



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 20 - Proud Resistance or the Relief of Surrender

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 11:20-30

Matthew continues building the picture of how people respond to the Kingdom by moving from wrestling with doubt to wrestling with pride. He contrasts the cost of pride with the relief of surrender to Jesus' Kingship. Upon the completion of the tour of ministry he and his disciples have done, there are whole cities that have predominantly rejected the good news of the Kingdom. These people have put themselves pridefully against God's Kingdom and face present woe and eternal consequences, which Matthew's Hebrew audience would relate to the curse of breaking the covenant from the Torah (the first 5 books in the Bible which reveal God's desire to be the Saving King of the new people of Israel). Jesus' prayer reminds us of his dependence upon his Father in the face of rejection and how much to celebrate in the experience of life with God shared with those who willingly surrender to Jesus' Kingship.

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?