



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 6 - The Message of 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.

Listen to, or Read, Matthew 5:1-7:28

Matthew has shown Jesus as the embodiment of Life in the Kingdom of Heaven through his surrender (repentance) to the Father's will, resisting temptation and evil in the wilderness, and calling the disciples to renounce their old ways of life. To unpack the implications of the life of a disciple in repentance, resistance, and renunciation, Matthew records Jesus' repeated message about the Kingdom of Heaven in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus would have given a version of this sermon on a "circuit," repeating it from town to town (see the Sermon on the Plain in Luke 6:17-49). Matthew records the time Jesus gave it on a mount, clearly placing him as another Torah-giver like Moses. This is the continued revelation of God as King, which began with Moses, now the incarnate Son of God. This week, simply take in the whole message. Hear Jesus speak. Notice how the blessed life is a light to the world, how the true Israel (people of God) both practice and teach righteousness, and how this life stems from relational connection with the Father, through the Son, empowered by the Spirit. We will take the next seven weeks to unpack the specifics of Jesus' teaching.

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 excerpts from [The Message of the Sermon on the Mount](#) and [The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing](#)

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?