

Tim Chester

Matthew

Kingdom Treasure



 9-Session Bible Study

License Information

Thank you for purchasing a Good Book Guide eBook!

We're so glad you've chosen this resource to support your personal or group Bible study. If you haven't purchased this eBook yourself, we'd encourage you to buy your own copy to support our work and ensure you're using a licensed version. You can purchase a copy online:

- North America: www.thegoodbook.com
- UK and Rest of the World: www.thegoodbook.co.uk
- Australia: www.thegoodbook.com.au
- New Zealand: www.thegoodbook.co.nz

FAQs for Using Digital Good Book Guides

• Can I print this digital version?

Yes, you can print the digital files for your personal use.

• Can I share the digital files with other members of my home group?

Each member should purchase their own copy to fully enjoy and support the resource.

• Can I share individual studies with my home group?

To ensure fair use, each member should have their own copy of the study guide.

• Can I buy copies for my group members and email them the files?

Absolutely! Once you've purchased enough copies for your group, you can download the file and share it directly with them. Please kindly ask them not to distribute it further.

• Is there a discount for buying a group license?

Yes, we offer discounts for bulk purchases, which can be found on our websites and will be reflected in your shopping basket.

If you have any questions, encounter any issues, or would like to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you! Please don't hesitate to email us at hello@thegoodbook.com.

Thank you for choosing the Good Book Guide—we hope it's a blessing to you and your group!

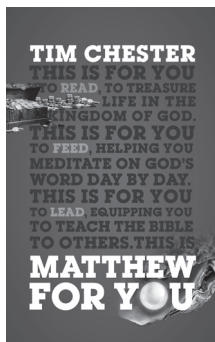
Tim Chester

Matthew

Kingdom Treasure



✓ 9-Session Bible Study



Matthew For You

These studies are adapted from *Matthew For You*. If you are reading *Matthew For You* alongside this Good Book Guide, here is how the studies in this booklet link to the chapters of *Matthew For You*:

Study 1 > Ch 1

Study 2 > Ch 2

Study 3 > Ch 3-4

Study 4 > Ch 5-6

Study 5 > Ch 7

Study 6 > Ch 8

Study 7 > Ch 10-11

Study 8 > Ch 13

Study 9 > Ch 14

Find out more about *Matthew For You* at:
www.thegoodbook.com/for-you

Matthew: Kingdom Treasure

A Good Book Guide

© Tim Chester/The Good Book Company, 2025.

Published by The Good Book Company

thegoodbook.com | thegoodbook.co.uk

thegoodbook.com.au | thegoodbook.co.nz

thegoodbook
COMPANY

Unless indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version. Copyright © 2011 Biblica, Inc. Used by permission.

Tim Chester has asserted his right under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 to be identified as author of this work.

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Design by André Parker and Drew McCall

ISBN: 9781784984977 | JOB-008372 | Printed in Turkey

Contents

Introduction	4
Why Study Matthew?	5
1. The Promised One <i>Matthew 1:1 – 2:12</i>	7
2. The King Wins for Us <i>Matthew 3:1 – 4:11</i>	15
3. The Renewed Life <i>Matthew 5:1-12, 17-48</i>	21
4. The King's Authority <i>Matthew 8:23 – 9:8; 10:1-31</i>	29
5. The Kingdom Resisted <i>Matthew 12:1-14; 13:24-46</i>	35
6. Peter's Hits and Misses <i>Matthew 14:22-36; 16:13-28</i>	41
7. The First, Last and the Last, First <i>Matthew 20:1-16; 21:1-32</i>	47
8. The Death of the King <i>Matthew 26:31-56; 27:32-54</i>	53
9. The King Lives <i>Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20</i>	59
Leader's Guide	65



Introduction

One of the Bible writers described God's word as "a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105, NIV). God gave us the Bible to tell us about who he is and what he wants for us. He speaks through it by his Spirit and lights our way through life.

That means that we need to look carefully at the Bible and uncover its meaning—but we also need to apply what we've discovered to our lives.

Good Book Guides are designed to help you do just that. The sessions in this book are interactive and easy to lead. They're perfect for use in groups or for personal study.

Let's take a look at what is included in each session.

Talkabout: Every session starts with an ice-breaker question, designed to get people talking around a subject that links to the Bible study.

Investigate: These questions help you explore what the passage is about.

Apply: These questions are designed to get you thinking practically: what does this Bible teaching mean for you and your church?

Explore More: These optional sections help you to go deeper or to explore another part of the Bible which connects with the main passage.

Getting Personal: These sections are a chance for personal reflection. Some groups may feel comfortable discussing these, but you may prefer to look at them quietly as individuals instead—or leave them out.

Pray: Here, you're invited to pray in the light of the truths and challenges you've seen in the study.

Each session is also designed to be easily split into two! Watch out for the **Apply** section that comes halfway through, and stop there if you haven't got time to do the whole thing in one go.

In the back of the book, you'll find a **Leader's Guide**, which provides helpful notes on every question, along with everything else that group leaders need in order to facilitate a great session and help the group uncover the riches of God's light-giving word.

Why Study Matthew?

Matthew's Gospel tells the story of Jesus—Immanuel, God with us, Israel's Messiah and the hope of all nations. Whether you're a Jew or a Gentile, this is the story of your Saviour-King. Matthew's Gospel is something of a training manual to show you how you can and should live within this wonderful story.

"Every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old." So says Jesus in Matthew 13:52. It's a saying only Matthew includes, and it's likely that he saw it as a description of himself. Matthew is a teacher of the law who has become a disciple of Jesus (or a disciple who has become a teacher of the law). And his Gospel brings new treasures out from the storehouse of Scripture. In other words, Matthew shows how Jesus fulfils the Old Testament.

Matthew's concern to be a teacher of the law is also reflected in the amount of the teaching of Jesus that he includes. Matthew often trims down stories by leaving out details that Mark and Luke cover and instead includes teaching that Mark and Luke leave out. This focus on teaching is also reflected in the structure of the Gospel. In addition to its introduction (1 – 2) and climax (26 – 28), Matthew has five main sections that are divided up with a phrase along the lines of "When Jesus had finished saying these things..." (7:28-29, and see similar in 11:1, 13:53, 19:1, 26:1).

It's widely thought that in the first instance Matthew wrote for Jewish believers or maybe Jewish seekers—that may be one reason for his emphasis on Jesus as the fulfilment of the Old Testament. Yet despite this, Matthew also portrays Jesus as sent for all nations.

Jesus is our Saviour and King. His miracles show him to be God's King with the authority to establish God's kingdom and to be God's Saviour with the power to save God's people. Yet, ultimately, Jesus proves to be the King who saves by dying in our place and rising again to give us life.



Matthew

1st century AD

1

The Promised One

Matthew 1:1 – 2:12

Talkabout

1. Imagine you were going to introduce another member of your group to someone they didn't know (at a party or after church, or similar). What would you say about them by way of introduction?

In the opening of Matthew's Gospel, he introduces us to his chief subject (who is also his friend): "Jesus the Messiah" (1:1). Right out of the blocks, we discover some extraordinary claims about who Jesus is.

Investigate

 **Read Matthew 1:1-17**

DICTIONARY

Messiah (v 1): the all-powerful, eternal King promised throughout the Old Testament.

For Matthew's Jewish readers, this list of names would have evoked a succession of stories from their history, all of which are about to find their fulfillment in Mary's child (v 17-18).

2. Matthew orders his genealogy to focus on three moments in particular from Israel's history. What are they (v 17)?

Let's consider each of those in turn.

Way back in Genesis 3, when humanity rejected God, we became enemies of God, and we live in a world under God's curse (Genesis 3).

3. Read Genesis 12:1-3. What does the connection with Abraham in Matthew 1 show us about what Jesus is going to do?

4. Read God's words to King David in 2 Samuel 7:11b-16. What does the connection with David in Matthew 1 show us about what Jesus is going to do?

- Why might this have looked unlikely to readers in Matthew's day, living under the Roman Empire?

The third moment spotlighted in Matthew 1 is Israel's Exile to Babylon—which happened as God's judgment on their sin (v 12). In time, Ezra and Nehemiah led the people back to the land, but they still weren't truly free (Nehemiah 9:36-37).

5. In what way is the Exile from Babylon a picture of all of humanity's plight?

- What does this connection with the Exile to Babylon tell us about what Jesus is going to do?

6. What point do you think Matthew is making by the particular women he chooses to include (v 3, 5, 6)? (For more information, see Genesis 34; Joshua 2; Ruth 1 – 4; 2 Samuel 11)

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

The women named in Matthew 1 spotlight the fact that Jesus came to save Jews and Gentiles, men and women, sinners and sinned-against. "If the Lord Jesus was not ashamed to be born of a woman whose pedigree contained such names as those we have read today," said the 19th-century bishop J. C. Ryle, "we need not think that he will be ashamed to call us brethren, and to give us eternal life" (*Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*, p. 4).

Jesus is not ashamed to have you in his family. Are there particular corners of your heart where that sets you free?

Apply

We've seen that Jesus is the Son of Abraham come to reverse the curse to bring God's blessing; the promised King whose rule will set us free; and the one who will lead us home to God from exile.

7. What will happen in our hearts and lives if we lose sight of any one of these pictures of who Jesus is?

- Which of those pictures gives you the most comfort and reassurance in this moment, and why?

Investigate

 **Read Matthew 1:18-25**

DICTIONARY

The prophet (v 22): one of God's messengers in the Old Testament.

8. What do the two names given to Mary's child add to our understanding of who he is?

Explore More | OPTIONAL

Matthew 1:18-25 is the first of five stories surrounding the birth of Jesus, each of which contains a quote from the Old Testament (1:22-23; 2:6, 15, 17-18, 23). The first of these is from Isaiah 7.

 **Read Isaiah 7:1-17**

- What problem did Ahaz face (v 1-2)?

- What promise did God offer him (v 7-9)? What did Ahaz need to do in response (v 4)?

God even offered to give Ahaz a sign (v 10-11). But Ahaz refused to ask for one (v 12), opting instead for an alliance with Assyria (the rising superpower of the day). So God gave Ahaz a sign that Ahaz was not looking for.

- What was that sign (v 14)? And what would it point to (v 16-17)?

Ahaz thought he could do without God; but it was God who didn't need Ahaz. For God could bring the reign of David's sons to an end (as he did when Judah was exiled in Babylon) and then start afresh by raising up a new king from a virgin.

By quoting from Isaiah 7, Matthew draws together two lines of promise. First, God will raise up a new king from a virgin—a king who will trust God and restore God's rule. Second, God himself will come as Immanuel to save his people from their sins. These two trajectories converge in Mary's child. In his humanity, Jesus is the descendant of David; in his divinity, he is Immanuel: God with us.

How should we respond? By doing what Ahaz should have done: "Be careful, keep calm and don't be afraid" (v 4). Ahaz should have found confidence in the promises of God. He should have trusted the promise of a Saviour. And so should we.

Read Matthew 2:1-12

9. What different responses to the news of Jesus' birth do we see in this passage? Why do people respond in those ways?

- What is surprising about who responds in which way?

Getting Personal | OPTIONAL

God is infinite, unchanging, self-sustaining, eternal, invisible. He's not just a bigger version of us; he's utterly different. Yet there was a moment in history when he lay in a manger. If that's true, then the only sensible response is to join the Magi in worshipping Jesus.

10. How do we see God's promise to Abraham coming true in these verses?

Apply

11. There's a little bit of Herod in all of us. In what ways might people today be similarly "disturbed" by the idea of Jesus being King, and of having to submit to his rule? What about us?

- What would it look like to respond like the Magi to Jesus instead?

12. If Jesus is King of all the nations, how should that shape our prayers, our finances and our churches?

Pray

Praise Jesus for all that he is: Son of Abraham, our true King, our way home, our Saviour, God with us, and the fulfilment of all his promises.

Ask for his help to live lives of wholehearted worship.

Pray that people from more and more nations would come to see Jesus as King.