

FOURTY-DAY READING PLAN



40 DAYS THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

We all need encouragement to read the Bible regularly. Maybe one thing that's kept you from consistent Bible reading is not knowing what to read or where to turn. Our goal in providing this reading plan is to provide a starting point. We also pray it provides a sense of togetherness and mutual accountability as many in our church utilize this plan together.

If you miss a day or two, don't give up or beat yourself up. Instead, rest in God's grace, and combine readings to catch up. Every seventh day (Sunday) is left open as a day set aside for review and reflection, or reading any passages missed that week. And remember, the goal isn't to check the box and move on but to use this time to better know God, follow Him, be changed, and mirror Christ to others.

WEEK 1

"But Jesus answered, It is written 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" (4:4)

■	DAY 1	JAN. 4	MATTHEW 1:1-25	■	DAY 4	JAN. 7	4:1-25
■	DAY 2	JAN. 5	2:1-23	■	DAY 5	JAN. 8	5:1-12
■	DAY 3	JAN. 6	3:1-17	■	DAY 6	JAN. 9	5:13-6:4
				■	DAY 7	JAN. 10	REST DAY

WEEK 2

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (6:33-34)

■	DAY 8	JAN. 11	6:5-15	■	DAY 11	JAN. 14	8:1-22
■	DAY 9	JAN. 12	6:16-34	■	DAY 12	JAN. 15	8:23-34
■	DAY 10	JAN. 13	7:1-29	■	DAY 13	JAN. 16	9:1-38
				■	DAY 14	JAN. 17	REST DAY

WEEK 3

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (11:28-30)

■	DAY 15	JAN. 18	10:1-42	■	DAY 18	JAN. 21	13:1-23
■	DAY 16	JAN. 19	11:1-30	■	DAY 19	JAN. 22	11:3:24-58
■	DAY 17	JAN. 20	12:1-50	■	DAY 20	JAN. 23	14:1-36
				■	DAY 21	JAN. 24	REST DAY

WEEK 4

"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (16:24)

■	DAY 22	JAN. 25	15:1-39	■	DAY 25	JAN. 28	18:1-34
■	DAY 23	JAN. 26	16:1-28	■	DAY 26	JAN. 29	19:1-30
■	DAY 24	JAN. 27	17:1-27	■	DAY 27	JAN. 30	20:1-34
				■	DAY 28	JAN. 31	REST DAY

WEEK 5

"And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!'" (21:9)

■	DAY 29	FEB. 1	21:1-22	■	DAY 32	FEB. 4	23:1-39
■	DAY 30	FEB. 2	21:23-46	■	DAY 33	FEB. 5	24:1-51
■	DAY 31	FEB. 3	22:1-46	■	DAY 34	FEB. 6	25:1-46
				■	DAY 35	FEB. 7	REST DAY

WEEK 6

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (11:28-30)

■	DAY 36	FEB. 8	26:1-35	■	DAY 39	FEB. 11	27:32-66
■	DAY 37	FEB. 9	26:36-75	■	DAY 40	FEB. 12	28:1-20
■	DAY 38	FEB. 10	27:1-31				

MATTHEW RESOURCES

Below are a few recommended books and commentaries focused on knowing Jesus and resting in him. Reading one of these alongside your study of Matthew might be a great way to keep your heart refreshed in Christ.

COMMENTARIES

Bottom-Shelf

[The Message of Matthew](#) by Matthew Green

[Exalting Jesus in Matthew](#) by David Platt

[Matthew](#) by R.T. France

[Matthew](#) by Craig S. Keener

[Matthew: All Authority in Heaven and on Earth](#) by Douglas Sean O'Donnell

Top-Shelf

[Matthew](#) by Grant Osborne

[The Gospel of Matthew](#) by R.T. France

[The Gospel According to Matthew](#) by Leon Morris

[Matthew: A Commentary](#) by Fredrick Brunner

STUDY HELPS

[Matthew \(Knowing the Bible\)](#) by Drew Hunter

[ESV Scripture Journal](#) or [ESV Illuminated Scripture Journal](#)

[Dig into Matthew: A Daily Study Bible](#) by Chris Ranson

["Knowing the Bible: Matthew"](#) (Online Course) by Drew Hunter

[Charles Spurgeon Sermons List on Matthew](#) and [Commentary on Matthew](#) by Charles Spurgeon

["Matthew \(Part 1\)"](#) and ["Matthew \(Part 2\)"](#) by The Bible Project

["Why Study the Book of Matthew?"](#) by Drew Hunter

["The Gospel in Matthew"](#) by Frank Thielman

QUESTIONS TO ASK

WHEN STUDYING THE BIBLE

A key part of understanding and applying what we read is to read the Bible reflectively. The questions below are not exhaustive, but they provide the framework of Look, Understand, Apply, and Pray to help guide your reading. Find ways that help you study and apply God's Word. Take notes; write down thoughts and prayers; ask questions; chew on or meditate on what you see; and ask a friend or use a good Study Bible or commentary if something doesn't make sense.

As you get started, protect yourself from distractions as much as you can. Put away your phone, email, social media, or TV. If possible, get alone in a semi-quiet place. Grab your Bible, a pencil, and a notepad. Pray for God's Spirit to give you understanding of what you read, to help you know and love God more, and to change you through it.

LOOK (WHAT DO I SEE?)

1. What stood out to me right away, or what did I notice? Is there anything new I've not noticed before?
2. Are there keywords, themes, repeated words or ideas, connecting words, transitional statements, or parallel sentences?
3. What is the structure of this passage? What is the main point?
4. What metaphors, word-pictures, or allusions does the author use?
5. Ask: who, what, where, when, and why to see the key parts of the passage.

UNDERSTAND (WHAT DOES IT MEAN?)

1. What is the Context of this passage (historical, cultural, literary)? What happened just before this that connects?
2. What other verses or cross-references might help you better understand this passage or shed light on it?
3. Does this section contain commands, promises, warnings, theological truths, ethical imperatives, indicative statements about who we are, or habits to develop? How are they used, and what role do they play in the passage?
4. What does this tell us about God (His attributes, actions, promises, purposes, heart, etc.)? How is God at work? How might this text create in us greater trust, worship, and love for God? How is God the hero of this story?
5. How would I summarize the author's meaning to his original audience in one to two sentences?

APPLY (WHAT DO I NEED TO DO, BELIEVE, DELIGHT IN, OR CHANGE?)

1. Was there anything God impressed on my heart through this text that I need to respond to?
2. How does it apply to my own circumstances? Is there:
 - A command to obey or live out?
 - A truth to understand and believe?
 - A promise to cling to and act on?
 - A sin or idol to confess, turn from, and replace?
 - An attribute or action of God to give thanks for or worship Him because of it?
3. How might my life look different because of these verses? Where do I need to depend on the Spirit for help?
4. Are there ways I can better serve, love, and encourage those around me as I apply this? How so?
5. How does this passage point us to the gospel of grace and Jesus as our hope and help?

PRAY (WHAT SHOULD I PRAY IN LIGHT OF THIS?)

Seal these truths in your heart through prayer that is a direct response to what you've just read and seen. Pray for the things on your mind but also pray God's Word back to Him, and pray over the things you discovered. Ask God for help to obey Him and walk in the Spirit. Thank God for who He is and all He's done. Pray for opportunities to show Christ and share Christ to those around you today.