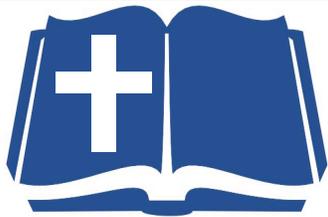


# THE MESSAGE ON

# MAIN ST

A Weekly Resource to Help You Draw Near to God

## WEEK 1 - STUDY GUIDE



### SOCIAL DISTANCING, SPIRITUAL NEARNESS

“Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.” (James 4:8)

## CAN YOU GIVE GOD A FEW MINUTES OF YOUR DAY?

### The Life of the Savior

In college I had the opportunity to spend six weeks on an overseas mission trip. Our method of outreach was to offer English classes using the Bible. One day I was discussing the vocabulary words of the day with a student. Among the list of words was the word, “Savior”. I remember stating the word and asking my student to define it. She said, “A savior is someone who keeps you from dying.” To reinforce the idea I asked her to use it in a sentence. I will never forget her sentence. She said, “I do not have a Savior.”

I have often reflect upon the depth of that sentence. When I don't feel like going on a visit or I am hesitant to talk to someone about their soul, I remember that there are people all around us who have not experienced the salvation that is in Christ. People who do not know what it's like to have a Savior.

This week we begin a journey through the life of Jesus. In the very first chapter the book of Matthew He is given a name in accordance with His Father's command (Matthew 1:21). It is a name with great meaning. They named Him “Jesus”, meaning “Jehovah is salvation”, for He is “the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him” (Hebrews 5:9). There is nothing common or ordinary about this name (Philippians 2:9-11, Acts 4:12).

No other study is as needed today as the study of Jesus. So let us begin...

- Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

*“Bearing shame and scoffing rude,  
In my place condemned He stood,  
Sealed my pardon with his blood;  
**Hallelujah! What a Savior!**”*

- Philip P. Bliss

## ABOUT THE PLAN

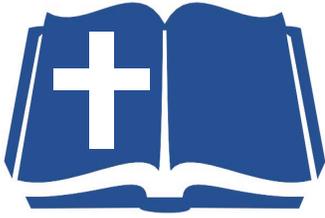
During these difficult times we want to make a special effort to draw near to God. Since it is said, “those who do not have a plan, plan to fail”, we offer this aid to guide you on this journey.

Take the next few weeks and study the book of Matthew. The goal is to spend time each day focusing on Jesus.

There is a guide to follow every day but Sunday & Wednesday. On those days join us online at [mainstcoc.org](http://mainstcoc.org).

- **Start with a Commitment** to set aside time in your day, EVERY DAY, either individually or as a family (or both). Make a true commitment or you will never follow through.
- **Click the Links.** You will find many links throughout this guide. Online resources such as websites, videos, and articles can be accessed on your electronic device through this PDF file. Each link will appear in bright Blue text like this: [MAINSTCOC.ORG](http://MAINSTCOC.ORG). Just click on the link and it should open in your browser window.
- **Utilize the Resources.** Many extra resources are provided along the right sidebar of each page. Most of these do not follow the study of Matthew but are other valuable resources for you to check out.
- **Pray, Pray, Pray!** This cannot be stressed this enough. Pray throughout your day (1 Thessalonians 5:17) and ask God for wisdom (James 1:5).
- **Share this guide with others.**

# MONDAY - WEEK 1



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 1

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

### ***The Genealogy of Jesus*** (Matthew 1:1-17)

Have you ever stopped to consider the question, “Where do I come from?” I am not talking about human origins but rather your lineage.

For most Americans there is quite a bit of variety in our family trees. Personally, I have found my own family is a mixture of English, Romanian, and Irish (with others mixed in for good measure). The simple fact of the matter is, it really doesn't make a difference in our day and age. However, to the Jews family history was of great significance. For most Christians the way Matthew begins his account of Jesus' life is most unusual, but when writing to a predominately Jewish audience, as Matthew was, a person's genealogy was a logical place to begin.

To the Jews genealogies determined many things. The book of Ezra illustrates the importance that the genealogies played in accepting men to serve in certain positions. The Bible tells how Ezra was endeavoring to restore the priesthood according to God's Word (Ezra 2:61-62, c.f. Exodus 27:21; 28:43; 29:9). This shows that certain families were rejected from the priesthood because their names were not listed in the genealogies. In his Gospel, Matthew is endeavoring to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. He knew the Jews were anticipating his coming, but he also knew they would not accept just anyone.

The Jews knew what to look for in God's Anointed because the Messiah's coming had been prophesied. He was to be of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:11-13; 1 Chronicles 17: 9-15) and anyone having a different pedigree would be rejected just as the priests were rejected in Ezra 2.

Twice in the four Gospel accounts Jesus' genealogy is listed. They are not duplicate accounts because Matthew follows David's line through Joseph (Matthew 1:16) who was legally considered to be Jesus' father, while Luke follows the lineage through His mother Mary (Luke 3:23-38). This reveals that Jesus had a legal tie to David through His step-father and a blood tie through His mother.

In the very first verse of the book Matthew reveals the two main points he was trying to convey by setting down the Lord's lineage: Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of David (the Great King) and the Son of Abraham (the first Hebrew). In other words, “He is the Christ!” No, it is not unusual for Matthew to start his work this way, rather it is most appropriate.

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [Video.WVBS.org](http://Video.WVBS.org) – Free, professionally-produced, lessons on various topics.
- ➔ [Worldbibleschool.org](http://Worldbibleschool.org) – Learn the Gospel and find out how to have eternal life.

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ **Daily Boost** - Glenn Colley offers daily thoughts for individuals & families.
- ➔ **Your Daily 180** – Bill Haywood offers daily 3-minute devotional videos.

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ [Searchtv.org/music.html](http://Searchtv.org/music.html) – A large database of a *cappella* hymns.  
**“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord”**  
(Ephesians 5:19)

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

- ✓ **“Examining the Four Gospels” by Wayne Jackson**  
[www.christiancourier.com/articles/273-examining-the-four-gospels](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/273-examining-the-four-gospels)
- ✓ **“The Birth of Jesus” by Tommy South** [www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199007\\_01.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_01.pdf)
- ✓ **“The Birth of the King” by Gene Cloer** [http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_198907\\_01.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_01.pdf)
- ✓ **“Non-Negotiable: The Divinity of Jesus” by Forest Antemasaris**  
<https://plainsimplefaith.com/non-negotiable-the-divinity-of-jesus/>

# TUESDAY - WEEK 1



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 2

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

### **"Wisdom of the Wise Men" (Matthew 2:1-12)**

These men from the East devoted their lives to the pursuit of wisdom through the study of nature, astronomy, medicine, and a number of other interests. They had a wealth of earthly wisdom yet in this text they are shown to exhibit true wisdom in a number of ways.

#### **These Men Were Wise in Their Search (Matthew 2:1-2)**

They sought Jesus. There is no greater endeavor in all the world than to be seeking the Lord (Cf. Psalm 105:3-4, Acts 17:27).

Their search was focused on things above. They followed a star (Matthew 2:2, 9-10). Today Christians look to the Morningstar of Heaven (Revelation 22:16) and the "Star of Jacob" (Numbers 24:17), "Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Hebrews 12:2; cf. Colossians 3:1-3).

They searched with diligence. They traveled a great distance (some estimate 300-600 miles). This was not on paved highways. It was long hard travel yet they did not give up their search. Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." Jesus warned the path would be narrow and difficult but we must not detour. The rewards worth every sacrifice (Matthew 7:13-14, Revelation 2:10, Matthew 6:33).

#### **These Men Were Wise In Their Inquiry (Matthew 2:2-6)**

They asked the right question but more importantly they accepted the answer they found in the Bible. The chief priests and scribes showed them the prophecy of Micah 5:2 which led them to Bethlehem. Not all people accept what the Word of God says. It is not only important to ask questions but also to receive instruction.

#### **These Men Were Wise In Their Worship (Matthew 2:7-11)**

These men came a long way with one purpose: To worship the King (Read Matthew 2:2, 7-11). They worshiped Him with a spirit of joy (Psalm 122:1). God still desires to be worshiped in this way (John 4:23-24).

#### **These Men Were Wise in Their Gifts (Matthew 2:11)**

Malachi spoke of the wrong kinds of gifts (Malachi 1:7-8). The Lord deserves the best gifts. The wise men gave Him treasures. These gifts were symbolic of His identity. Gold is a gift for a King (Luke 1:32, 2 Chronicles 9:1, Matthew 12:42, Revelation 19:16). Frankincense is a gift for a priest. It was a compound used in the holy incense burned upon the golden altar (Exodus 30:34-38). Jesus is our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16). Myrrh is a gift for one who is to die. It was used by the Jews in embalming bodies (John 19:39-40). Jesus was offered myrrh on the cross (Mark 15:23). These were appropriate gifts. What kind of gifts do you bring?  
— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [GNTtv.org](http://GNTtv.org) – Official site of the "Good News Today" television program.
- ➔ [Apologeticspress.org](http://Apologeticspress.org) – Strengthen your faith in God, Jesus Christ, & the Bible.

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [The Porch & the Torch](#) – Study the Bible with Dan Winkler through these videos.
- ➔ [MercyMail](#) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from Steve Higginbotham.

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ [Kleinwood.com/annual-singing](http://Kleinwood.com/annual-singing) – Over 700 a cappella hymns.  
*"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"*  
(Ephesians 5:19)

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

- ✓ ["The Welcome of the King" by Gene Cloer](#)  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_198907\\_02.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_02.pdf)
- ✓ ["The Death of Herod the Great" by Wayne Jackson](#)  
[www.christiancourier.com/articles/723-matthew-2-19-20-the-death-of-herod-the-great](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/723-matthew-2-19-20-the-death-of-herod-the-great)
- ✓ ["Jesus in Egypt" by Kevin Cauley](#)  
<http://churchofchristarticles.com/blog/administrator/matthew-213-23-egypt/>
- ✓ ["Adoration of the Magi" by Kevin Cauley](#)  
<http://churchofchristarticles.com/blog/administrator/matthew-2-wise-men/>



Jeremiah

15:16

Matthew 4:4

# WEDNESDAYS JOIN US ONLINE FOR BIBLE STUDY AT 7PM AT MAINSTCOC.ORG

## Scriptures to Memorize

Here is a list of notable verses:

The importance of memorizing scripture is seen in Psalm 119:11. David said, ***“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”*** The ability to recall verses and to remember where they are found is vital to any Bible study. We have selected a number of well-known and essential scriptures for your consideration.

### Hints for Memorization

- Repetition, repetition, repetition!
- Make flash cards.
- Take a phrase like, ***“Love suffers long and is kind.”*** Repeat it again and again emphasizing different words each time. Then move to the next phrase. Do this with each phrase until you can say the whole verse without looking. Example:
  - “**LOVE** suffers long and is kind”
  - “Love **SUFFERS** long and is kind”
  - “Love suffers **LONG** and is kind”
  - “Love suffers long **AND** is kind”
  - “Love suffers long and **IS** kind”
  - “Love suffers long and is **KIND**”
- Meditate on the verses throughout your day (in the car, on lunch break, etc)

[www.mainstcoc.com](http://www.mainstcoc.com)

Visit our website to listen to scripture songs to help you memorize.

We have uploaded over 50 Bible verses (and Bible lists) that have been put to music and sung by our members. This is a great tool to help with your memorization.

### Do You Know Your Bible Lists?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books of OT      | <input type="checkbox"/> Days of Creation    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Books of NT      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fruit of the Spirit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Apostles      | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Commandments     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Sons of Jacob |  |

These (and others) have been put to music and are now available on our website.

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Genesis 1:1     | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 22:42         | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 5:1     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Num 6:24-25     | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 23:34         | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 2:5   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Deut 6:4-5      | <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 24:46-47      | <input type="checkbox"/> Phil 3:12-14      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Kings 8:23    | <input type="checkbox"/> John 1:1-5         | <input type="checkbox"/> *Philippians 4:4  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 3:3       | <input type="checkbox"/> John 3:16-17       | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:6-7 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 8:1       | <input type="checkbox"/> John 4:23-24       | <input type="checkbox"/> Philippians 4:8   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 18:3, 46  | <input type="checkbox"/> John 8:23-24       | <input type="checkbox"/> *Philippians 4:13 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 19:1      | <input type="checkbox"/> John 8:31-32       | <input type="checkbox"/> Col 1:13-14       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 19:7-10   | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:1-4        | <input type="checkbox"/> Colossians 2:14   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 20:7      | <input type="checkbox"/> *John 14:6         | <input type="checkbox"/> Col 3:16-17       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Psalm 23         | <input type="checkbox"/> John 14:15         | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Thess 5:17-18  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 25:1-2    | <input type="checkbox"/> *John 15:12        | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Timothy 1:17   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 46:10     | <input type="checkbox"/> John 17:17         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Timothy 4:12    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 51:10-12  | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:37-38       | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Timothy 6:10   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 89:1      | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:40          | <input type="checkbox"/> *2 Timothy 1:12   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 95:1-5    | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 2:47          | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 2:15    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 95:6-7    | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 11:26         | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Timothy 3:16-17 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 103:12    | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 17:30         | <input type="checkbox"/> Titus 2:11        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 117       | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 20:7          | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 4:15-16   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 118:1     | <input type="checkbox"/> Acts 22:16         | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 9:16-17   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 118:24    | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 1:16        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 10:4      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 119:105   | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 3:23        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:1      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Psalm 121:1-8   | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 5:8-10      | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 11:6      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Proverbs 3:5    | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:3-4       | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 12:1-2    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Proverbs 22:6   | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 6:23        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hebrews 13:8      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Isaiah 40:31    | <input type="checkbox"/> *Romans 8:1        | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:2-3       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Isaiah 43:1-3   | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 8:31        | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:12-15     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Lam 3:23-24     | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 10:17       | <input type="checkbox"/> James 1:22        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Habakuk 2:20    | <input type="checkbox"/> Romans 12:1-2      | <input type="checkbox"/> James 2:19-20     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 4:4     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 1:8  | <input type="checkbox"/> *James 4:10       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 6:33    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Corinthians 3:11 | <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:13-14     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 6:9-13  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 5:6-7        | <input type="checkbox"/> James 4:17        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mat 7:13-14      | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 9:24-27      | <input type="checkbox"/> James 5:13        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 7:7     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 10:12-13     | <input type="checkbox"/> James 5:16        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 7:21     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 13:13        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 1:22      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matt 11:28-30   | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 14:40        | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 2:21      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matthew 16:13-16 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Cor 15:3-4       | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Peter 3:21      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 16:24   | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 2:4  | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 Peter 5:7      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Matthew 21:9    | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 4:7-9        | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 1:3       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt 26:26-28    | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:1  | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Peter 1:5-8     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Matt 28:18-20    | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Corinthians 5:7  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 1:7-9      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 7:7         | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 5:10         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:4        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:34        | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 5:21         | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 John 3:16-19    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 8:36-37     | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Cor 7:10         | <input type="checkbox"/> *1 John 4:7-8     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 10:27       | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 1:8      | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 John 1:9        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 13:32       | <input type="checkbox"/> *Galatians 2:20    | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 John 1:4        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mark 16:15-16    | <input type="checkbox"/> Galatians 3:27     | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 2:10   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 1:37        | <input type="checkbox"/> *Gal 5:22-23       | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 21:4   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> *Luke 4:18-19    | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 2:8-9    | <input type="checkbox"/> Revelation 22:13  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 13:3        | <input type="checkbox"/> *Ephesians 3:20-2  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Luke 15:7        | <input type="checkbox"/> Ephesians 4:4-6    |  |

Passages with an asterisk (\*) have been put to music.

## The Bible

66 Books

1189 Chapters

40 Authors

\*Each guided by the same Spirit (2 Peter 1:22)

2 Divisions:

\*Old Testament with 39 Books

\*New Testament with 27 Books

Old Testament has 5 Sections:

5 Books of Law (Genesis-Deut)

12 Books of History (Joshua-Esther)

5 Books of Poetry (Job-Song)

5 Major Prophets (Isaiah-Daniel)

12 Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)

New Testament has 4 Sections:

4 Biographies (Matthew-John)

1 Book of History (Acts of Apostles)

21 Epistles (Romans-Jude)

1 Book of Prophecy (Revelation)

## Other Facts:

Longest Book Psalms (150 chapters)

Shortest Book 3 John

Longest Chapter Psalm 119 (176 vs)

Shortest Chapter Psalm 117 (2 verses)

Shortest Verse John 11:35

# THURSDAY - WEEK 1



## Daily Bible Reading

### MATTHEW CHAPTER 3

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

### **Wild Man in the Wilderness** (Matthew 2:1-12)

John came into the world in such a way that people wondered aloud, "What kind of child will this be?" (Luke 1:66). It is not revealed what kind of child he was but it is known what kind of a man he turned out to be. Jesus paid him the ultimate compliment when He said, "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist" (Matthew 11:11).

We do not know what people expected of John but it is a safe assumption that they did not expect the wild man who emerged from the wilderness some thirty years later. His life fulfilled prophecy (Malachi 3:1; 5-6; Isaiah. 40:3 compare Matthew 17:9-13; Luke 1:15-17). His voice shattered the prophetic silence of nearly 400 years. His ministry prepared the way for the Lord's own work.

John was a humble man who lived in a simple unencumbered way. He was "clothed in camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey." (Matt 3:4) The Bible calls Christians to understand life as John did. We are not to become enamored with this world but to remember we are pilgrims and sojourners here (1 Peter 2:11). This does not mean one must go live in the wilderness but to simply place the spiritual above the physical, as John did, and to be content (Philippians 4:11).

When the Jews asked John who he was, he simply replied, "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness'" (John 1:23; Isaiah 40:3). He was a preacher whose message defined who he had become. He was God's voice crying out to those wandering in the desert of sin. Christians are to be that voice today. As lights in a dark world we are to preach the way of repentance (Acts 17:30, 26:20) and prepare people's hearts for Christ (John 1:15; Matthew 3:11,14; Mark 1:7-8).

John was not fashionable, extravagant, or politically correct, but the people came. They came in droves from the cities because he had as courage enough to live differently and bold enough to preach the truth pointing the way to Jesus.

John was meek yet not weak. He did not abide hypocrisy. To such he said, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance" (Matthew 3:7-8). He stood up for what was right no matter who was involved (Matthew 14:3-4) and no matter the cost (Matthew 14:1-12). He died having no regrets because he was not living for material possessions, nor the comforts of this world. He lived for God!

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ **FREE PTP365** – A library of audio and video lessons presented at the *Polishing The Pulpit* conference. Now free for a limited time. [Free365.polishingthepulpit.com](http://Free365.polishingthepulpit.com)

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ **The Light Network** – Encourage your soul. Enlighten your mind. Empower your faith.
- ➔ **Lightgrams** – Tim Hall offers biblical encouragement for Christian living.

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ **Mychurchofchristradio.com** – An internet radio station featuring a *cappella* songs  
"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"  
(Ephesians 5:19)

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

- "Clearing the Way for the King" by Gene Cloer**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_198907\\_03.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_03.pdf)
- "The Anointing of the King" by Gene Cloer**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_198907\\_04.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_198907_04.pdf)
- "Jesus' Baptism--And Yours" by Tommy South**  
[http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en\\_lessons/EN\\_199007\\_03.pdf](http://www.biblecourses.com/English/en_lessons/EN_199007_03.pdf)

# FRIDAY - WEEK 1



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 4

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

### *Tempted and Tried (Matthew 4:1-11)*

The temptation of Jesus is significant! The writer of Hebrews declares, "For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

His temptation emphasizes his humanity, for it is common to all men (1 Corinthians 10:13). Someone has said, "if you haven't come face to face with the devil, maybe you are going in the same direction!"

Matthew records three of the temptations which Jesus endured. These temptations reflect the three ways in which the devil tempts, "...the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life..." (1 John 2:16, Cf. Genesis 3:6). All temptation falls into one of these categories.

Temptation itself is not sin but it is where sin begins. James teaches, "...each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death" (James 1:14-16).

Matthew 4:1 tells us "Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil." God does not tempt us (James 1:13) but allows us to be tempted (Job 1:6-12). This testing reveals character and quality. Only when we are tested can we truly see the depth of our faith (Matthew 26:35; 69-75). We are reminded that temptation does not come from God but the devil. Satan is the instigator. But remember the tempter can only suggest and persuade, he cannot make one sin. He is a worthy cunning but can be resisted (James 4:7) with the right sword, (Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12), the right shield (Ephesians 6:16), and the right action (Matthew 26:41).

This would not be the last time Jesus was tempted. "Now when the devil had ended every temptation, he departed from Him until an opportune time." (Luke 4:13). We should not think that once we win one battle against Satan that he will leave us alone. He will always be lurking in the shadows biding his time. (1 Peter 5:8-9).

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

### **CONSIDER:**

**What was the key element in how Jesus resisted temptation?** (Hint: Notice how he responded each time. Read Psalm 119:11, Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17). **In verse 6 the devil He misuses scripture. How can we prepare to face those who would misapply and misuse the Bible?**

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [Searchtv.org](http://Searchtv.org) – Official site of the "In Search Of The Lord's Way" television program
- ➔ [thegospelofchrist.com](http://thegospelofchrist.com) – Official site of The Gospel of Christ program. Offering episodes & study aids.

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [Today With Jesus](#) – Learn from the Life of Jesus with Dan Winkler & Robert Hatfield.
- ➔ [Living Water Archive](#) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from David A. Sargent.

## SPIRITUAL MUSIC RESOURCES

- ➔ [Searchtv.org/music.html](http://Searchtv.org/music.html) – A large database of a *cappella* hymns.  
**"speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"** (Ephesians 5:19)

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY'S READING

-  ["The Temptations of Christ" by Jason Jackson](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the)  
[www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the)
-  ["Who's Coming to Visit?" by Mike Benson](https://imikemedia.org/2018/09/13/whos-coming-to-visit/)  
<https://imikemedia.org/2018/09/13/whos-coming-to-visit/>
-  ["Jesus Memorized It—So Should You" by David Sproule](http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/jesus-memorized-it-so-should-you-verse-3/)  
<http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/jesus-memorized-it-so-should-you-verse-3/>
-  ["Lessons From Galilee" by Josh Blackmer](http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/lessons-from-galilee-i-will-make-you-become-fishers-of-men/)  
<http://www.pblcoc.org/bulletin-articles/lessons-from-galilee-i-will-make-you-become-fishers-of-men/>

# SATURDAY - WEEK 1



## Daily Bible Reading



### MATTHEW CHAPTER 5

Bible Gateway provides the Bible online for free in a variety of translations. Disclaimer: We do not endorse other advertisements or links on their site.

## THOUGHTS FROM THE TEXT

**“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”** (v. 3). Jesus is not referring to the one who has an empty purse but one who has emptied himself of pride. Luke 18:10-14 provides a good contrast between one who is poor and one who is prideful.

**“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted”** (v. 4). Jesus is not suggesting that his disciples seek unhappiness. He is speaking of the type of grieving that produces a blessing – mourning over spiritual loss. One cannot truly repent without godly sorrow (2 Corinthians 7:10). When one understands this spiritual loss they will make every effort to be reconciled to God and to reach out to others lost in sin.

**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth”** (v. 5). Meekness and weakness are not synonyms! Meekness is defined as “power under control.” Christ is the greatest example. As the old hymns explains, “He could have called ten thousand angels...yet he died alone for you and me.” Jesus possessed ultimate power yet he submitted to the Father’s will (Mt. 26:39, 42). Indeed He is, “meek and lowly in heart” (Mt. 11:29, KJV). In like manner, Christians must allow God’s will to control their lives.

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled”** (v. 6). Humans understand hunger and thirst. Our bodies desire food and drink because without them one cannot sustain life. Righteousness means to live in a way that is acceptable to God or to be right with God. To have an abundant life one must pursue righteousness. Jesus provides the way for us to be righteous. We must continually seek him and seek his ways. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.” (John 6:35).

**“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy”** (v. 7). Vine defines mercy as “being actively compassionate.” Jesus eloquently illustrated this in the parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:36-38). Christians have been shown great mercy and in turn should extend it to others (Mt. 18: 21-35).

**“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God”** (v. 8). To be pure in heart is to protect one’s life from the pollutants of the world. Purity must be the goal of every believer! One desiring to have clean hands and a pure heart will heed Paul’s advice in Philippians 4:8 (Cf. (Psalm 24:3-4).

**“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God”** (v. 9). Jesus was a peacemaker. Paul said, “...we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1-2). Jesus never offered earthly peace (Mt. 10:34) but promises that all who come to Him in faith can find inward peace (Philippians 4:7). True peacemakers lead lost souls to the Prince of Peace.

**“Blessed are those who are persecuted...”** (vs. 10-11). Jesus warned His disciples, “Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you.” (John 15:20). Those who conform to God’s word and grow into these beatitudes will always find resistance from the world. However, Jesus offers true happiness to those who have to the courage to walk this narrow way.

— Josh Allen (Pikeville, KY)

## RESOURCES FOR GROWTH & ENCOURAGEMENT

- ➔ [GBNtv.org](http://GBNtv.org) – Official site of Gospel Broadcasting Network, offering hundreds of Bible study videos.
- ➔ [Elizabethtoncoc.org/biblical-viewpoints](http://Elizabethtoncoc.org/biblical-viewpoints) – Archive of “Biblical Viewpoints” episodes.

## DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

- ➔ [Today With Jesus](#) – Learn from the Life of Jesus with Dan Winkler & Robert Hatfield.
- ➔ [Living Water Archive](#) – An archive of Devotional thoughts from David A. Sargent.

## ARTICLES RELATED TO TODAY’S READING

- ✔ [“The Puzzle of the Sermon on the Mount” by Tommy South](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the)  
[www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the](http://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1208-temptations-of-christ-the)
- ✔ [“Did Christ Abolish the Law of Moses?” by Wayne Jackson](https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/485-did-christ-abolish-the-law-of-moses)  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/485-did-christ-abolish-the-law-of-moses>
- ✔ [“Jesus: The Master Teacher” by Wayne Jackson](https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1497-jesus-the-master-teacher)  
<https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1497-jesus-the-master-teacher>

### The Salt of the Earth

It is interesting to note the different ways salt is used in the Bible. It was an important part of the **sacrifices** under the Old Law (Leviticus 2:13; Ezekiel 43:24). It was used in ratifying **covenants** (Numbers 18:19; 2 Chronicles 13:5). It was used by Elisha in **healing** the pool water in Jericho. It was also used for the **seasoning** and **preserving** of food (Mark 9:49-50; Luke 14:34-35). **All these have parallels in the life of a Christian today.**



# MAIN STREET

## CHURCH OF CHRIST

**SUNDAYS JOIN US ONLINE**  
**FOR WORSHIP AT 11AM & 6PM AT MAINSTCOC.ORG**

## MAIN ST. LINKS

- Home Page – MAINSTCOC.ORG**
- STUDY GUIDE - Home Page**
- Facebook Page**
- Live Stream Channel**
- CONTACT US**

Main Street Church of Christ  
 198 Main St. (PO 2747)  
 Pikeville, Kentucky 41502

## Check Out This Additional Resource:

**A Legacy of Faith** offers a free Bible study guide for each chapter of Matthew, entitled, "Studying Matthew with Your Children". *And it's not just for children. It can be download for free.* It would be a great resource to use along with this guide.

This is a great blog to subscribe to. They daily articles and podcasts about Christian living with an emphasis on the family.



### Matthew: Jesus the King

Chapter 1

There are two major parts to Matthew 1:

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Matthew 1:1-17), and
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25).

#### QUESTIONS FROM THE CHAPTER

1. In Matthew 1:1, Jesus Christ is called the Son of \_\_\_\_\_, and the Son of \_\_\_\_\_

## EXAMPLE

5. Who told Joseph not to be afraid to take Mary? (1:20) \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does "Immanuel" mean? (1:23) \_\_\_\_\_

#### THINGS TO DISCUSS

1. What does the word "genealogy" mean?
2. Why did God give us this long family tree of Jesus?
3. What does "betrothed" mean?
4. What good things can we learn from Joseph in this chapter?

## OTHER NOTABLE LINKS

- House to House/Heart to Heart**  
housetohouse.com
- Focus Press**  
www.focuspress.org
- The Christian Courier**  
https://www.christiancourier.com
- Biblecourses.com**  
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- Mathetis.org**  
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http://preachinghelp.org
- Bear Valley Church of Christ**  
http://www.bearvalleycofc.com
- West Huntsville Church of Christ**  
https://westhuntsville.org
- The Average Christian Podcast**  
with Zack Krug