worshipped Him together even though some still doubted (28:17). Never allow your doubts to drive you away from other believers and from worshipping together with them. And the one assignment until Jesus comes back; make disciples, which is the only command in the passage.

There are three participles in between the one command to “make disciples. Remember, a participle tells **how** the command is to be done. Jesus tells us not only **what** we are to do, but also **how** we are to do it.

The first participle is “Go...” Make disciples **as you go**, wherever you go. Everyone is included no matter where you go in the world.

The second participle is “...baptizing them...” This does not describe water, although water baptism can present a clear picture of this. It means to immerse the new disciples into the Trinitarian presence.

And the third is “...teaching them everything I have commanded you,” which means a lifetime study of Jesus and His Words and works. Meditate on this today.

## Matthew 22-28

### Day Six

Read and pray Psalm 19. Matthew builds his gospel account of the Life and ministry of the Lord Jesus around five sermons; Matthew 5-7, 10, 13:1-52, 18, and 24-25. Find each of the verses that conclude these sermons. What do these verses 7:28, 11:1, 13:53, 19:1, and 26:1 have in common?

These “sayings” became the main body of the teachings of Jesus for the early church. Whenever you are able to have an extended time in the Word, go back to these five sermons identify the subject and instructions of each one.

Begin today with Matthew 10.

- What would you call the subject of this sermon?
- Where did Jesus send the disciples on their first mission trip? (10:5-6)
- What did He tell them to do on their mission trip? (10:7-8)
- How were they to provide for their own needs? (10:9-14)
- What kind of response and reward did Jesus say they would have? (10:16-42)

Tomorrow, rest and reflect on one of the five sermons from the book of Matthew. And read and pray Psalm 20.