

When to read?

With 28 chapters, you can read through Matthew by reading a chapter a day.

However, Matthew has a strong, clear narrative and is relatively easy to read. Reading a larger proportion of the story in a sitting is likely to help us appreciate Matthew's focus. Consider planning 3 or 4 slots of 30-40 minutes to read through the whole gospel.

Memorisation suggestions

'[The blessed man's] delight is in the law of the Lord, and on His law he meditates day and night' (Psalm 1:2)

If you would like to memorise some verses or passages from Matthew, you could consider the following suggestions:

- Matthew 5:3-10
- Matthew 6:5-15
- Matthew 11:25-29
- Matthew 16:24-28
- Matthew 26:36-42
- Matthew 28:16-20

Reflection Meeting : 4 May

May : 1 & 2 Corinthians



Matthew



Reading the Bible Together

April 2014

What is 'In Sync' Bible Reading?

'In Sync' encourages us to read the same Bible book through a month, and then reflect together on what we have read and learnt from God's Word. In April we are reading through the book of **Matthew**.

Why do we do this?

There are many advantages to reading together like this, including opportunities to:

- Develop the regular habit of Bible reading
- Become more familiar with the Bible
- Encourage one another by sharing the different things we have learnt through our Bible reading
- Read the Bible with family members and friends
- Handle a whole Bible book, when often we focus on much smaller sections of the Bible in our times of study together.

'I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.' (Psalm 119:16)

Questions to consider

Reading the Bible does not have to be an intellectual study. Anyone can read the Bible and by God's grace understand it. The main thing is that we pray for God's help as we read.

Some questions to help you think over and think through what you are reading include the following:

1. What have I learnt about God and about Jesus?
2. What does this teach me about humanity and myself?
3. What has most encouraged me from this book?

4. How does this teach me to love the Lord my God with all my heart, soul and mind? (Matt 22:37-40)
5. How does this teach me to love my neighbour as myself? (Matt 22:37-40)
6. Is there anything else I should learn here to be 'equipped for every good work' (2 Tim 3:17)

Matthew: What can we expect?

Matthew is a life story of Jesus written with Jewish recipients in mind. Matthew frequently refers to the Old Testament to show us that Jesus is the promised Messiah that the Jews had been waiting for.

Matthew begins by proving that Jesus was born in the promised family line (1:1-16), by the promised miracle (1:23). He came from the promised town and country (2:6,2:18). John the Baptist heralded the arrival of Jesus, as promised (3:3).

Jesus ministered to the people as God had promised his servant would (12:18-20) and ultimately died and rose again as was promised (27:9-10, 26:31, 12:40).

Matthew's gospel should have encouraged the Jews to see that God has always been true to His promises, and that those promises are fulfilled in Jesus. And as we read more of Jesus' life story we should see that we can trust Him in just the same way – that all the promises He makes to His disciples are also fulfilled.

Matthew ends with Jesus' famous commission for His disciples to go and tell the world of Him. A command they were able to follow because they had learnt to trust Him and they trusted the promise He made with the command.

Let's pray that our trust will grow as we read.

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CAREY BAPTIST
CHURCH

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