



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 16 - Agents of Kingdom *Hesed*

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 9:38-10:15

Matthew has presented Jesus' example of bringing the Kingdom with generosity for all people, power for all dimensions of life, and full of "hesed" (9:13 quoting Hosea 6:6 on God's desired loyal love, mercy, or compassion) for the hurting. He now gathers an anthology of Jesus' teaching about his disciples (the true Israel) being agents of hesed, bringing peace and healing as manifestations of the forgiveness of sins. Jesus frames his continued mission under the guidance of the Father (Lord of the harvest), by his power and authority, and through dispersed partners to reach the rest of Israel, and eventually the world. He continues the practice of small bands or partnerships as shared agents of the Kingdom. He prepares them to share his heart for people (Israel first) and share in the hardship and rejection of being his agents.

What do you notice about how Jesus' example and mission are fulfilled in small bands or partnerships? Who are your god-given partners in bringing Kingdom Hesed (consider spouse, parents, mutual discipleship partners, etc)?

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?