

Questions for Matthew Reading Plan:

Chapter 1:

1. Have you ever studied your family's ancestry? If so, did you find any real "characters" or questionable people in your family line?
2. Are there any "characters" or questionable people in Jesus's family line? Why is that important to know?
3. What is the craziest dream you've ever had?
4. What are three words you would use to describe Joseph after reading Matthew 1:18-25?

Chapter 2:

1. How would you describe the Magi from the east?
2. What was significant about their gifts?
3. How would you describe King Herod?
4. Has God ever spoken to you in a dream? If so, then what did He say?

Chapter 3:

1. How would you describe John the Baptist?
2. What words did Jesus hear at His baptism?
3. If God spoke these same words over you, then how would it make you feel? (In Christ, those words are true for you and me!)

Chapter 4:

1. Have you ever fasted from food? If so, then for how long? How did you feel at the end of your fast?
2. In what ways did Satan tempt Jesus?
3. Are you ever tempted in the same way that Jesus was?
4. What were Jesus's first words that He preached?
5. What was Jesus's invitation to the first disciples? What was their response?
6. What was the fruit of this NEW kingdom coming near?

Chapter 5:

1. If "Blessed" in the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:3-11) is replaced with "Happy," then in what ways do the Beatitudes read differently? Which Beatitude encourages or challenges you the most and why?
2. What roles to "salt" and "light" play in the kingdom of God?
3. How did Jesus fulfill the law and the prophecies of the prophets?
4. How does Jesus clarify what "murder" and "adultery" are in His eyes?
5. How does it make you feel to read Jesus's strong words about "divorce" and "oaths?"
6. How does Jesus totally turn upside down the "eye for an eye" and "love your neighbor and hate your enemy" teaching and thinking of the Old Testament?

Chapter 6:

1. What is a "hypocrite" and why is Jesus so hard on them?
2. What role does motivation play in the areas of giving, praying and fasting?
3. What role does the "Lord's Prayer" play in your personal prayer life? What can we learn from it? How can we apply what we learn?
4. What does a kingdom view of money look like?
5. What reason does Jesus give for not worrying?

Chapter 7:

1. What do you learn about “judging” from Jesus’s teaching in Matthew 7:1-6?
2. What is the significance of asking, seeking and knocking in a relationship with God?
3. What is the difference between “true” and “false” prophets?
4. What is the difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus personally?
5. Who or what are you building your life on?
6. What is one step you can take this week to become a “wise” builder?

Chapter 8:

1. Why do you think the leper questioned Jesus’s “willingness” to make him clean rather than his “power” to be able to do it?
2. What does “great faith” look like?
3. What does it mean or look like to be “all in” as a follower of Jesus?
4. If you had been a disciple on the boat with Jesus when He calmed the storm, what do you think your response would have been?
5. Why was Jesus able to drive out evil spirits from people?

Chapter 9:

1. Why did the teachers of the law say Jesus “blasphemed” when Jesus told the man lying on the mat that he was forgiven?
2. What is significant about the calling of Matthew?
3. What does “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Matthew 9:13) mean?
4. What are the differences and similarities between the bleeding woman and the synagogue leader’s daughter?
5. What is the relationship between “belief” or faith and Jesus’s miracles?
6. Are you praying daily and asking the “Lord of the harvest” to send the harvest workers that are needed into His harvest field? Why or why not?

Chapter 10:

1. What did Jesus give the disciples authority to do?
2. What does it mean to be sent out “like sheep among wolves?”
3. Why will it be important for the disciples to “be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves?”
4. What did Jesus mean when He said, “I did not come to bring peace, but a sword?”
5. Is there anyone or anything you love right now more than Jesus? What does verse 37 say about this?
6. Why is it so important to welcome people?

Chapter 11:

1. Why do you think John the Baptist asked Jesus the question, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?”
2. What was Jesus’s response? How do you think John responded to it?
3. Why do you think Jesus was so hard on Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum?
4. What is Jesus’s invitation in Matthew 11:28-30?
5. What does it mean to take Jesus’s yoke upon yourself?
6. What do you think “rest for your soul” looks and feels like?

Chapter 12:

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I desire mercy, not sacrifice?"
2. Why is it important to know that Jesus is "Lord of the Sabbath?"
3. Why did Jesus say, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand" (Matthew 12:25)?
4. What is "blasphemy against the Spirit" and why will it not be forgiven?
5. Why are our words so important and where do they come from?
6. How do you think Jesus's mother and brothers felt when they heard what Jesus said? How do you think the disciples felt? (See verses 48-50)

Chapter 13:

1. Why did Jesus speak to the people in parables?
2. How would you describe the different types of soil the seeds fell on?
3. What do you learn about the kingdom of God from the parable of the weeds?
4. What do "mustard seeds" and "yeast" have to do with the kingdom of God?
5. How are the parables of the treasure in a field and a pearl of great value similar and different?
6. What role does people's faith have in the miracles of Jesus?

Chapter 14:

1. Why was John the Baptist beheaded?
2. How did Jesus respond to the news of John's death?
3. What was Jesus's response to the crowd that met him when he landed in the boat?
4. How did Jesus and the disciples see the crowd differently? Which one saw the crowd as an opportunity and which one saw the crowd as a problem?
5. Who is the only person other than Jesus who can say he walked on water?
6. Was Jesus disappointed in Peter when they got back in the boat? Why or why not?

Chapter 15:

1. According to the Pharisees and teachers of the law, what defiles a person?
2. According to Jesus, what defiles a person?
3. Why do you think Jesus saw the Canaanite woman as a woman of great faith?
4. How was Jesus's feeding of the 4,000 similar to the feeding of the 5,000? How was it different?
5. Did the disciples do anything differently during this feeding?

Chapter 16:

1. What is the "sign of Jonah" Jesus spoke about in verse 4?
2. What is the "yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees" that Jesus warned his disciples about?
3. Who do the crowds of people say Jesus is?
4. What was Jesus's confession (verse 16) and why was it significant?
5. If you had been one of Jesus's 12 disciples, then what would have been your response to Jesus's prediction of his death?
6. Why did Jesus speak so strongly to Peter?

Chapter 17:

1. Why do you think Jesus brought Peter, James and John up on the mountain to experience the transfiguration?
2. Why do you think Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus? What do you think they talked about?
3. Have you ever heard what you thought or discerned to be the voice of God? What did he say?
4. How did the disciples respond to Jesus's second prediction of his death?
5. What do you learn about Jesus and his perfect provision in the story about the "Temple Tax?"

Chapter 18:

1. According to Jesus, who are the "greatest" in the kingdom?
2. Why is it important not to cause a child or someone with childlike faith to stumble?
3. What do we learn about the heart of God from the Parable of the Wandering Sheep?
4. What do verses 15-20 teach you about the messiness of doing life with others?
5. How many times are we to forgive our brother or sister?
6. How is forgiveness "from your heart" different?

Chapter 19:

1. What was God's initial design and purpose for marriage?
2. What does divorce have to do with "hardness of heart?"
3. What do you learn about the heart of God from Jesus's interaction with the children in verses 13-15?
4. Is it possible to "do" enough to get eternal life?
5. What are the seemingly "impossible" things in your life that Jesus declares, "With God all things are possible?" What would you do differently if you really believed this?

Chapter 20:

1. How would you feel if you were the worker hired first? Hired last?
2. What was different about this prediction of Jesus's death?
3. What does it take to be great in the kingdom of God?
4. What do you want Jesus to do for you?
5. Do you believe that Jesus reaches out to you with compassion and with a desire to give you eyes to see? Why or why not?

Chapter 21:

1. Have you ever received specific instructions from Jesus? If so, then did you follow them? If so, then what happened?
2. What does "Hosanna" mean?
3. How is the church, the "house of God" called to be a house of prayer for all nations?
4. Why do you think Jesus often answered a question with a question?
5. Which son in the Parable of the Two Sons do you relate to most and why?
6. What was the reaction of the Pharisees to Jesus's parables?

Chapter 22

1. What is one thing you learned about God or the kingdom from the Parable of the Wedding Banquet?
2. What do you think Jesus meant by "For many are invited, but few are chosen?"
3. Why do you think that Jesus's answer in verse 21 amazed the Pharisees to the point of them walking away?
4. How does not knowing the Scriptures or the power of God make you prone to error?
5. What does it look like to love God with all of your heart, soul and mind?
6. How does loving God lead to loving your neighbor?

Chapter 23:

1. What is the relationship between humbling yourself and exalting yourself? What is the result of each?
2. What does it mean to "strain out a gnat but swallow a camel?"
3. Have you ever heard Jesus say "Woe to you..."? If so, then how did you respond?
4. What does our "willingness" have to do with Jesus being able to gather to himself an individual or group of people?

Chapter 24:

1. Why do you think Jesus said, "Watch out that no one deceives you?"
2. What kind of persecution did Jesus predict in verse 9?
3. What kinds of persecutions do Christians face today?
4. What do these words from Jesus mean to you, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away?"
5. Even though no one knows the day or the hour of Jesus's coming, why do you think Jesus still challenges the disciples to "keep watch?"

Chapter 25:

1. What do the "oil" and "lamps" represent in the Parable of the Virgins?
2. What is a "steward?"
3. What do you learn about being a good steward from the Parable of the Bags of Gold?
4. What would Jesus look like in the people you come in contact with on a daily basis?
5. Why do you think both the "sheep" and the "goats" didn't recognize Jesus in the "least of these?"

Chapter 26:

1. How do you think the woman felt when she heard Jesus say, "Wherever this Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her?"
2. Have you ever been betrayed by a friend? If so, then what feelings did you experience as a result of it?
3. When you read that Jesus was "overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death," how does it make you feel? Can you relate to that feeling?
4. Have you ever prayed "not as I will, but as you will?" What kind of prayer is this prayer an example of?
5. Have you ever been falsely accused by others? If so, then what did it feel like?
6. What is the result of Peter denying and disowning Jesus?

Chapter 27:

1. How did Judas and Peter respond differently after being “seized with remorse?”
2. In what ways can you relate to the crowd before Pilate? To Barabbas?
3. What is flogging and what is the usual result of being flogged?
4. How did Pilate’s soldiers treat Jesus after his flogging?
5. What is significant about Jesus asking the question, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
6. How secure was the tomb after Jesus’s death and burial?

Chapter 28:

1. What happened on the morning of the day that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb?
2. What was the response of the women to the angel’s words?
3. Why do some people think that Jesus’s followers “came during the night and stole him away?”
4. Is it possible to worship Jesus and have doubt at the same time?
5. Who ultimately has “all authority” even though it may not look or feel like it?
6. What did Jesus commission the disciples to go and do?
7. What is the importance of these words from verse 20 – “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age?”