



**FBC Reading Plan**  
October 2020

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

**Why a Reading Plan:** God speaks to people through His Word. It is what He uses to transform our lives by orienting our minds toward His truth and aligning our heart toward what He loves. The aim of this reading plan is not to merely check a box off a list, but to encourage our church body to spend time hearing from God. Reading the Bible is critical to a Christian's growth. But it is especially powerful to read the Bible with others. This reading plan is the basis for all of our D-Groups, and we hope it fosters deeper spiritual conversations in our families and between our members.

**How to use this booklet:** Each day has a passage of Scripture for you to read. There are also some questions to prompt your reading and reflecting on the passage. We encourage the H.E.A.R. method for reading Scripture, especially if it is a new discipline for you. First, **highlight** a verse or verses that speak to you from the passage. Then, **explain** what those verses mean in relation to the broader context and how they support the big idea the author is trying to communicate. Next, **apply** this verse to your everyday life. For example, how should this change your desires, your behavior, or your relationships? Application should always be done in a spirit of prayer, as you are asking God to reveal to you how it applies. Finally, it is not enough to settle for knowing some truth or how it might apply to your life without a specific response. So finally **respond**. This can be a prayer or a specific action you will take after hearing this verse or passage.

**Memory Verse:** Because Scripture is God's Word, it is important that a Christian spend regular time memorizing God's Word so that he or she can always find encouragement and guidance from God. This month's memory passage is provided on the next page in the ESV, NIV, and NLT.

### Application:

Which parable(s) resonates most with you today? How does it apply to your life?

### Response:

Are your ears hearing and your eyes seeing God and his kingdom today?

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

**Day 5** Highlight: Matthew 13 Memory Verse: Romans 3:26

### Explanation:

Why does Jesus speak in parables? What are all of the parables about?

## October's Memory Verses

21 But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, 25 whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. 26 It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

**Romans 3:21-26 (ESV)**

21 But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. 22 This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. 25 God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— 26 he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

**Romans 3:21-26 (NIV)**

21 But now God has shown us a way to be made right with him without keeping the requirements of the law, as was promised in the writings of Moses and the prophets long ago. 22 We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are. 23 For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. 24 Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. 25 For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, 26 for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus.

**Romans 3:21-26 (NLT)**

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Revelation 16 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:21-22

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 9:30-10:4

### **Explanation:**

Once again there is a cycle of seven. This time it is the seven bowls of the wrath of God. These bowls send plagues on the earth that devastate it. The climax comes with the seventh bowl which shakes the whole earth (the climax is similar to the seventh seal (8:5) and the seventh trumpet (11:19)). What stands out to you about this description of God's wrath?

Why are God's judgments "true and just" (v. 7)?

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

### **Application:**

If "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned," which outcome are you more likely to face (v. 37)?

### **Response:**

Pray that God's Spirit would continue to purify your heart so that you may bear more fruit.

**Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 26th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Matthew 12      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:26

**Explanation:**

Several times in this chapter, Jesus opposes the religious leaders. For what reasons are they opposed to one another?

**Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ**  
Starting Date October 5th

**Application:**

How does this chapter affect your understanding of who God is?

**Response:**

Trust that God is powerful enough to establish justice in all the earth despite all the evil that exists.

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

**Day 2** Highlight: Revelation 17 Memory Verse: Romans 3:21-22

### Explanation:

Chapters 17-18 focus on “Babylon the great” who is a “great prostitute” (v. 5, 1). This judgment was mentioned in 16:19 and is elaborated on here. “Babylon” refers to Rome (the seven hills in v. 9 probably refer to Rome’s topography), which had persecuted the early church (v. 6), but could also refer more broadly to any worldly empire. Such empires appear beautiful and are powerful and yet are full of filth, immorality, and idolatry. It is incredibly difficult to say who the kings are in vv. 10ff. However, what is clear is that the ornate prostitute will be ripped to shreds by the beast that once carried her (v. 16). And in all of this, “the Lamb will conquer them” (v. 14). What is John teaching us about the danger of political power and dominance? Why are great world empires and nations prone to sexual immorality, abominations, and violence?

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

### Application:

If Jesus’s yoke is easy and he offers rest to our souls, why did so many reject him during his life on earth? Why do so many reject him today?

### Response:

Does Jesus’s yoke seem easy and his burden light to you today?

**Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 26th

**Day 3** Highlight: Matthew 11      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:26

**Explanation:**

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Why is John the Baptist a significant figure in redemptive history?

**Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ**  
Starting Date October 5th

**Application:**

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What warning should we hear in this for us as Americans, citizens of one of the world's most powerful nations?

**Response:**

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Praise the Lamb who will conquer all the forces of evil in this world.

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Revelation 18 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:21-22

### **Explanation:**

This chapter continues ch 17 by elaborating on the destruction of Babylon, the great city, which in a single hour has been laid waste (v. 10, 17, 19). Despite her power, beauty, and wealth, God remembers her many sins and finally brings judgment against her. The chapter's tone is quite sorrowful (vv. 9-11, 15-20). Why does her judgment cause so much mourning?

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

### **Application:**

What does this passage teach you about following Jesus? To what extent are they true of you?

### **Response:**

Meditate on v. 37. How are you responding to Jesus's words today?



## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Matthew 10

*Memory Verse:* Romans 3:26

### **Explanation:**

Despite the headings you may have in your Bible, vv. 5-42 are all one address to the disciples before he sends them out (note the repeated phrases in v. 5 and 11:1). What should the disciples expect to face as they proclaim the coming of the kingdom? How are they to respond?

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

### **Application:**

God's people are commanded to come out of her to avoid sharing in her sins (v. 4). How does a Christian live in the midst of "Babylon" without participating in her sins?

### **Response:**

God will repay all evildoers for their evil (vv. 4-8). How does that comfort you today?

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Revelation 19 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:21-22

### **Explanation:**

The great prostitute has been judged, and now the Bride of the Lamb is revealed, ready for her wedding day to the Lamb. Three cries of “Hallelujah!” resound in heaven because the great prostitute has been permanently condemned (“The smoke from her goes up forever and ever” (v. 3)), and the wedding feast of the Lamb and his Bride is soon approaching. But Jesus must first destroy the beast and the false prophet and those who follow them (vv. 11ff). He is dressed like a warrior, but his only weapon is the sword of his mouth. And although armies are prepared for war, there is hardly even a battle. Rather, there is a swift, decisive victory by the words of the Word of God (vv. 19-21; cf. v. 13). Why is this scene of judgment cause for praising God?

## Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 26th

### **Application:**

In what ways does faith in Jesus motivate action in this passage? What about your own life?

### **Response:**

Meditate on and pray, “Have mercy on me, Son of David” (v. 27).

**Week 4: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 26th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Matthew 9      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:26

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 11:1-10

**Explanation:**

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What does this mean: "I desire mercy, and not sacrifice" (v. 13)?

Why will Jesus's disciples fast?

**Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ**  
Starting Date October 5th

**Application:**

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He who is called "Faithful and True" will judge in righteousness. How does that affect your life today?

**Response:**

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Praise the Lord for his justice, and pray that he would come soon to eradicate sin and evil from our world.

## Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

**Day 5** **Highlight:** Revelation 20 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:21-22

### **Explanation:**

After the beast and false prophet are thrown into the lake of fire (19:20) Satan himself must be dealt with. He is imprisoned in order to make way for the millennial reign of Christ along with his resurrected people (or martyrs). In one final effort Satan tries to attack God's people, but he and his forces are quickly and entirely consumed (v. 9-10). Then, God's final judgment can be rendered for each person according to the book of life and what they had done (v. 12). What encouragement would this chapter have given to the people who first received this letter?

How does judgment of each person "according to what they had done" (vv. 12, 13) fit within the rest of the book of Revelation?

## Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 19th

### **Application:**

In this chapter, Jesus interacts with social outcasts: a leper, a Gentile (the centurion), and a demon-possessed man. Whom can you reach out to today that others have avoided or neglected?

### **Response:**

What in your life are you afraid of? What is the strength of your faith today? Acknowledge these things to God (cf. v. 26).

### Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 19th

**Day 5**

**Highlight:** Matthew 8

*Memory Verse:* Romans 3:25

#### **Explanation:**

How does the centurion (vv. 5ff) exhibit faith?

In this chapter we see Jesus as fully human — he suffers by not having a place to lay his head (v. 20) — and as fully divine — he calms a storm and confronts a demon-possessed man everyone else avoided (v. 28ff). How do these passages inform your understanding of who Jesus is?

### Week 1: The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Starting Date October 5th

#### **Application:**

How should you live today as a person who could escape the first death and who will be judged according to your works?

#### **Response:**

Pray for God's Spirit to give you faith, hope, and love as you wait for Jesus to return and establish his kingdom.

## Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 12th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Revelation 21 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:23-24

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 10:5-13

### **Explanation:**

Now that judgment has been given against sin and all the forces of evil destroyed, God finally comes to earth to dwell with his people, with the ones who have conquered (v. 3-4, 7, 22-23). John reveals to believers that God's ultimate plan is to restore all creation as a place where God and his people can dwell forever. The city's measurements reminiscent of the tabernacle's and temple's beauty, its foundations and walls of the breastplate of the high priest, and its dimensions as a cube of the holy of holies. Now the heavenly temple is revealed in all of its glory on earth. Describe in your own words what God's ultimate plan is for his creation and his people.

## Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 19th

### **Application:**

A wise person builds her life on the words of Jesus. She understands them and obeys them. Is your life prepared for the rain, flood, and wind?

### **Response:**

"The way is hard that leads to life" (v. 14). Are you resolved to do whatever it takes to enter through the narrow gate?

**Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 19th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Matthew 7      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:25

**Explanation:**

How can a person prophesy, cast out demons, and do mighty works in Jesus's name and yet not enter the kingdom of heaven?

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Application:**

What must someone do to enter the new heavens and the new earth?

**Response:**

Meditate on the glories of this coming, eternal reality. How does this vision help you live faithfully today?

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Day 2** **Highlight:** Revelation 22    *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:23-24

**Explanation:**

After finishing his description of the new heavens and new earth, Jesus gives a final warning that he is coming soon (vv. 7, 12) and the message of this book must be spread widely throughout the churches (vv. 10, 16). What are some of the main messages of Revelation that are summarized in this final chapter?

**Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 19th

**Application:**

Why do we do things in order to be seen by others? What is the remedy to those sorts of sins?

**Response:**

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness” (v. 33).



**Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 19th

**Day 3** Highlight: Matthew 6 Memory Verse: Romans 3:25

**Explanation:**

What is the danger of practicing your righteousness before other people (v. 1)?

What is the root sin behind anxiety?

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Application:**

John is commanded to not seal up this prophecy because it will greatly benefit the church. How does this chapter, and the book as a whole, motivate you to live faithfully?

**Response:**

Perhaps more than anything else, this book should teach us to pray, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Day 3** **Highlight:** Matthew 1      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:23-24

**Explanation:**

This genealogy traces Jesus's lineage back to David (as the Messiah) and to Abraham (the father of the Jewish people). Why is this important?

The Messiah (Christ) is given two names. What are they and what do they mean (v. 21-23)?

**Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 19th

**Application:**

Of the sins listed in vv. 21-48, which in particular has been tempting you recently? How can you overcome it?

**Response:**

It is through obeying Jesus's commands that you are salt and light in the world. Have you been salt and light recently?

### Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 19th

**Day 2**

**Highlight:** Matthew 5

*Memory Verse:* Romans 3:25

#### **Explanation:**

In chapters 5-7, Jesus describes how people should live who belong to his kingdom. How does Jesus follow his own teaching in this chapter that no one should relax a single one of God's commandments (v. 19)?

### Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 12th

#### **Application:**

In the person of Jesus, God is with us. What does that mean for you today?

#### **Response:**

Praise God that he has fulfilled his promises in and through Jesus Christ.

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Day 4** **Highlight:** Matthew 2      *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:23-24

**Explanation:**

Why is Jesus a threat to Herod?

It is Gentiles who are the first to come and worship Jesus while the king in Jerusalem sought to kill Jesus. How does this foreshadow Jesus's ministry?

**Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 19th

**Application:**

Why do Jesus's followers become "fishers of men" (v. 19)? Does this describe your life?

**Response:**

Consider the temptations of Jesus. Are you being tempted in any similar ways? How can you fight against those temptations?

### Week 3: The Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 19th

**Day 1** **Highlight:** Matthew 4 *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:25

*Sunday's Message:* Romans 10:14-21

#### **Explanation:**

Jesus is tempted three times by the devil. In each case, what sins is Jesus tempted to commit?

### Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew

Starting Date October 12th

#### **Application:**

How should Jesus's followers expect to be treated in the world based on this passage?

#### **Response:**

Both Herod and the wise men seek out Jesus, but with entirely different motives. What are your motives in seeking out Jesus?

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Day 5**   **Highlight:** Matthew 3   *Memory Verse:* Romans 3:23-24

**Explanation:**

What was John doing in the desert of Judea?

Why did John condemn the Pharisees and Sadducees?

**Week 2: Revelation & the Gospel of Matthew**  
Starting Date October 12th

**Application:**

What does it mean for you to “bear fruit in keeping with repentance” (v. 8)?

**Response:**

What good fruit are you bearing?