

# The Gospel According to Matthew

Fall 2014

## Class Schedule

Date	Lesson	Text	Teacher
Sunday, Nov. 2	1	Chapters 1-4	Jason
Wednesday, Nov. 5	2	Chapters 5:1-6:8	Mason
Sunday, Nov. 9	3	Chapters 6:9-7:29	Jason
Wednesday, Nov. 12	4	Chapters 8-9	Mason
Sunday, Nov. 16	5	Chapters 10-11	Jason
Wednesday, Nov. 19	6	Chapters 12-13	Mason
Sunday, Nov. 23	7	Chapters 14-15	Mason
<i>Wednesday, Nov. 26</i>	---	<i>No Class – All in Auditorium</i>	---
Sunday, Nov. 30	8	Chapters 16-18	Jason
Wednesday, Dec. 3	9	Chapters 19-20	Jason
Sunday, Dec. 7	10	Chapters 21-22	Mason
Wednesday, Dec. 10	11	Chapters 23-24	Mason
Sunday, Dec. 14	12	Chapters 25-26	Jason
Wednesday, Dec. 17	13	Chapters 27-28	Jason

## Lesson Sheets

To help us increase our Bible study skills, we want to facilitate a discussion-based approach to Bible study in this class. The lesson sheets appear very simple, but it will take some effort in advance to participate meaningfully in class discussions. Below are some suggestions for profitable preparation:

1. Read the selected text at least twice all the way through. The more you read, the more you learn.
2. Take some time to think about your answers to the lesson questions. These are not answers you can quickly find in the text and copy onto the lesson sheet.
3. Form opinions about what the text means, and come to class prepared to share, but also to defend, your ideas.
4. Know that there is an absolute, discoverable meaning to a passage. It's okay to misunderstand a passage, but it's not okay to insist on your interpretation once you discover that you misunderstood the text. Stay humble in your exploration of God's Word.
5. Give consideration to the Thought Question each time. Write on the back of the lesson sheet, too.

## Themes of the Book

Each of the Gospels was written with a specific first audience in mind (though they are each applicable to all people), and each Gospel explores themes that are tailored to its audience's background and needs.

Gospel	Author	Primary Audience	Themes/Characteristics
<i>Matthew</i>	Matthew, an Apostle	Jews	Messiah and Kingdom
<i>Mark</i>	Mark, an early disciple (recording from Peter?)	Romans	action and miracles
<i>Luke</i>	Luke, a Gentile convert and physician	(educated) Greek believers	historical documentation
<i>John</i>	John, an Apostle	doubting Christians	belief and knowing

*Matthew* was written to convince Jewish readers that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah who had already set up the kingdom God had promised to David's heirs. Two of *Matthew's* themes are:

1. **The Prophesied Messiah** – Matthew opens his Gospel with several direct proofs that Jesus is the prophesied Christ. Phrases like "to fulfill the scripture" or "as it is written" abound in Matthew's text, showing Christ to be the fulfillment of God's eternal plan to redeem His people.
2. **The Coming Kingdom** – Jews in Matthew's time expected the Kingdom that God promised to David to be established in their lifetimes. Matthew records many of Jesus' teachings about the Kingdom, and also quotes from the Prophets to prove that Jesus established His kingdom, but that it is not the kingdom the Jews had come to expect.

In each lesson, we will look for these themes in the text, understand their significance, and make application to our personal walks and evangelistic efforts.

**Lesson 1**  
Chapters 1-4

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* What do you think Jesus means when He asks John to baptize Him, and says in 3:15: "for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness"?

**Lesson 2**  
Chapters 5:1-6:8

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Pick a verse from the selected reading that you think encapsulates the message of the Sermon on the Mount. Explain why this verse is a good summary of Jesus' message in this sermon.

### Lesson 3

Chapters 6:9-7:29

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* In 7:16-23, what is the difference between those whom Jesus rewards and those He condemns? What do you think this difference would look like in day-to-day life?

**Lesson 4**  
Chapters 8-9

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* In 8:18-22, why do you think Jesus is so harsh to people who ask to follow him? What connection do you think this story has with the stories that follow in chapters 8 and 9?

**Lesson 5**  
Chapters 10-11

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Why do you think Matthew waits so long in his book to reveal that John the Baptist was the prophesied "Elijah" from Malachi 3:1? (Luke reveals it in chapter 1 of his gospel.)

**Lesson 6**  
Chapters 12-13

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* What does Jesus mean when He says in 13:11, "to you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of Heaven, but to them it has not been given"? Why and how is the truth of the Gospel hidden or kept back from some people, and given to others?

**Lesson 7**  
Chapters 14-15

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Why do you think Jesus devotes so much effort (in this chapter and others) to criticizing the Pharisees, and to correcting their doctrinal errors?



**Lesson 8**  
Chapters 16-18

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* What do you think the Transfiguration means? Why was Jesus transformed, and why did Moses and Elijah appear?

**Lesson 9**  
Chapters 19-20

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Look at the story of the rich young man, the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, and the story of James and John's mother. What message do you think all these stories have in common? How might this message tie in with the theme of The Coming Kingdom?

**Lesson 10**  
Chapters 21-22

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Why do you think Jesus waits so long in Matthew's account to start asking the Pharisees and Sadducees difficult or unanswerable questions? What is He accomplishing by posing these questions?

**Lesson 11**  
Chapters 23-24

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* From your own experience in your life or someone else's, write down an example of each of the behaviors for which Jesus criticizes the Pharisees. How do we outgrow these behaviors?

**Lesson 12**  
Chapters 25-26

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Find as many evidences as you can in these two chapters that Jesus was in control of the events described. Why are these evidences important for us to know and understand?

**Lesson 13**  
Chapters 27-28

1. Summarize the selected text in a paragraph of 7-10 sentences.
2. List 4 or 5 applications discussed in the selected text that you can make to your life.
3. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "Jesus as the Prophesied Messiah."
4. List 3 or 4 items from the text (verses, stories, images, etc.) that demonstrate our theme of "The Coming Kingdom."
5. *Thought Question:* Why do you think Matthew's account of the Gospel ends so abruptly after the Resurrection, as opposed to Luke or John's accounts?