



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 13 - Bringing the Kingdom to All

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 8:1-22

Matthew is done summarizing the announcement of the Kingdom of God and the natural response of repentance, resisting temptation and evil, and renouncing our human ways. The crowds are marveling at Jesus' authoritative teaching about the Heavenly Life. Matthew's narrative now shifts to Jesus bringing the Kingdom to all people and places validated by his power and authority. These healing stories confirm the Kingdom extends to the cultural outcasts by touching the sick (8:1-4), visiting a Gentile (8:5-13) and touching Peter's mother (8:14-15). No one is excluded from God's generous Kingdom (8:16-17). Each person responds to the Kingdom with worship (8:2), faith (8:8) and service (8:15). Ultimately, God's Kingdom is to come into our individual lives and take primacy over personal priorities and familial or social associations (8:18-22).

Pay attention to these recurring themes in The Gospel of Matthew:

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?

Revisit [The Gospel of Matthew Part 1](#) by The Bible Project and read this excerpt from [The Gospel of Matthew: Torah for the Church](#) by Farley

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. Everyone contributes to teaching. What insight, question, or experience do you want to share?

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?