



Check In

Connect with God honestly about where you are at



Reflect

"Review until" something pops to talk to God about



Share

Talk with God & others about what is now on your heart to do

Matthew

Session 2 - The Magi & Escape from Egypt

Check-In

God is glad to connect with you. He wants to hear about how you are doing. Take a moment to notice your primary emotion of the day to help yourself be fully present. Consider whether you are primarily sad, angry, scared, happy, tender, etc. Share with God that emotion. Write out: What are you thankful about? Ask him, "How does he feel about you?"

Reflect

Spend some time with the biblical texts and the resources below. Do so until something, in particular, pops out to you; you do not need to get through everything. Talk with God about what encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

Read Matthew 2:1-23

Matthew has introduced Jesus as King, through his Davidic genealogy with Gentiles. Now he follows it with a story about Gentile magi being the ones to honor Jesus as King, while the Jewish king seeks to kill him. The natural question is: Who is this King that is "God with us," rejected by Jews, but honored by Gentiles? This was likely a core question of the Matthean churches he was writing to. Matthew ties Jesus' escape and return from Egypt to what the Jews had done historically in the Exodus.

Immanuel, God With Us - What is it like to be with Jesus?

Teaching, as revelation - What does Jesus' teaching reveal about reality? God? People? The world? The enemy?

The Church - What do you learn about the true Israel and the community of people shaped by life with Jesus?

Read the commentary, *The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church* on "[Magi & Egypt](#)"

Share

Be quiet for 3 minutes. What do you sense God is saying to you? How will you pursue being faithful with that this week? The community is blessed when we share out of our life experiences, gifting, time with God, and reflect on scripture. We believe everyone contributes to teaching. What insight, question, or experience do you want to share with us?

Steps for Church Families of Prayerful Love:

- What are you thankful for? What challenges are happening in your life, family, and community?
- What did you like/not like about the Scripture?
- What did you learn about God and people from the Scripture?
- What do you sense God inviting you to live out with him this week?
- Who do you know who needs to hear this?
- Ask God: How can I bless (body, labor, emotions, social, spiritual) those people who need this?