



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 17 - Anticipating Resistance with Crafty Innocence

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 10:16-33

Matthew continues his anthology of Jesus' teaching on being agents of Kingdom hesed (loyal love) with collections of sayings that look beyond the 12's present mission and what will unfold for the church. The focus here is on the resistance disciples will face. This would be unexpected for Hebrews anticipating the Messiah's military and political victory over Rome and the re-establishment of Israel. Matthew's churches likely feel similarly about the unexpected unfolding of the church primarily among the Gentles. These words remind us all to depend on the gift of the Spirit empowering and emboldening us to tell the truth about Jesus as God and King. Similarly, it reminds us of the radical care of God, down to the hairs on our heads, when we live out his missional purposes. Jesus vividly depicts how we must be snakes without venom as we live like him. We shall not look to strike back but instead craftily avoid violence while maintaining the innocently righteous life he invited us into during the Sermon on the Mount.

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?