



**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 15 - Responding to the Kingdom

#### 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 9:9-38

*Matthew finalizes this narrative section by framing the response to the Kingdom with the impossible calling of a tax collector (Matthew himself), bringing the dead to life, making the blind see, and the mute speak. Each of these stories embodies a trust and pursuit of the Kingdom in response to Jesus. The autobiographical placement of Matthew's story cannot be missed. His story of being hated by the Hebrews as a collaborator with Rome and an occupation known for taking more than what was fair and being transformed into a follower of Christ is just as powerful as the other miraculous examples and far more personal for the author and audience. Against these responses of faith from social outsiders are the Pharisees' stubbornness to see God at work. The point of all these stories is the outward confirmation of the inward devotion and surrender that the Pharisees misunderstood (9:13). The three previous sessions encapsulate how Matthew prepares his hearers for sending the Twelve Apostles in chapter 10. They have seen Jesus bring the Kingdom to all people in power and the responses of faith and resistance he experienced.*

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?

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?