



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 7 - Vision for the Heavenly Life

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 5:1-16

Jesus' vision for life in the Kingdom of Heaven is rooted in God's ultimate blessing of his people. While God's Kingdom is present in Jesus, it is not yet fully manifest across all reality. Like the prophets of old, the Church/true Israel will not appear to be blessed. They will embrace their poverty of spirit, grief over the world's brokenness, powerlessness, reliance on God for justice and provision, vulnerability for being merciful, and the public shame and persecution from pursuing inward righteousness. Their life in the Kingdom will be light and an invitation to the world to come home to God. The people listening to Jesus would be living examples of how God's blessing had fallen on unexpected people, as he had just been calling them to repentance, healing their sicknesses, and freeing them from demonization. His Kingdom had come, even though they were still primarily unremarkable people in a small province of the Roman Empire.

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 this excerpt from [*The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church*](#) by Farley

NOTE: Is there something you, or your family, need in light of this part of the Sermon? To be heard, prayer, time to practice, or shepherding (truth-telling, encouragement, or support)?

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?