



**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 4 - Life in the Kingdom of the Heaven

#### 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 pops out to you; feel free to stop when the Lord prompts you this way. Talk with God about what encourages, challenges, or confuses you.

#### Read Matthew 4:1-11

*Matthew introduced Jesus as the Promised King and Messiah. While doing so, he raised the question, "Who is the true Israel?" by exploring Herod as king, John as prophet, and the Pharisees and Sadducees as priests. Jesus now demonstrates the life of the true Israel in his baptism (3:13-17), temptation (4:1-11), and beginning ministry (4:12-25). Jesus will teach about the Life of the Kingdom of Heaven in the Sermon on the Mount (5:1-7:29). Jesus' baptism demonstrates this kind of life begins with humility and repentance. Jesus' temptation shows this life stands in ongoing opposition and rejection of temptation and evil.*

**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 "[Temptation of Christ](#)"

#### 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, gifts, 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 think God is inviting you to live 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?