

SECOND BAPTIST CHURCH HOUSTON

Matthew

A DEVOTIONAL TO HELP YOU READ THROUGH THE BOOK OF MATTHEW



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MATTHEW 1: 1-17

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 1: 1-17.

These verses are a list of Jesus' earthly parents, grandparents, and great grandparents. His family tree goes back a really long way! Draw your own family tree in the space below, starting with you, then your parents and grandparents.

Look back through the list of Jesus' family tree in Matthew 1: 1-17 and circle any names that you recognize from other Bible stories you have heard. List those names below.

Not all of the people in Jesus' family tree were good people. Some of them were actually really bad! God loves all the people He created, even when they sin. You may not be a part of Jesus' earthly family, but you can be a part of His Heavenly family!

Read John 1: 12-13 below.

"Some people did accept him. They believed in His name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does."

John 1: 12-13

Have you asked Jesus to forgive you for your sins and decided to follow Jesus with your whole life? If so, then you are a part of God's family!!

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for letting you be a part of His family. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

BONUS!!

Look up these Bible stories to learn more about some of the people in Jesus' family tree.

- Abraham (Genesis 12: 1-9)
- Rahab (Joshua 2)
- Ruth & Boaz (The book of Ruth)
- David (1 Samuel 16-17)
- Solomon (1 Kings 3 & 11)
- Rehoboam (1 Kings 14: 1-31)
- Hezekiah (2 Chron. 29: 1-4 & 2 Chron. 32)
- Manasseh (2 Chronicles 33: 1-20)

MATTHEW 1: 18-25

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 1: 18-25.

Who is Jesus' Father according to verse 20?

Why did the angel tell Joseph to name the baby Jesus?
(Hint: See Matthew 1: 21.)

What does the name "Immanuel" mean?

Read Isaiah 7:14 below.

"The LORD himself will give you a miraculous sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And He will be called Immanuel."
Isaiah 7: 14

The book of Isaiah was written roughly 700 years before Jesus was born!! Can you imagine predicting something that would happen 700 years in the future?! It is impossible for us, but not for God. He has had a plan to save us from our sins since the day the first people sinned.

Only someone perfect – God – could take our punishment for us. Take some time to think about everything that Jesus gave up in Heaven to be with us on earth. Then, in your own words, write out why Jesus came to earth.

When Joseph woke up from his dream, what did he do?
(Hint: See Matt. 1: 24.)

How would the Christmas story have been different if Joseph had not obeyed God?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for coming to earth as a baby. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 2: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 2: 1-12.

Why do you think King Herod was upset to hear that the wise men were looking for the king of the Jews?

How did King Herod know where Jesus was born?
(Hint: See Matthew 2: 5-6)

According to Matthew 2: 10, how did the Wise Men feel when they saw the star?

Why do you think they felt that way?

Why did the wise men come to find Jesus?
(Hint: See Matthew 2: 2)

We worship God when we focus ur hearts and minds on only Him. The wise men traveled a very long way, so they could spend time worshipping Jesus. What are some ways that you can worship Jesus every day?

1.

2.

3.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. You can worship God while praying by spending time talking only about Him. Tell God how amazing you think He is. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 2: 13-23

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 2: 13-18.

King Herod was very upset that the King of Kings, Jesus, had been born. What did he do to try to kill Jesus? (Hint: Matthew 2: 16)

Why do you think Herod was not able to kill Jesus?

God has a plan for everything. He is sovereign, or “in control of everything”. Even though King Herod tried to hurt baby Jesus, God had a plan to keep Him safe. Can you think of a time when God protected you or someone you know? Write about that time below.

Read Matthew 2: 19-23.

Where did Joseph, Mary, and Jesus live after King Herod died? (Hint: Matthew 2: 23)

Look back through the chapter of Matthew 2. How many prophecies came true about Jesus in this one chapter? (Hint: A prophecy is something that God told His people about the future.)

God had been planning for Jesus to come to earth for a long time! Even when King Herod tried to mess up that plan, God was able to take care of baby Jesus. The same is true for us.

Jeremiah 29:11 says,

"'I know the plans I have for you', announces the Lord. 'I want you to enjoy success. I do not plan to harm you. I will give you hope for the years to come.'"

God has a plan for you! No matter what happens or who tries to mess up that plan, God will always be able to take care of you.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Remember to thank God for having a great plan for your life!! You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 3: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 3: 1-12.

In the space below, draw what you think John the Baptist looked like.

John baptized people when...

- A. When they came to see him
- B. When they admitted they had sinned
- C. When they had parents who had been baptized

Baptism is an outside picture of a choice that a person makes on the inside. If a person was sorry for the wrong things they had done and had made a decision to stop sinning, John the Baptist would baptize them to show everyone that they were going to be a new person from now on.

What did John say about the Pharisees and Saducees who came to see him?

Pharisees and Saducees were the leaders of the Synagogue in Bible times. They worked hard to know everything there was to know about the part of the Bible that had been written up to that time (the Old Testament). Most of the Jews looked up to the Pharisees and Saducees, because they knew so much. The problem, though, was that most of these men did not actually obey the rules of the Bible. They judged others for sinning, but often ignored the sin in their own lives.

Have you ever done something you know was wrong? Tell about that time.

Did people forgive you or stay mad? What did you want them to do?

The Pharisees and Saducees did not understand God's forgiveness. They did not understand that they needed to be forgiven, too. Jesus came so that everyone could be forgiven for their sins.

What did John the Baptist say about Jesus in Matthew 3: 11-12?

Jesus is SO powerful!! John was baptizing people who wanted to change their lives for God. But Jesus could actually forgive their sins!!! Jesus forgives sins AND changes lives!!

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Do you need to ask for forgiveness for anything you have done wrong today? Don't be afraid – God wants to forgive you and help you to change. All you have to do is ask Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 3: 13-17

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 3: 13-17.

Draw a picture of what happened the day that Jesus was baptized.

What did the Spirit of God look like when it came down on Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus asked John the Baptist to baptize Him?

Have you ever been baptized?

If yes, when and where? Write a short story about how and why you were baptized.

Baptism is a picture of what Jesus does for you when He wipes your sins away. The water doesn't actually clean away your inside sin – only Jesus can do that. Instead, it is a picture that tells the world that Jesus has forgiven you. It is a way to tell the world that you have chosen to make Him first place in your life. You aren't going to live the way you did before, sinning and not being sorry. Now, you are going to live your life with Jesus in charge.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell God what you are thinking. If you are confused about baptism, tell Him that and ask Him to help you understand. If you do understand, ask God to help you always live for Him like you promised. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 4: 1-11

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 4: 1-11.

Who tempted Jesus?

How long was Jesus in the desert without food? (Hint: Matthew 4: 2)

When Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread, what did Jesus do?

What was Satan's second temptation for Jesus? (Hint: Matthew 4: 5)

Why do you think that might have been tempting to Jesus?
(Remember not many people knew who He was, yet.)

Satan saved the best for last. Jesus came to earth so that He could win us back to Him. He wanted the world He created to come back to Him and choose Him. What did Satan tell Jesus He had to do for Satan to give Him the world back?

What did Jesus say to Satan after being tempted the third time?

Jesus was tempted 3 times. Did Jesus ever sin?

Have you ever been tempted to do something you know is wrong?
What did you do?

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus was tempted when He was on earth just like you are tempted?

It's good to know that Jesus knows what it's like to be tempted to do something wrong. He knows what it's like to be hungry and tired. But unlike us, Jesus never sinned. Even though He had to deal with all of the same things we deal with, Jesus never did even one thing wrong!!

Jesus is able to help us make the right choice no matter how hard the choice may be. Because of Jesus, we don't have to feel scared when we pray to God. Jesus understands and can help us make the right choices. All we have to do is ask.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for coming to earth. Thank Him for knowing what it's like to be tempted. Ask Jesus to help you make the right choice the next time you are tempted to do something wrong. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 4: 12-22

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 4: 12-17.

Who is the "great light" that Isaiah prophesied about so long ago?

How is Jesus like a light in a dark world?

What was Jesus preaching?

Read Matthew 4: 18-22.

What did Simon Peter and Andrew do before they met Jesus?

Write out Matthew 4: 19 in the space below.

Jesus told Simon Peter and Andrew that they were going to fish for people instead of fish!! What do you think Jesus meant?

Do you think it was a hard choice for these four men to leave their jobs and their families behind to follow Jesus? Why or why not?

These men were able to actually follow Jesus around while He was on earth. What do you think it means for a person to "follow Jesus" today?

Do you "follow Jesus"? Explain your answer.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask Jesus to help you follow Him every day no matter what. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 4: 23-25

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 4: 23-25.

Where was Jesus teaching?

Who was Jesus healing?

Was there anybody whom Jesus couldn't heal?

Have you ever been sick? Write about one of those times. How did you get better?

Jesus can heal anybody! That's one of the reasons why people wanted to see Him so badly. He was teaching about the things of God and showing people that He was God by all of the miracles He was doing.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Do you know anyone who is sick? Ask God to heal them. God can do anything! He always knows what's best for us. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 5: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 1-12.

Match the attitude on the left with the blessing on the right.

- | | |
|---|---|
| ____ Spiritually needy | A. They will be comforted. |
| ____ Sad | B. They will be filled. |
| ____ Free of pride | C. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. |
| ____ Hungry and thirsty for what is right | D. They will see God. |
| ____ Show mercy | E. The kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. |
| ____ Hearts are pure | F. They will be given the earth. |
| ____ Make peace | G. They will be shown mercy. |
| ____ Suffer for doing what is right | H. They will be called sons of God. |

A "blessing" in this passage is a promise of something good that only God can do. How has God blessed you in your life? (In other words, what good things has God given you?)

Look back through the attitudes Jesus talks about. Circle the attitudes you think you might need to work on. What can you do this week to work on those attitudes in your life?

Now make a square around the attitudes that you think you are doing pretty well with. Great job!

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to help you have an attitude like Jesus had. Thank Him for all the ways He has blessed you in your life. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 5: 13-16

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 13-16.

What two things does Jesus compare His followers to?

Make a list of reasons that salt is used:

Salt is used for a LOT of different good things!! Why do you think Jesus compares His followers to salt?

Jesus also compares His disciples to light. When we have Jesus, He lights up our lives from the inside out. He changes the way we act and speak and think. How could someone "cover up" Jesus' light?

Re-read Matthew 5: 16.

When we show other people the change that Jesus makes in our lives, we are shining His light to the world. When other people see that light, whom do they praise according to verse 16?

Are you being salt and light to the people around you? How can / does God use you to tell people about Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for giving you Jesus, who changes your heart. Ask Him to help you shine His light to the world, so that He will be praised. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 5: 17-20

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 17-20.

According to Matthew 5: 18, how long will God's law last?

What does Jesus say we should do with the laws from the Old Testament (like the ten commandments)? (HINT: See Matthew 5: 19.)

Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong, breaking God's laws?

What happens if we do not follow every one of God's commands? (Hint: See Matthew 5: 20.)

Nobody can be 100% perfect!! Everyone has chosen to sin, to do something that breaks God's laws. That's why Jesus came. He didn't want us to ignore the rules God laid out for us. Those laws are there to protect us from all the bad things that happen when we sin. Instead, Jesus came so that we could be forgiven for the wrong things that we have done.

Have you ever forgiven someone for doing something wrong to you?

How would it make you feel if that person kept on hurting you even after you forgave them?

Jesus forgives us, but He doesn't want us to keep sinning on purpose. Jesus wants to help us follow the rules that God laid out for us. He loves us and doesn't want us to suffer through all of the bad things that go along with making bad choices.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to help you follow the rules in the Bible. Thank Jesus for forgiving you and helping you. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 5: 21-26

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

In Matthew 5: 17-20, Jesus explained that the Law of God would always be very important. The next few sections of Jesus' sermon explain those laws further.

Read Matthew 5: 21-26.

What law was Jesus was explaining?

Have you ever been angry with someone? If so, how did you make peace with that person?

Jesus says that calling someone names in anger is a sin that will keep us out of Heaven. (All sins keep us out of Heaven – that's why Jesus came – to make forgiveness possible!!) Have you ever called someone a name in anger or been called a name by someone? Tell about that time and how it made you feel.

Matthew 5: 23 talks about when people bring guilt offerings to God. Before Jesus gave Himself as our offering once and for all, people used to have to bring offerings to God every time they sinned. Because the punishment for sin is death, something had to die for the sins of the people. God made a system where an animal would die instead of a person. The animal's blood would cover up the people's sin in God's eyes. (Aren't you glad Jesus gave Himself as our sacrifice once and for all? Our sins aren't just covered up – they are washed away forever because of what Jesus did for us on the cross!!)

Why do you think Jesus wanted people to make peace with each other before going to God to ask for forgiveness and offer a sacrifice?

What does Jesus say about His followers' settling arguments in court?

Is there anyone you know of that you need to forgive?

Is there anyone you know of that you need to ask to forgive you?

Before going to bed tonight, be sure to try to make peace with that person (or those people). If you need to forgive someone, forgive them! If you need to ask someone to forgive you, ask them. Let them know you are truly sorry.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for forgiving you for all the times that you sin. Then, ask God to help you forgive people who have hurt you. Tell Him that you forgive that person (those people). Ask Him to remind you of anyone you need to ask for forgiveness. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 5: 27-30

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 27-30.

Have you ever wanted to say or do something you knew you shouldn't, but instead of actually doing it, you just thought or daydreamed about doing or saying it?

Matthew 5: 28 says that even though people didn't commit the act of adultery, they were sinning in their hearts when they looked at a woman in a wrong way. In the same way, even though we may not actually do or say the wrong thing, we still sin in our hearts when we daydream about doing the wrong thing.

What reason did Jesus give for people to cut off an arm or poke out an eye in verse 29-30?

What would you have said if you were there listening to Jesus speak?

Jesus did not actually mean that we should cut off a hand or poke out an eye. Jesus does, however, wants us to do whatever it takes to stop sinning. He knows the punishment for sin is death (Rom. 6: 23) and eternal separation from God. That means that instead of going to Heaven when we die, we all deserve to go to the real place called Hell.

Thankfully, because of Jesus, we can be forgiven. Even though we deserve Hell, we get to be in Heaven forever with Jesus. All we have to do is ask Jesus to forgive us for our sins and put Him in charge of our lives. With Jesus in charge, we learn more and more how to live a clean life and not a sinful life.

What choices are the hardest for you to make right now? In other words, what do you want Jesus to help you with, so you can stop sinning?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Thank God for giving you Jesus, who has forgiven you. Ask Him to help you stop sinning. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 5: 31-37

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 31-37.

According to verse 32, for what reason can a man divorce his wife?

When a man and a woman decide to get married, they make a promise to God and to each other to stay together for the rest of their lives. Making a promise to God is a big deal. How do you think God feels when people break promises they make Him?

How do you feel when people break their promises to you?

When people get divorced, they break the promise they made to each other and to God. This hurts them very much. How can you show God's love to someone who has been divorced?

Have you (or someone you know) ever said something like, "I promise!" or "I swear it's true!"?

Sometimes people swear or promise things, because they want others to believe that they are telling the truth. Jesus had a different way to get people to believe Him. Write out Matthew 5: 37 in the space below.

Do you know someone who always tells the truth? How can you be more like that person?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for always keeping His promises to us. Ask Him to help you keep your promises and always be truthful. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 5: 38-42

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 38-42.

What law is Jesus talking about in this passage?

In your opinion, is this law fair? Why/why not?

What does Jesus say we should do when someone hurts us (vs. 39)?

How is that different from the Old Testament law?

Is Jesus' way of treating people who hurt you fair? Why/why not?

Instead of hurting people back, Jesus said that we should go above and beyond what we have to do to help the person who hurts us. Matthew 5: 41 talks about going the extra mile for someone. In Jesus' time on earth, the Romans were in charge of the government. The Israelites did

not like the Romans. Roman soldiers would come into town and force people to let them stay at their homes. Then when they were ready to leave town, they could force people to carry their bags for an entire mile! The soldiers' bags were heavy. NO ONE wanted to be forced to carry a Roman soldier's luggage out of town.

Jesus said that if a soldier forced you to go one mile, you should offer to go TWO miles instead!!!

What do you think the Roman soldiers thought when Jesus' followers started to offer to carry their bags an extra mile?

Today, we don't have to worry about Roman soldiers forcing us to carry their things for a mile. But we do deal with people who are not nice to us.

According to Matthew 5: 38-42, what would Jesus want you to do when people are mean to you?

Did Jesus ever treat someone with extra kindness even though they didn't deserve it? Who? Explain your answer.

Name one nice thing you can do this week for someone who is not usually nice to you.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for always being extra kind to you even though you don't deserve it. Ask Him to help you be more like Him by being extra kind to people who are mean to you. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 5: 43-48

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 5: 43-48.

According to Matthew 5: 44, what should you do to your enemies and those who hurt you?

We don't usually think of people as our "enemies", but we do know people who aren't nice to us or who hurt us on purpose.

How is Jesus' law different from the Old Testament law in Matthew 5: 43?

What kind of people does God love? (Hint: Re-read Matthew 5: 45.)

It's easy to be nice to people who are nice to you. It's even easier to show kindness to your close friends and family, because you know that they love you back.

As Christians, we should be different from everyone else in a good way. Do you think it would be hard to be really nice (not fake nice) to the people who are mean to you? Why/why not?

What does Jesus tell us to be in verse 48?

How can we be perfect? (Hint: We can't on our own!)

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being perfect. Thank Him for loving you even when you do things that hurt Him. Ask Him to help you love the people who hurt you and pray for those people. Pray for good things to happen to them.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 6: 1-4

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 6: 1-4.

What reason does Jesus say is NOT a good reason for doing good deeds or giving to the needy?

How does Jesus say we should do these things?

When someone does something good in front of other people, what kind of "rewards" do they get?

When someone does something good in secret, what kind of "rewards" do they get?

Have you ever wished that other people recognized you as the nicest person in your school?

If so, that's not a bad thing! We want others to see the difference that Jesus has made in our lives. The danger comes when we stop wanting them to see Jesus and start wanting them to see us instead.

Do you (or someone you know) only do good things when other people are watching you (them)?

Is there something wrong with that? Why/why not?

It's not easy to do something good and not get the credit for it. Try this: turn it into a game! See how many people you can help or be nice to without their knowing it was you who helped them. How many people can you help in a single day? The goal of this game is to make God look great, not you. Write out some ideas of good things you can do in secret in the space below.

Read Matthew 6: 1-4 again.

What if you are caught doing something good? In other words, what if someone notices that you are the one helping others? How can you help those people focus on Jesus instead of you?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for rewarding you when you do good things in secret. Ask Him to help you find ways to be secretly kind to others. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 6: 5-15

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 6: 5-8.

Where does Jesus say the people who only “pretend to be holy” pray?

Why do you think Jesus doesn’t want us to be like those people?

Where does Jesus tell us to pray instead?

Do you need to use a lot of big words when you pray?

Read Matthew 6: 9-13, then fill in the blanks below:

"Our _____ in Heaven, may Your name be

_____.

May Your kingdom come. May what _____

_____ to happen be done on earth as it is done in

Heaven.

Give us today our _____.

_____ us our sins, just as we also have forgiven

those who _____.

Keep us from _____ into _____ when we

are tempted. _____ us from the _____ one."

This part of Jesus' Sermon is called "The Lord's Prayer". A lot of Christians memorize this prayer and say it all together at one time. That is one way that we can let Jesus know that all of us agree and want to follow Him. Christians don't have to ONLY pray with these words, though. Jesus wants us to talk to Him from our hearts.

The Lord's Prayer is a guideline (or outline) for how we should pray. Underline or highlight the parts of prayer that are hard for you or that you don't understand in the outline below.

First Jesus says we should tell God how great He is. We want God to be the most important thing in our lives always! He deserves it!!

Second, Jesus says that He wants God's plan to work out on Earth just like He promised. We can always be excited that Jesus is coming back one day, and we will get to be in Heaven with Him!!

Third, Jesus asks God to provide food for the day. Jesus knows that we all need God. Everything comes from Him!

Next, Jesus says that we should ask God to forgive us for anything we have done wrong and forgive everyone who has done something wrong to us.

Finally, Jesus says we should ask God to help us not sin anymore.

Read Matthew 6: 14-15.

According to these verses, why should we forgive others?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Try to use the outline Jesus gave us. Remember, you don't have to use the exact same words. Just be yourself and talk to God from your heart. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 6: 16-18

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 6: 16-18.

What is the difference between pretending to be holy and actually being holy? Give an example that you might see today.

"Fasting" is going without something important for a certain amount of time, so that you can focus more on God. Most people choose to fast from food or water for a certain amount of time. Every time they feel hungry, it reminds them to focus on God. Other people choose to fast from TV or music. Whenever they want to watch TV or listen to music, they choose instead to spend time with God. Fasting is feasting on God.

Why is fasting important? Think about it this way: Your parents wouldn't be too happy with you if you filled up on sweets and junk food right before dinner, would they? Sometimes, we fill up on the "stuff" in this world and get too busy to spend time with God. Fasting helps Christians get back on track. It helps us remember that God will always be the most important thing in our lives.

Fasting is a great thing, but Jesus saw a lot of people using it to get attention. They wanted to look hungry, so that other people would notice they were trying to spend more time with God. Instead of looking

sad and hungry, Jesus encouraged people to wash their faces and look good. Fasting should be kept a secret.

Why do you think Jesus wants people to keep it a secret when they fast?

How can showing off the good things we do get in the way of our friendship with God?

Jesus didn't want His followers to compare their spiritual lives with each other. Jesus wanted people to be honest about the friendship they have with God and not brag about it. Who does Jesus say will reward those who fast in secret?

Look back through the past few devotions. Do you see a theme or pattern? What is Jesus teaching? (Hint: Matthew 6: 1; Matthew 6: 5; Matthew 6: 16)

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God if there is something that you need to give up for a little while, so that you can focus more on Him. Ask Him to show you if you are bragging about the good things you do. If you are, ask God to forgive you and help you do good for the right reasons. You can use the space below or the next section to help you get started.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 6: 19-21

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 6: 19-21.

What kind of things do you treasure? What are your favorite things?

Where does Jesus say we should keep our treasures?

We can't keep anything we own here on Earth. Eventually they will break or fall apart. How are Heavenly treasures different from earthly treasures?

How do you get treasures in Heaven? (Hint: Matthew 6: 4, 6, 18)

What do you think Jesus meant in verse 21?

Read Matthew 6: 22-24.

How do people serve "Money" as a master?

Is there something that's more important to you than God right now (ex. having cool clothes, playing sports, etc.)? If so, how can you change that?

Write out ways you can treasure Jesus more than anything else this week.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for the things He has given you. Tell God that none of those things are more important to you than He is. Ask Him to keep your treasure in Heaven, so that your heart will always be with Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 6: 25-34

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 6: 25-34.

Write the main point of this passage in your own words below.

Make a list of things that you sometimes worry about.

What reasons does Jesus give us for not worrying?

Go back to the list of things you sometimes worry about. Circle the things that worry you the most. Then, in the space below, write out how God can take care of those things for you.

What does Jesus say we should do instead of worrying?
(Hint: Look at Matthew 6: 33 again.)

How can worrying keep us from putting God first?

BONUS!! Memorize Matthew 6:33 this week. Write it out on a piece of paper that you can carry in your pocket. When you start to worry about something, pull out the piece of paper and read the verse. It will remind you that God is in control of your today and all of your tomorrows, too.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for knowing what you need and always taking care of you. Ask Him to help you stop worrying. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 7: 1-6

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 7: 1-6.

What does it mean to judge someone?

Is it easier to point out when someone else is doing wrong or realize when you are doing wrong? Why?

Draw a picture of what Jesus was talking about in Matthew 7: 3-5.

Matthew 7: 3-5 gives us a pretty strange picture, doesn't it?? Jesus was not talking about having an actual piece of wood in your eye, but He thought that what some people were doing was just as strange. Some people who had a lot of sin in their lives were judging other people who had done only a few things wrong. Jesus was saying that we should not judge each other, but instead take care of our own problems first. It may be easy to see when someone else is doing something wrong, but we should always remember that everyone struggles with sin. We should ask God to forgive us for our own sins before trying to help other people with theirs.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to show you any sin in your life, so that you can ask Him to forgive you. Thank God for His forgiveness, and ask for His help loving others instead of judging them. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 7: 7-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 7: 7-8.

Circle all of the action verbs in the verses below.

"Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find.
Knock and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks
will receive. He who searches will find. The door will be opened
to the one who knocks."
Matthew 7: 7-8

Now draw a triangle around the things God will do when we ask,
search, and knock.

What kind of things do you ask from God?

What was Jesus talking about looking for and finding?

Read Matthew 7: 9-12.

What kind of gifts does God give to us?

According to Matthew 7: 12, how should we treat others? Give an example.

How would your day be different if everyone followed that simple rule in Matthew 7: 12?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for wanting to talk with you. If there is anything you want to ask God, ask Him!! You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 7: 13-14

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 7: 13-14.

Draw the two gates that Jesus is talking about in these verses.

In the end, which gate leads to life?

Which gate leads to death?

Why do you think only a few people find the small gate and narrow road?

Jesus is not talking about actual gates that we have to find and walk through to get to Heaven. Instead, Jesus is saying that it is much easier for people to sin than to choose to follow and obey Him. The fact is that the majority of people choose to do their own thing instead of asking Jesus for forgiveness and putting Him in charge of their lives.

Why do you think it is harder to follow Jesus than to do your own thing?

If you have decided to follow Jesus with your life, you are on the narrow path. It's not easy to follow Jesus. Sometimes we mess up and sin, but Jesus wants to help us. He will forgive us and help us get back on the straight and narrow path. We all need Jesus to help us make the right choices.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to forgive you for the times when you sin. Pray for the people who don't know Jesus. Ask God to help them find the small gate and narrow path that leads to Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 7: 15-23

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 7: 15-23.

A prophet is someone who listens to what God says, then teaches the people. Can you think of someone today who does that?

A false prophet says he knows God, but doesn't really. They pretend that God has told them things and lie to the people.

What do false prophets pretend to be? (vs. 15)

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the scariest) how scary is a sheep?

What are they really? (vs. 15)

On a scale of 1-10 (10 being the scariest) how scary is a wolf?

How does Jesus say you can tell what they really are?

Read Galatians 5: 22-23 below.

"But the fruit the Holy Spirit produces is love, joy and peace. It is being patient, kind and good. It is being faithful and gentle and having control of oneself. There is no law against things of that kind."
Galatians 5: 22-23

If a person has "good fruit" in their lives, what kind of life will they be living?

What kind of "bad fruit" do you think would show up in a life without God?

According to Matthew 7: 21, who will enter Heaven?

It is a good thing to go to church and learn more about God. Jesus loves it when we spend time with Him! But He doesn't like it when we leave church or our quiet time with Him and start sinning again on purpose. Jesus wants us to act on what we have learned during our time with Him. Otherwise, nothing will change about our lives. We will be just like everyone who does not know God.

How have you acted on the things you have learned about God? Can you see your life changing to be more like Jesus?

Of course, no one is perfect. It takes time to learn to stop sinning. Every day that we spend with Jesus, we learn a little bit more how to be like Him. Even though we may not be perfect, we should be moving in the right direction.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for teaching you. Ask Him to keep teaching you to be more like Him. Ask God to help you live a life with "good fruit".

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 7: 24-29

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 7: 24-29.

People who put God's words into action are like:

- A. a foolish man
- B. a wise man
- C. a storm

People who hear God's words, but choose not to act on them are like:

- A. a foolish man
- B. a wise man
- C. a storm

Why does the wise man's house not fall during the storm?

Why does the foolish man's house fall?

A house's foundation is very important. The foundation determines how well the house will stand. It doesn't matter how well the top of the house is built if the foundation is weak. Our lives are just like the houses in Jesus' story.

We need a strong foundation. What is the most important thing in your life?

When a "storm", or something bad, happens in life, what kind of foundation do you want?

Who is the strongest foundation for your life? In other words, who should be the most important to you?

Go back to Matthew 7: 24. How can you tell if Jesus is your foundation, the most important person in your life?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being a strong foundation. Thank Him for never leaving you.

MATTHEW 8: 1-4

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 1-4.

How did the sick man come to Jesus?

What did he call Jesus and why do you think that is important?

What did the man say to Jesus?

What did Jesus say to the man?

Have you ever asked Jesus to heal someone?

How did Jesus answer your prayer?

God has a plan for each of our lives. Sometimes, it is in His will to heal people here on this earth. Other times, He has a bigger and better plan for the sick person than we can understand. If they know Him as their Lord, God will heal those people in His own timing - either here on earth or in Heaven one day.

Do you think Jesus would have healed the man that day if he had not asked? Why/why not?

You may or may not be sick, but there is a lot to learn from the man in this story. What can you learn from the sick man in today's story?

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being our Healer. Tell Him how amazing He is! You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 8: 5-13

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 5-13.

What did the Roman commander want from Jesus?

How did Jesus answer him?

The Roman commander believed that Jesus was very powerful. He knew that Jesus was in charge of all things. What did he say when Jesus offered to come to his house?

Is that something you would expect a powerful commander to say?
Why/why not?

Hebrews 11: 1 says,

“Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see.”

How did the commander show his faith in Jesus?

The commander believed in Jesus so much that he didn't need to see Jesus heal his servant. He knew that Jesus could heal his servant without ever seeing or touching him. When Jesus said that he would heal the commander's servant, the commander believed Him.

When was the commander's servant healed?

What things about God do you believe absolutely without seeing or touching?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Praise God for being powerful. Tell Him about your faith in Him – that you believe Him no matter what. Pray that God will use you to help everyone understand how powerful He is! You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 8: 14-17

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 14-17.

Who had a fever?

What did she do after Jesus healed her?

Why do you think Peter's mother chose to wait on Jesus after being healed?

According to verse 16, was there anyone whom Jesus could not heal?

In verse 17, Matthew quotes Isaiah's predictions about the Savior. Read the passage that he quoted on the next page and highlight or underline things that remind you of Jesus.

"Men looked down on him. They didn't accept him. He knew all about sorrow and suffering. He was like someone people turn their faces away from. We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him. He suffered the things we should have suffered. He took on himself the pain that should have been ours. But we thought God was punishing him. We thought God was wounding him and making him suffer. But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us. All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way. And the Lord has placed on his servant the sins of all of us."

Isaiah 53: 3-6

How do the things you highlighted / underlined remind you of Jesus?

Once again, Isaiah the prophet's predictions about the Savior came true through Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's plan for salvation for His people.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being our Savior. Thank Jesus for saving you from your sins. Then ask God to help you serve Him as a thank-you for all that He has done for you. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 8: 18-22

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 18-22.

What did the first follower tell Jesus in verse 19?

Jesus moved from place to place, teaching the people. What would the man have had to give up to follow Jesus?

What did the second follower tell Jesus?

What would that man have had to give up to follow Jesus?

Do you think it would have been hard for him to leave his family behind? Why/why not?

Jesus never said that it would be easy to follow Him. What are some things that people might have to give up in order to follow and obey Jesus with their lives?

Is there anything in your life that is more important to you than Jesus? The men in this passage loved their homes and their families more than they loved Jesus. It's good to have a home. It's also great to love your family, but Jesus always wants us to put Him first.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to show you if there is anything in your life that is more important to you than He is. Ask Him to help you always give Him first place in your life. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 8: 23-27

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 23-27.

What was Jesus doing when the storm hit?

What do you think the disciples were doing?

Jesus asked them why they were afraid. If you were there in the storm, would you have been afraid? Why/why not?

Was Jesus afraid?

What did Jesus do next?

Imagine what the disciples must have seen when the wind and the waves just stopped and became calm. If you were there, what do you think you would have done?

The disciples had seen Jesus heal many people and perform miracles. They knew that Jesus was powerful. They knew that He was in the boat with them, but they were still afraid.

Sometimes bad things happen, and we get scared. It may be an actual storm that you are afraid of, or it might be something else like parents that fight or bullies at school. But when we decide to follow Jesus with our lives, He says that He will always be with us. The disciples got through the storm because Jesus was with them in the boat. They didn't need to be afraid. In the same way, we don't need to be afraid when bad things happen, because we know that Jesus is with us through all of life's "storms".

What are some things that scare you?

Go back through your list of things above and scratch them out one at a time. As you scratch through them, remind yourself that Jesus is with you every time you deal with those things. He loves you and is strong enough to keep you safe.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for never leaving you. Praise Him for being strong and in control. Tell Him about the things that scare you or make you worried. Ask God to help you trust Him to take care of those things for you. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 8: 28-34

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 8: 28-34.

What was wrong with the two men who met Jesus?

What did the demons call Jesus?

Was Jesus afraid of the demons?

What about the demons? What were they afraid of?

What did the herd of pigs do when Jesus told the demons to leave the men and go into the pigs?

What did the town ask Jesus to do?

Why do you think they wanted Jesus to leave?

Look back through Matthew 8. How has Jesus shown His power in this chapter?

Read what Paul says about the power of God:

"I am absolutely sure that not even death or life can separate us from God's love. Not even angels or demons, the present or the future, or any powers can do that. Not even the highest places or the lowest, or anything else in all creation can do that. Nothing at all can ever separate us from God's love because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done."

Romans 8: 38-39

Can anything separate us from God's love?

Why can't anything separate us from God's love?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Spend time just thinking about how great God is before getting started. Then take some time to pray. Praise God by telling Him how powerful He is. Thank Him for never leaving you. Thank Him for being in charge of everything. Thank Him for loving you.

MATTHEW 9: 1-8

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 9: 1-8.

How did the man who could not walk get to Jesus?

Do you know someone who does not know Jesus?

How can you help them meet Jesus?

The teachers of the law were upset because they knew that only God has the authority to forgive sins. Jesus had proven so far that He had authority over sickness, demons, and even the weather. Now what did He tell the teachers of the law that He had the authority to do?

What does this mean about who Jesus is? In other words, who was Jesus saying He was by saying that He had the authority to forgive sins?

Then what did Jesus do for the man?

Jesus knew that the man brought to Him was sick in two ways: He could not walk, and he had sin in his life.

How is sin like a sickness?

Jesus is God. He can heal our outside bodies, and He can heal our hearts. Do you have any sin in your life? Ask Jesus to forgive you. He alone has the power to forgive you and make you new each time you choose to sin.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Pray that God will use you to help others meet Him. Thank God for having the power to forgive your sins. Ask Him to remind you of any sin in your life that you need to tell Him about and ask to be forgiven.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 9: 9-13

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 9: 9-13.

Where was Matthew sitting?

Remember, the Romans were in charge of Israel at this time, and the Israelites did not like that at all. What do you think other Israelites thought about people who chose to work for the Roman government collecting taxes? Explain.

Where did Jesus eat dinner? Who was at the dinner party?

Why do you think the Pharisees (religious leaders) thought it was strange for Jesus to eat with them?

How is Jesus like a doctor for sinful people?

Did Jesus look down on the sinful people He was eating with? Explain your answer.

The Pharisees tried to live their lives perfectly. They thought they were better than everyone else because of how much they studied God's laws and how many good things that they did. Unfortunately for them, this kept them from seeing that they needed Jesus, too. They had sinned, too.

Jesus, on the other hand, actually was perfect. He could have looked down on everyone. He could have bragged about how much better He was than everyone else, but He didn't. Jesus showed love to everyone He met no matter what they had done in the past. Jesus wanted to give everyone a chance to be forgiven.

Make a list of things that people do to sin.

Circle the things in your list that seem like worse or bigger sins.

Like the Pharisees, we sometimes forget that all sins separate us from God. Whether we do something really bad or tell only one little white lie, sin is sin. We all need to be forgiven.

Think for a minute: Do you sometimes compare yourself with other people to make yourself feel better? Do you ever brag about how good you are? Do you treat the "bad kids" differently than others, or do you show them the love of Jesus? Jesus loves everyone no matter what they have done. He wants us, as His followers, to do the same.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for loving you no matter what. Pray that God will use you to show love to everyone you see.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 9: 14-26

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 9: 14-17.

John the Baptist's followers fasted in order to help them focus more on God. Why do you think Jesus' disciples didn't need to fast?

Jesus was God! He was right there with them in person. His disciples didn't need to fast to focus on God. They got to celebrate having Jesus with them every day on earth.

Make a list of some ways that you can celebrate God this week.

Read Matthew 9: 18-19.

How did the ruler come to Jesus?

- A. standing
- B. sitting
- C. kneeling

What did Jesus do to answer the ruler's request?

Read Matthew 9: 19-22.

What happened before Jesus got to the ruler's house?

How long had the woman been sick?

How did the woman show she had faith in Jesus?

If you were the ruler and your daughter was about to die, how would you have felt when you saw Jesus stop to help someone else?

Read Matthew 9: 23-26.

What did the crowd do when Jesus said that the girl was not dead, but sleeping?

The crowds knew that the little girl had died. They were there for her funeral and probably thought that Jesus was crazy. They didn't know that He had the power over life and death.

What did Jesus do for the ruler's daughter?

God's timing is different than our timing. His plans are better than our plans. The ruler was probably worried about his daughter, but Jesus was not worried. Jesus had a plan.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for having a good plan for your life. Ask Him to help you trust Him and celebrate Him every day.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 9: 27-34

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 9: 27-34.

What did the blind men want Jesus to do for them?

What did Jesus ask them before healing them?

Why do you think Jesus asked that?

What did Jesus do next?

It was pretty obvious at this point that Jesus was very powerful. Nobody could deny that Jesus was more than just a man. But where did the Pharisees think Jesus got His power?

Why do you think it was so hard for the Pharisees to believe that Jesus was the Son of God? After all, they were teachers of God's Law.

Do you think God still does miracles today?

What are some miracles that God does every day that people might not notice?

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for the miracles He has done in your life and around the world.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 9: 35 – 10: 8

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 9: 35-36.

What was Jesus teaching?

How did Jesus feel when He saw the crowds?

Read Matthew 9: 37 - 10: 8.

Imagine how many people were coming to Jesus each day, wanting to hear His teaching or be healed. Do you think Jesus had time to heal every single person who came to Him?

What did Jesus do so that more people could be healed?

What were the disciples supposed to preach? (vs. 7)

What do you think Jesus meant when He said, "...You have received freely, so give freely."? (vs.8)

Make a list of some gifts and talents that you have received from God.

How can you use your God-given gifts to help others and tell people about Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to use you to teach other people about Him.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 10: 9-25

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 10: 9-15.

Where are the disciples supposed to stay as they travel from town to town?

Will everyone welcome the disciples?

Why do you think some people might not want to hear what the disciples have to say about Jesus?

Read Matthew 10: 16-20.

At first, receiving Jesus' gifts of power and authority sound pretty cool! But is the disciples' job going to be easy? Why/why not?

Why did the disciples not need to worry about what to say when they were arrested?

Read Matthew 10: 21-23.

How do you think it made the disciples feel when people arrested them for teaching about Jesus?

Do you think they ever stopped teaching about Jesus and healing people? Why/why not?

Read Matthew 10: 24-25 below.

Circle the words that refer to the disciples. Put a triangle around the words that describe Jesus and God.

"A student is not better than his teacher. A servant is not better than his master. It is enough for the student to be like his teacher. And it is enough for the servant to be like his master. If the head of the house has been called Beelzebub, what can the others who live there expect?"
Matthew 10: 24-25

The disciples had been given power and authority to heal all diseases and drive out demons. A lot of people probably thought that they were just as important as Jesus, but they were not.

Sometimes it can be easy to forget that God is the one who made us and gave us all of our talents and gifts. What kind of things can you do to make sure that everyone knows that your talents and gifts are from God and not you?

Not everyone you tell will believe in Jesus, and that's okay. The disciples didn't stop telling others about Jesus just because some people didn't believe them. They kept going, and so should we.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Pray for the people who don't know Him, yet. Ask God to help you tell them the good news about Jesus. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 10: 26-31

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 10: 26-31.

Write out the first four words of verse 26 in the space below.

Have you ever felt afraid? If so, tell about that time.

What made you feel better?

Lots of people did not like what the disciples had to say about Jesus. Jesus knew His disciples would be put in prison and beaten for telling others the good news. He knew that people would try to hurt them. But what could those people never do according to verse 28?

Read Matthew 10: 29-31 again.

How important are you to God?

BONUS!! Read Psalm 139.

Make a list of all the things God says He knows about you in that chapter.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for knowing and loving you. Ask God to give you the courage to tell others the good news about Jesus.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 10: 32-42

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 10: 32-42.

According to Matthew 10: 34, did Jesus come to bring peace?

What do you think that means?

What do you think Jesus wants us to love Him more than anyone else, including our families?

Write out Matthew 10: 39 in the space below.

Circle the things in the list below that are important to you in your life. You can also add things to the list.

Music

Clothes

TV

Family

Sports

School

Video Games

Friends

Sleep

Movies

Art

Drama

Popularity

Computers

A lot of people think they will find “real life” in the things that are important to them. Jesus wanted His followers to know that He is the only One who can give real LIFE. How does making Jesus the most important thing give you real life?

According to verses 40-42, what will happen for those who show kindness to Jesus’ followers?

Closing Prayer

Tell God that you want Him to be the most important thing in your life. If you realize that He is not the most important, ask Him to help you focus on Him more than anything else.

MATTHEW 11: 1-19

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 11: 1-19.

Where was John the Baptist?

What did John's followers want to know about Jesus?

How important did Jesus say John was?

What was advancing with force? (verse 12)

There were a lot of people who did not want to believe in Jesus. They didn't like John because he chose to fast and didn't drink wine. They did not like Jesus because He drank and ate with "sinners". Why do you think these people kept making up reasons not to believe in Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for sending Jesus to the world. Tell Him that you believe Him no matter what. You can use the space below to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 11: 20-30

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 11: 20-24.

Why did Jesus say those cities were going to be judged?

What did Jesus do in those cities that He had not done in other cities?

Read Matthew 11: 25-30.

What are those who are tired supposed to do?

What will Jesus give to them?

In verse 29, what does Jesus tell His followers to do?

What kind of person is Jesus according to these verses?

Make a list of ways that you can serve Jesus.

Why do you think it is important to serve Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for teaching you. Ask God to show you ways to serve Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 12: 1-14

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 12: 1-14.

Why did the disciples gather grain?

Why were the Pharisees upset that the disciples had gathered the grain?

How did Jesus answer the Pharisees?

According to Jesus, who is in charge of the Sabbath day?

The fourth commandment says,

“Remember to keep the Sabbath day holy. Do all of your work in six days. But the seventh day is a Sabbath in honor of the Lord your God...”

Exodus 20: 8-10a

According to these verses, what is the purpose of the Sabbath day?

What reason did Jesus give the Pharisees for healing on the Sabbath?

How can you obey the fourth commandment by setting apart a whole day to worship God?

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Spend time just focusing on God. Talk with Him as a friend. You can use the next section to help you get started if you want.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because...

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 12: 15-29

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 12: 15-21.

How do you know that Isaiah's prophecy was about Jesus? What about the passage from Isaiah reminds you of Jesus?

Read Matthew 12: 22-29.

The Pharisees knew the scriptures. They knew that Jesus was fulfilling every prophecy that God had given the Israelites about His promised Savior. But they didn't want to believe that Jesus was God's Son. So instead, they told each other that Beelzebub (Satan) had given Jesus the power to cast out demons. They didn't want to believe what was obviously true: that Jesus' power came from God.

How did Jesus answer what the Pharisees were saying? (Hint: Look at verses 25-28.)

Where did Jesus say His power came from? (Hint: Look at verse 28.)

Make a list of reasons that you believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus that you believe in Him. Tell Him that you know that He is God's Son. Thank God that you are on His team. Ask God to help you tell others about Him.

Prayer Time

God, I praise You today because....

Lord, please forgive me for...

God I thank You for...

Lord, here are the needs of my family and friends.

My thoughts...

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

MATTHEW 12: 30-37

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 12: 30-33.

What does it mean to be "with" Jesus in verse 30?

If people are the sheep and Jesus is the shepherd, what kind of things do people do to "scatter" others away from knowing and following Jesus?

What sin does Jesus say is unforgivable?

When people choose not to believe in Jesus, they are telling the Holy Spirit they do not want Him in their lives. They choose not to accept forgiveness. Unless we accept His forgiveness, we will never be allowed to go into Heaven. Jesus explains how we can tell if a person has chosen to be forgiven or not in the next verses.

In verse 33, "fruit" is used to describe a person's actions. What kind of fruit is good fruit? (Hint: Look up Galatians 5: 22-23.)

What kind of fruit is bad fruit?

Read Matthew 12: 34-37.

What do our mouths say according to the last part of verse 34?

What do you think it means to "put away" good or evil inside you?

How can movies, music, and friends affect the way you talk and act?

What kind of things do you choose to “put away” in your heart?

Have you ever said something you know you shouldn’t have said? Tell about that time.

Words are very powerful. With our words we can choose to hurt people or help them. We can praise God, or we can say things that we know would hurt God’s heart.

Do you need to ask God to forgive you for some of the things you have said? If so, ask Him to forgive you right now. Ask Him to help you use your words to help others and praise Him.

Now think about why you may be tempted to say those wrong things. Are you putting the right kind of things into your mind? Do the things you watch and listen to make it harder for you to speak kindly?

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus that you are with Him and that you are glad to be on His team. Thank Him for forgiving you when you mess up. Ask God to help you use your words for Him from now on.

MATTHEW 12: 38-45

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 12: 38-45.

What is the story of Jonah?

(Hint: Look in verse 40 or the book of Jonah for the full story.)

How long was Jonah in the fish's stomach?

How long was Jesus in the grave after He died on the cross?

The people were asking Jesus to perform a miracle, because they wanted to see Him do something cool. But Jesus did not come to earth to entertain. He came to save the world from their sins.

How were the Ninevites saved?

How was the Queen of the South (the Queen of Sheba) saved?

Before Jesus, God spoke through different prophets. Everyone who believed in God and looked forward to God's sending His chosen Savior (Jesus) was saved by faith. These people showed their faith by turning away from their sins and following God instead.

How can people be saved from their sins today?

How is Jesus more important than Jonah and Solomon?

When we ask Jesus into our hearts, the Holy Spirit moves into our lives. He stays with us no matter what. In Matthew 12: 43-45, Jesus talks about what can happen if people do not let the Holy Spirit into their lives.

If you have questions about anything in this passage, write out your questions in the space below. Remember, it's okay to not understand everything in the Bible. The only One who knows everything is God!! Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand. Wait for His answer. You can also ask a pastor or another adult whom you trust.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for choosing to die for you. Thank Him for coming back to life, so that you could be saved. Ask God to give you the courage to tell everyone you see about what Jesus did for you. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 12: 46-50

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 12: 46-50.

Whom did Jesus say were His mother and brothers?

Why do you think Jesus said that His disciples were in His family?

According to verse 50, who can be in Jesus' family?

When we decide to follow Jesus with our lives and turn away from sin, we can be a part of the family of God!!!

Who is in your family?

Have you ever disobeyed your parents?

When you disobeyed your parents, did you get in trouble?

Did your parents ever decide to throw you out of the family?

Do you think they would ever do that? Why/why not?

When we choose to accept Jesus' invitation to be a part of His family, Jesus lets us into His family forever. We may mess up from time to time, but God forgives us. He treats you like a son or daughter.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for letting you into His family. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 13: 1-23

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 13: 1-23.

What happened to the seed that was sown on the path?

What happened to the seed that was sown on rocky places?

What happened to the seed that was sown among thorns?

What happened to the seed that was sown on the good soil?

Did everyone who heard Jesus understand what He was teaching?

Who is like the seed that was sown on the path?

Who is like the seed that was sown on rocky places?

What do you think it means to have “roots” in your faith?

Growing up as a Christian is different than just growing older. People grow older whether or not they try to age. It just happens naturally. Growing in Christ is different, though. Christians can choose to grow or not. Just like a friendship, we grow to be better friends with the people we spend more time with. Friendship doesn't just happen – people have to work at it in order to build a deep and lasting friendship. It is the same way with our friendship with God.

What kind of things can you do to make sure you are “watered” and growing in your friendship with God?

Who is like the seed that was sown among thorns?

What kind of worries can keep someone from following God today?

Do you worry about anything? If so, what do you worry about?

How can your worries keep you from following God?

Who is like the seed that was sown on good soil?

How can you help produce more people who believe in Jesus?

Which kind of seed are you? Is that different from the kind of seed you want to be?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to help you grow up in your friendship with Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 13: 24-43

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 13: 24-30.

Who planted the weeds?

Why did the owner tell his servants not to pull up the weeds until harvest time?

What were the servants supposed to do with the weeds at harvest time?

Read Matthew 13: 30-35.

How big is a mustard seed?

What does a mustard seed grow into? What is its size when it is full grown?

It only takes a little bit of yeast to make an entire loaf of bread rise. When we have even the smallest amount of faith, God can do big things through us. How is the Kingdom of God like a small amount of yeast or a mustard seed?

Read Matthew 13: 36-43.

Who is the one who planted the seed?

Who is the good seed?

Who is the enemy?

Who are the workers?

What are the weeds?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Thank God for promising to get rid of all the evil in the world one day. Tell Him how excited you are to see Him in Heaven.

MATTHEW 13: 44-52

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 13: 44-46.

Why did the man who found the treasure in the field sell everything he had?

Why did the man who found the pearl sell everything he had?

What was more valuable to those men: the treasure or everything else they owned?

How is Heaven like the hidden treasure or the pearl?

The man who found the treasure did not have to sell everything he owned. He knew the treasure was extremely valuable, but knowing that fact did not make a difference in his life, until he actually bought the field with the money he earned by selling everything he owned. In the same way, knowing Jesus is important doesn't do anything. We have to choose to act on what we know.

How can someone show that they believe Jesus is important by the way they live?

Read Matthew 13: 47-52.

What will happen to the people who did wrong?

What will happen to the people who did right?

The first time Jesus came to earth, He came to save us from our sins. We all deserve to be separated from God and thrown out, but Jesus came so that we could be forgiven. Jesus is coming back again one day to judge the world. At that time everyone who has been forgiven and who has chosen to follow God will be saved. Everyone who has chosen not to be forgiven will be thrown out.

How important is it to spread the good news about Jesus?

Make a list of people whom you can tell about Jesus this week.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for forgiving you. Tell Him how important He is to you. Ask Him to bring people to you so that you can tell them about Jesus. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 13: 53-58

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 13: 53-58.

Why were the people in Jesus' hometown of Nazareth upset?

Why did Jesus only do a few miracles there?

What is faith? (Hint: Look up Hebrews 11:1.)

Why do you think it was hard for the people of Nazareth to have faith in Jesus?

What can make it hard for people to have faith in Jesus today?

A lot of people grow up knowing about God but never seem to understand what it really means to follow Jesus with their lives. What is the difference between knowing about God and having faith in God?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Praise God for the miracles He does every day. Ask God to help your faith grow. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 14: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 14: 1-12.

Why did King Herod want to kill John the Baptist? (verse 4-5)

Who asked for John the Baptist to be killed?

Why did King Herod do what she asked?

Have you ever wanted to do something because you were afraid of being embarrassed in front of other people? If so, tell about that time.

Why is it hard sometimes to do the right thing in front of friends?

King Herod gave in to peer pressure. He killed John the Baptist even though he knew it would be a bad thing for a king to do.

What do you think Jesus would say to people today who do things they know are wrong for the sake of their friends?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to help you do the right thing no matter who is around you. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 14: 13-21

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 14: 13-21.

Why did Jesus want to be alone?

How did Jesus feel about the crowd of people?

What did Jesus do when He saw them?

Why did the disciples want Jesus to send the people away?

How much food did they have with them?

Imagine that you were with Jesus that day. What would you have thought when Jesus held up the small meal and gave thanks for all the people?

How many people did Jesus feed with the small meal?

How much food was left over?

What does this story tell you about Jesus?

Closing Prayer

Praise God by telling Him how powerful He is. Tell Him all the things you have learned about Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 14: 22-36

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 14: 22-36.

Why did Jesus go to the mountainside?

How did Jesus get to His disciples who were in the boat?

What did the disciples think when they saw Jesus walking on water?

For a while, Peter was able to walk on water just like Jesus!! When did Peter start to sink?

Just like Peter, we are sometimes tempted to take our eyes off of Jesus when we start to worry. Do you sometimes worry about the future? Explain.

Peter that he was sinking. When we take our focus off of Jesus, we start to sink, too. The more we focus on what worries us, the bigger the problem seems. How was Peter saved?

If you are worried about something, how can you be saved?

What did His disciples do once Jesus got into the boat? Why?

Worship happens when we focus on one thing only. The disciples focused only on Jesus. It didn't matter that the storm was still going on or that Peter was soaking wet. All that mattered to them was Jesus.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Spend time worshipping God for everything He has done. Focus on Him. If it is hard for you to focus, tell that to God. Ask Him to help you focus on Him alone while you pray. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 15: 1-20

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 15: 1-9.

Why were the Pharisees upset with Jesus' disciples?

Why was Jesus upset with the Pharisees? What commandment were they teaching others to break?

Why do you think Jesus called the Pharisees "pretenders" in verse 7?

Why do you think the Pharisees' worship didn't mean anything to God?

Read Matthew 15: 10-20.

According to Jesus, what makes someone "unclean" or sinful?

Why do you think Jesus called the Pharisees blind guides?

The Pharisees knew the Law, but they did not understand it. They made up a lot of extra rules themselves to be sure that they did not break any of God's commandments. That might sound good, but there was a problem. The Pharisees took their focus off of God and instead focused on themselves. They wanted to follow God's rules better than anyone else did. They were so obsessed with God's rules that they forgot about God Himself.

Take a minute to be still and think. Do you spend more time trying to "be good" than on getting to know God personally?

How do the words you say show what is in your heart?

What do your words say about the condition of your heart?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell God you want to get to know Him better. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 15: 21-28

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 15: 21-28.

Where was the woman from?

What did she want from Jesus?

Why did Jesus not help her at first?

What made Jesus change His mind and help the woman?

Do you think Jesus loved the woman? Why/why not?

Israel is God's chosen nation. Ever since God made a covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12), God has watched out for and protected the Jews, His chosen people. The Old Testament is full of stories of the Lord's involvement in the birth of the nation of Israel.

It makes sense that God especially wants His chosen people to believe in Him; however, He doesn't stop other people who want to come to Him. Anyone who believes in Jesus Christ as his/her Savior and Lord can be saved. (John 3:16, Romans 10:9)

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for loving you and letting you into His family. Ask Him to teach you every day how to love Him and others more. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 15: 29-39

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 15: 29-31.

What did Jesus do for the people who came to Him?

Imagine for a moment what it would have been like to see Jesus do all of those amazing miracles. Would you have wanted to leave to get lunch?

Read Matthew 15: 32-33.

How long had the people been with Jesus on the mountain?

Why were the disciples worried?

Read Matthew 15: 34-39.

How much food did they have?

How many men (not including women and children) were there?

How much food was left over?

The disciples had seen Jesus feed crowds larger than this one with less food (Matthew 14: 13-21). But they were still confused about how Jesus was going to feed all of the hungry people. Sometimes we worry about silly things, too. We forget that God is in control and will give us what we need.

Make a list of all the things God has provided for you (given you).

The next time you feel worried, look back at this list. Remember what God has done. He has taken care of you in the past, and He will take care of you in the future, too. We may not always know what God has planned for us, but we can trust that His plans are good.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being in control of all things. Thank Him for taking care of you. Talk to Him about the things that worry you and ask Him to help you trust Him with your future. You can use the space below to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 16: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 16: 1-4.

Why did the Pharisees and Sadducees come to Jesus?

Why do you think Jesus did not do any miracles for them?

The Pharisees and Sadducees wanted to see Jesus perform miracles, but Jesus was not on earth for their entertainment. He was not going to put on a show for them. These teachers of God's laws knew about the things Jesus could do. They knew what Jesus had been teaching, but they still did not believe that He was the Son of God, the Savior they had been waiting for.

What do you think Jesus meant by the "sign of Jonah"? (Hint: Look up Matthew 12: 40.)

Read Matthew 16: 5-12.

What did Jesus tell His disciples to watch out for?

What did the disciples think Jesus meant?

What was Jesus actually warning them against?

The Pharisees and Sadducees did a lot of good things. They went to the synagogue all of the time. They taught others about God's laws and tried very hard to follow every one of those laws. They even made up laws to help them keep the laws God had made. They were considered to be among the most "holy" people in Israel.

What was wrong with what they were teaching?

Unfortunately for the Pharisees and Sadducees, the amount of good things we do is not nearly as important to God as the condition of our hearts. Good deeds are great, but life is not a good deeds contest. If we have sinned even one time, we do not deserve to go to Heaven. All of us need Jesus to take our punishment and pay the price for our sins. All of us need to put our faith in Jesus in order to be forgiven for the wrong things we have done.

Do people sometimes act like life is a good deed contest? Explain.

How can you keep from turning your good deeds into a contest? How can you make sure the good things you do are for God and no one else?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for your sins on the cross. Ask Him to help you do good things for others without making it a contest.

MATTHEW 16: 13-20

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 16: 13-20.

What were people saying about Jesus?

How is that like what people think about Jesus today?

Who did Peter say that Jesus was?

Who do you think Jesus is?

Why is important to decide who you think Jesus is?

How did Jesus reward Simon Peter's faith?

Jesus gave Peter a new name, a new identity. How does Jesus give you a new identity when you choose to believe in Him?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being God. Tell Him everything that you believe about Him. Thank God for letting you into His family and His home in Heaven.

MATTHEW 16: 21-28

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 16: 21-28.

What did Jesus tell His disciples in verse 21?

Why did Peter scold Him?

Why do you think Jesus answered Peter the way He did?

Jesus knew exactly what was going to happen to Him. He knew that He would be made fun of, beaten, and killed. Jesus did not want to go through all of that, but He knew He had to in order for us to be forgiven.

How did Jesus “say no” to Himself in order to put us first?

What are some ways that you can say no to yourself in order to put Jesus first?

What is the reward for putting Jesus first?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for putting you first and taking your punishment on the cross. Ask Him to teach you how to put Him first in your life.

MATTHEW 17: 1-13

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 17: 1-13.

How was Jesus' appearance changed?

Who appeared with Jesus?

How do you think Peter, James, and John felt when they saw this? Explain.

What did Peter suggest he could do for Jesus, Moses, and Elijah?

Do you think that sounds like a strange idea? Why/why not?

Why do you think Jesus chose to go around earth in human form? Why didn't He show His glory to everyone?

When did Jesus say they could tell others about what they had seen?

The Old Testament predicted that an Elijah would come before the Savior to get the world ready. Who was the Elijah that got the world ready for Jesus? (Hint: Verse 13)

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Spend some time imagining what Jesus must have looked like in all of His glory. Praise God because He is amazing! Tell God what you think about Him. You can use the space below to write out your prayer or use a separate sheet of paper (maybe in a journal).

MATTHEW 17: 14-23

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 17: 14-23.

How did the man come before Jesus?

Why do you think so many people came to Jesus on their knees?

Why could the disciples not heal the boy?

How much faith is enough to move mountains?

By whose power would the mountain move: yours or God's?

What will be impossible for you if you have faith?

What is faith?

How can you grow your faith?

Why were the disciples sad in verse 23?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being so powerful. Honor Him by telling Him that He is in charge of you forever. Ask Him to help you grow your faith. Tell God that you want Him to use you to do great things for Him.

MATTHEW 17: 24-27

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 17: 24-27.

Governments need money to do important things like fix roads and pay policemen. A tax is the amount of money that a citizen pays the government to make sure it can do those important things. Churches need money, too. Churches need money to do the things God wants them to do like help the poor and take care of the church building. The temple tax ensured that there was always enough money to take care of the temple.

Who is ultimately in charge of the temple and church?

Who is Jesus?

Should Jesus have to pay the temple tax? Why/why not?

Why did Jesus pay the temple tax?

Where did He get the money to pay the temple?

As Christians, we are to give money to the church today. The Bible calls this gift a tithe, or 10% of the money you make. What kind of things does your church do with the money you give?

Do you think people should give to the Lord today by giving money to the church? (Hint: Read Deuteronomy 14: 22-29 and Malachi 3: 6-12.

If you have money, the Bible says that at least 10% of your money should be given to God. If you don't have money, what are some other things that you can give to God?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for giving you the best gift ever in His Son, Jesus Christ. Ask God to show you ways that you can give back to Him. You may want to start a journal to write out your prayers to God. Writing out your prayers can help you stay focused while you are talking to God. Journals also allow you to look back through your prayers to remember all the things God has taught you.

MATTHEW 18: 1-9

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 18: 1-9.

What did the disciples ask Jesus?

How did Jesus say the disciples needed to change?

What good thing did Jesus point out about the child?

What is pride? Give an example.

What does it mean to "lead people to sin"? Give an example.

What did Jesus mean when He said people should cut off a hand or foot if it is causing them to sin?

Jesus did not really want people to cut off a hand or foot. Your hand, foot, or eye is not going to cause you to sin. Your heart causes you to sin. The point is that sin is serious to God. Jesus was using an extreme example, because staying away from sin is extremely important. Why does God think sin is so bad?

According to this passage, if you have a friend who continually causes you to gossip or say bad words, what should you do?

What kind of things cause you to sin?

How can you avoid (stay away from) those things?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for loving you. Ask God to show you the things that cause you to sin, and for His help in staying away from those things.

MATTHEW 18: 10-14

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 18: 10-14.

Have you ever been “looked down on” because you are a kid? How did that make you feel?

Whom do the sheep represent in this scripture?

In Jesus’ story, why does the shepherd leave the 99 sheep alone?

What makes the shepherd happy?

According to Matthew 18: 14, how many of His children does Jesus want to be “lost”?

What does it mean to wander away from Jesus?

In Jesus' story, do you think the shepherd wanted the sheep to wander away? Why/why not?

Does Jesus want His children to wander away from Him by doing wrong things on purpose?

A lot of people think that they need to "try out" different sins. They think their story is not as good as other peoples' stories, because they have not done as many bad things in their lives. But Jesus doesn't want us to sin just so that we can come back to Him over and over again.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being the Good Shepherd. Ask Him to forgive you for any sins you have in your life. Tell Him that you want to stay close by Him forever. You can use the space below to write out your prayer if you want.

MATTHEW 18: 15-20

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 18: 15-20.

Has someone ever done something to "sin against you"?

What does Jesus say you should do when someone does something wrong to you?

What should you do if they won't listen when you talk to them by yourself?

What should you do if they still don't listen?

People make mistakes. We hurt each others' feelings. We do things that we know are wrong. We sin. When someone sins against us, it can be hard to do the right thing. Sometimes, we want to tell everyone right away about how the person hurt us. But it's very important to follow Jesus' plan for handling conflict. Following Jesus' plan can help you avoid sin in the process.

Is there somebody who has hurt you recently? If so, write out your plan to talk to them in the space below. Then, check to make sure it fits in with Jesus' plan.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for forgiving you every time you mess up and sin. Ask Him to help you forgive the people who sin against you, too. Ask Him to help you honor Him when you talk to the person who sinned against you.

MATTHEW 18: 21-35

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 18: 21-35.

How many times did Peter think someone should be forgiven?

How many times did Jesus say someone should be forgiven?

How much money did the man owe his master?

Could he pay his master back?

What did the master do?

How do you think the man felt when he learned his debt was forgiven and didn't have to pay back the money anymore?

What did the man do to his servant who owed him a few dollars?

What did the master do when he heard about the man's actions?

What does it mean to forgive someone from the heart?

"Mercy" is not getting the punishment that you deserve. In Jesus' story, the man deserved to be thrown into prison and have his family sold in order to pay back the money he owed his master. Fortunately, the master had mercy on the servant. He did not give him what he deserved.

How did Jesus show mercy to you? (Hint: What do you deserve for your sins?)

How can you show mercy to others?

How important is it for you to forgive others? Explain.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Think for a while about your week. Is there anything you need to ask Jesus to forgive you for? If so, spend some time asking His forgiveness. Is there someone you need to forgive from your heart? If so, talk to God about that. Ask Him to help you forgive them completely.

MATTHEW 19: 1-12

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 19: 1-12.

When a man and woman get married, what do they become?
(Hint: Look at verse 5.)

Imagine that you have two different colors of play dough. If you spend time mixing them together, eventually they become a new color. It becomes impossible to separate them from each other into the two colors they were originally. Now imagine that the play dough can feel. How do you think the clay would feel if you tried to separate the dough into two different colors again?

Divorce is a very painful process. Why do you think Jesus teaches against divorce?

Under what conditions may a man divorce his wife? (verse 9)

What did the disciples think about Jesus' teaching?

What do you think about Jesus' teaching?

You may not be planning on getting married any time soon, but you probably do know someone who has been hurt by divorce. You may be in a family that has dealt with the pain of divorce. How can you show love to those who have been hurt by divorce?

Choosing the person you marry is very important. What kind of person do you want to marry? List out some of the qualities you would like in your future husband's or wife's heart.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Talk to Jesus about what you learned today.

MATTHEW 19: 13-15

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 19: 13-15.

Why do you think the disciples told the children to stop coming to Jesus?

What did Jesus say when He saw the disciples doing this?

Have you ever felt like you were not as important as an adult?

Does Jesus think kids are important?

Underline the things below in which young people are to set an example.

“Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young. Set an example for the believers in what you say and in how you live. Also set an example in how you love and in what you believe. Show the believers how to be pure.”

1 Timothy 4: 12

Make a list of ways that you can set an example for others (adults and kids) in the following ways:

"what you say"

"how you live"

"how you love"

"what you believe"

"how to be pure"

Jesus loves kids! You are important to Him just the way you are right now.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for loving you and making you important. Tell Him how important He is to you. Ask Him to help you be an example in the things you wrote out above.

MATTHEW 19: 16-30

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 19: 16-30.

What did the rich young man ask Jesus?

Jesus saw a flaw in the man's question. What was wrong with the man's question? (verse 17)

Could the man ever be good enough or do enough good things to get to Heaven?

What did Jesus say the man had to do to be perfect?

Why do you think this was hard for the man?

Write out Matthew 19: 26 in the space below.

Is it possible for a person to get to Heaven on his/her own power?
Why/why not?

What did God do so that you could go to Heaven?

What will be the 12 disciples' reward for choosing to follow Jesus?
(verse 28)

What do you think Jesus meant in verse 30?

In what ways do people put themselves "first" in their lives?

How do people put themselves “last”?

Following Jesus is not about the number of good things that we do or don't do. Of course, Christians do good deeds, but it's not because they are trying to get to Heaven. Having a relationship with Jesus Christ is the only way that anyone will be allowed into Heaven.

Why do you think Jesus wants His followers to put themselves last?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being the only way to get to Heaven. Ask God to show you how you can put Him first in your life. Ask Him to teach you what it means to be “last” in life, so that you can be “first” in Heaven.

MATTHEW 20: 1-16

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 20: 1-16.

If the first workers started to work in the vineyard at 7:00 in the morning (am) and kept working until 7:00 at night (pm), how many hours did they work?

How many more hours did they work than the people who started work at 5:00pm?

Why did the first people hired complain about the owner?

Do you think what the owner did was fair? Why/why not?

How is God like the owner?

How are we like the workers?

Write out Matthew 20: 16 in the space below.

Now read Matthew 19: 30.

How are these verses alike?

Why do you think Jesus said this twice in a row?

In what ways do you sometimes put yourself first?

How can you put others first today and tomorrow?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for owning the whole world. Thank Him for letting you into His family and His home in Heaven. Spend some time with God brainstorming ways that you can put others first in your life. You can use a separate journal to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 20: 17-28

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 20: 17-19.

What did Jesus tell His disciples?

Why do you think He told them this?

Read Matthew 20: 20-28.

The right and left seats to the throne are the places of honor in a kingdom. Why do you think the disciples' mom wanted her sons to be seated next to Jesus in Heaven?

Why do you think the other 10 disciples were angry?

What should people who want to be important do? (Hint: Reread verse 26-28.)

Make a list of reasons that Jesus deserves to be served.

Give an example of how Jesus served others while He was on the earth.

Jesus had every right to make others serve Him. After all, Jesus is God!! He created the universe and deserves our service and worship. But Jesus came to serve us and to save us.

Make a list of ways that you can choose to serve others like Jesus chose to serve us.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for who He is. Thank Him for coming to save you. Ask Him to show you how you can serve others. You can use the space below.

MATTHEW 20: 29-34

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 20: 29-34.

What did the blind men call Jesus in verse 30?

Why do you think the crowd wanted the blind men to be quiet?

Have you ever been annoyed by someone? Tell about that time.

What did Jesus do when the men kept shouting?

How did Jesus feel about the men?

Is that different from how you feel when someone is annoying you?

Sometimes it can be hard to be nice to people when they annoy us, but Jesus cares about everyone no matter who they are or what they have done. The crowd saw two annoying men shouting, but Jesus saw those two men differently. He saw men who could not see and needed His help.

What can help you see others differently when they annoy you?

What did the men do after Jesus healed their eyes?

These men followed Jesus after they were healed. They left everything behind to be Jesus' friends. In the same way, we should leave our sins behind once we have been forgiven, so that we can follow Jesus with our lives.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. List out reasons that God deserves your worship. Ask God to help you see others the way that He sees them – in love. You can use the space below or a separate journal to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 21: 1-11

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 21: 1-11.

What animal did Jesus ride into Jerusalem?

How is that different from what you normally picture a King riding?

Why do you think the crowds put their coats and palm branches on the ground in front of Jesus?

What were the people shouting?

The word "Hosanna" means "Save us". The people still thought that Jesus was planning to save them from the Roman government. Jesus was not planning to become an earthly king, but He was planning to save the people. How did Jesus answer their cries of "Hosanna"? How did He help them?

Who did the crowds say Jesus was in verse 11?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus who you believe He is. Praise Him for choosing to ride in on a donkey and being so humble. Ask Him to help you be more like Him and thank Him for choosing to save you. You can use the space below or a separate journal to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 21: 12-17

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 21: 12-17.

What was the temple being used for?

What was the temple supposed to be used for?

Why do you think Jesus was angry about the people buying and selling in the temple area?

What is the church building supposed to be used for today?

Of course, God wants us to worship Him wherever we are, but the church building is set aside for people to gather together and worship Him in many different ways. List some ways that you can remember to focus on God when you step into the church building.

What did the chief priests and teachers of the law see Jesus doing in the temple?

Why were they upset that the children were praising Jesus?

The children were not afraid to worship Jesus in front of the adults who were there. Do you know someone who is not embarrassed or afraid to worship God? What does that person do that makes them stick out in your mind?

Not everyone worships God in the same way. Some people lift their hands or move around when they worship. Others like to be very still so they can focus. How do you like to worship God when you are at church?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Talk to God about what you read today. Tell Him your favorite things about Him and ask Him to help you be more like Him. You can use the space below or a separate journal to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 21: 18-27

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 21: 18-22.

Why did the tree dry up right away?

What did Jesus say in verse 22?

Think about that for a minute: all you have to do is believe! Do you think that is hard or easy? Explain your answer.

Read Matthew 21: 23-27.

Who was questioning Jesus' authority?

These people heard Jesus teach about the laws God had given them through Moses. They had seen Jesus do several miracles. Now they wanted to know how He had all of this power. Why do you think Jesus had the power to do miracles?

Why did the men argue about what to say to Jesus?

These men were afraid of what other people would think of them if they told Jesus what they really thought. They cared more about others' opinions than about finding out the truth.

Can you think of a time when you were afraid of what other people might think if you told them what you believed? If so, tell about that time.

How can other people get between you and God?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask Jesus to grow your faith in Him a little more every day. Ask Him to give you the courage to stand up for what you believe no matter what other people might think. You can use the space below or a separate journal to write out your prayer.

MATTHEW 21: 28-32

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 21: 28-32.

What was the difference between the first son and the second son?

Which son did what his father asked him to do?

How is the first son like someone who started out sinning, then changed and started to obey God?

How is the second son like someone who says they will follow God but then chooses to sin instead?

Do you know someone who says that they are a Christian but doesn't act like it?

Lots of people say that they believe in Jesus, but they don't live like it at all. They may even know a lot about the Bible and go to church all the time, but the way they choose to act and speak shows that God is not really the most important thing in their lives.

What makes a person a Christian?

Think about the way you act and speak. Is your life different because you believe in Jesus? If so, how? If not, what needs to change?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to show you anything that needs to change in your life. Then ask Him to help you make that change, so that you can be more like Him.

MATTHEW 21: 33-46

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 21: 33-46.

Who planted the vineyard?

The renters owed the owner money for living on his vineyard. Instead of paying the owner, what did they do?

How is that like what the Israelites did to the prophets in the Old Testament and to God's Son, Jesus?

Why did the chief priests and Pharisees look for a way to arrest Jesus?

How do you feel when you are caught doing something wrong?

What should you do when you realize you have done something wrong?

The chief priests and Pharisees were supposed to be leaders of the faith. The people of Israel looked to them when they needed help understanding God's laws and character. When Jesus put a spotlight on these leaders' mistakes, they did not like it at all. Instead of realizing their sin and choosing to change, the chief priests and Pharisees chose to try to put out the light of Christ.

Can you think of a time when it was hard to choose to do the right thing? Tell about that time.

Everyone makes mistakes. We all need Jesus' forgiveness. When you realize that you have sinned, choose to change. Ask God for His forgiveness and His help to never sin like that again.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to forgive you for any sins you have committed. Be specific when you talk to God. Ask Jesus for His help to change, so that you can follow Him in every way.

MATTHEW 22: 1-14

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 22: 1-14.

What is Jesus describing through this story?
(Hint: verse 2)

What did the first invitees do when the king's servants came to tell them the dinner was ready for them?

After the first group refused, whom did the king invite to his dinner?

What happened to the man who was not wearing wedding clothes?

After reading the story, how do you think the king's dinner is like Heaven?

Do you know for sure that you have accepted Jesus' invitation to live with Him forever in Heaven? If so, write down the time and place where you made that decision.

God wants all people to come to Him. He loves everyone that He made, but not everyone chooses to love God back. Like the story, some people choose to ignore God's invitation. Other people choose to hurt those who choose to love God. But the people who do choose to love Him are welcomed into His home in Heaven. Everyone who knows Jesus as their Lord and Savior will get to party in Heaven with Jesus forever!

If you are not sure that you know Jesus, talk to an adult who does know Jesus. Don't wait!!

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus, the King of Kings, for inviting to live with Him in Heaven forever.

MATTHEW 22: 15-22

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 22: 15-22.

What did the Pharisees ask Jesus?

The Pharisees knew that the people of Israel did not like the Roman government. If they could get Jesus to take sides either with the Romans or with the Israelites and the temple, the Pharisees would have grounds to arrest Him.

Did Jesus fall for their tricks?

How did He answer their question?

Jesus did not come to defeat Rome. He did not want to be the earthly King of Israel. Jesus had bigger plans. He wants to be the King of your heart. Instead of speaking against the government, Jesus showed great respect to the government and to the temple. True respect is treating someone the way that they should be treated regardless of how you feel about them.

Have you ever had a hard time showing respect to someone in charge of you? Tell about that time.

Make a list of ways that you can show respect to your teachers.

Make a list of ways that you can show respect to the people in your family.

Make a list of ways that you can show respect to the government.
(Policemen, firemen, judges, congressmen, presidents, etc.)

Go back through the lists you made and underline the things that might be hard for you to do. If you only wrote easy things, go back and think about some ways to show respect that might be harder for you to do. Ask God to help you respect others even when it is hard.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Pray for the people who are in charge of you. Ask God to protect them and help them be good leaders. Then ask God to help you show them respect no matter what.

MATTHEW 22: 23-40

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 22: 23-33.

What did the Sadducees not believe?

In verse 29, what did Jesus say the Sadducees did not know?

What will we be like when we get to Heaven?

Does Jesus say that we will become angels or be like them?

In verse 32, Jesus says that God is not the God of the _____.
He is the God of the _____.

Read Matthew 22: 34-40.

What did the Pharisees ask Jesus?

Think through the laws that God gave us. How are the commandments that Jesus talked about the foundation of all of the rest of God's laws?

Think for a minute about the commandments that Jesus talked about. Brainstorm some ways that you can put Jesus' words into practice into your life. Write your ideas in the space below.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being alive and active in your life. Ask God to help you obey the commandments that Jesus talked about.

MATTHEW 22: 41-46

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 22: 41-46.

The Pharisees did not believe that Jesus was God's Son. They did not believe that Jesus was the Savior that God had promised so long ago.

What did Jesus ask them about the Christ?

Is Jesus related to David?

(Hint: Read Matthew 1 to see Jesus' family tree.)

What did David call the Christ?

The verse Jesus quoted from Psalms showed that David saw the Christ as God. Is Jesus God?

Jesus was trying to teach the Pharisees that He was the Christ, God's one and only Son, the long-awaited Savior. Jesus was both 100% human and 100% God. Jesus is God in human form, sent to save us from our sins, so that we could be forgiven!

Focus on Jesus for a minute. Who is Jesus to you?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being God. Thank Him for choosing to come and save you from your sins.

MATTHEW 23: 1-22

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 23: 1-22.

Did Jesus tell the people not to obey the teachers of the law and the Pharisees in verse 2?

What were the Pharisees doing wrong according to verses 3-7?

It's easy to point fingers at the Pharisees. They lived a long time ago, so it seems obvious to us that they were doing wrong. But we are sometimes guilty of the same things they were. For example, what do you think it takes to be a good friend?

Do you always do those things for your friends?

It is very hard to be a teacher. It is easy to tell other people what to do, but it is hard to live by those rules yourself. Jesus wants people to “practice what they preach”. In other words, if you tell other people to do something, you should be living that out in your life as well.

In verse 5, Jesus points out that the Pharisees were doing good things, so other people would notice them and like them. They wanted other people to know that they were important.

Why should the Pharisees have been doing good things?

Do you know someone who does nice things only to get noticed by other people?

Have you ever done something good so that other people would notice you or like you better?

What is the best reason for doing good things?

The Pharisees had another problem, too. They knew a lot about God, but they did not know God. When they taught the people about God’s laws, they didn’t fully understand what they were saying. Jesus knew that they were missing the point: a relationship with God. Because they didn’t know God, they misunderstood many of His laws. That is why they were not practicing what they preached.

What is the difference between knowing about someone and actually knowing someone?

Think about your friendship with God. Write out a short list of the things that you know about God.

Now look through that list. How do the things you know about God affect the way that you live? (For example, if you know that God loves everyone, how do you love everyone by the way you live?)

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for the things that you know about Him. Ask Him to keep teaching you more and more. Thank God for allowing you to get to know Him as a friend, too. Ask God to help you be more like Him every day.

MATTHEW 23: 23-39

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 23: 23-28.

The Pharisees knew how to hide their sins, so no one would know what they did wrong. They worked very hard to make sure everyone thought they followed God better than anyone else. What three word pictures did Jesus use to describe their actions? (verse 24, 25, 27)

1.

2.

3.

Why do you think Jesus called the Pharisees “pretenders”?

Reputations are very important, but they cannot be more important than the true state of your heart. Why do you think your heart matters more to God than your reputation?

Read Matthew 23: 29-39.

What did the teachers of the law and the Pharisees do to the prophets that God sent to them over the years?

How does God feel about the death of His prophets?

How did God want to treat the teachers of the law and the Pharisees according to Matthew 23: 37?

Did Jesus love the Pharisees?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to show you the parts of your life that need to be cleaned out. Ask Him to help you to live for Him when you are in front of people and when you are alone.

MATTHEW 24: 1-14

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 24: 1-14.

What did Jesus say would happen to the temple in verse 2?

Why did Jesus tell the disciples to keep watch in verses 4-5?

What will people do to those who follow Christ according to verse 9?

Matthew 24: 12 says,

“Because evil will grow, most people’s love will grow cold.”

What do you think that means?

How can you tell if a person loves something / someone?

What does it mean to love Jesus with your life?

Some people will let the bad things that happen in the world slow them down in following after Christ. They may get discouraged or lose the excitement they once had about loving Jesus through doing good and loving others. Loving Jesus with your life is not always easy. Loving Jesus with your life is a choice you have to make both in good times and in bad times.

Give an example of how you can choose to love God even when bad things happen.

According to verse 14, where will the good news of Jesus be preached before the end comes?

What can you do to help tell the world about Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus how much you love Him. Ask Him to teach you every day how to love Him with your life.

MATTHEW 24: 15-35

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 24: 15-35.

Jesus is coming back to earth again! In this passage, Jesus talks to His disciples about His second coming, the end of the world. Why do you think Jesus wants them to know a little about what will happen?

In the end days, when should people escape and hide?

Why was the time cut short?

"Christ" is the word the Bible uses to talk about the Savior that God promised. Who is the Christ?

Can anyone else be the Christ? Explain your answer.

What will happen to the sun, moon, and stars? (verse 29)

What will the nations see on the clouds in the sky? (verse 30)

How will Jesus come when He comes back?

Who will Jesus send His angels to gather?

What does Jesus say will never pass away? (verse 35)

No matter what happens in the future, we know that we can always trust Jesus. He always tells the truth. He will always be there. He never changes.

How can this picture of the future encourage you to follow Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for being in control of everything that happened in the past, everything that is happening right now, and everything that will happen in the future. Thank Jesus for choosing to love you, and tell Him that you want to choose to love Him back.

MATTHEW 24: 36-51

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 24: 36-51.

Who knows when Jesus will come back? (verse 36)

Did the people in Noah's time know when the flood was going to come?

Will anyone be able to predict when Jesus comes back?

No one knows when Jesus is going to come back except for God the Father. But if you could know that Jesus was going to come back tomorrow, what would you do?

Jesus tells His disciples to be ready for Him to come back at any time. How can you be ready for Jesus to return?

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other." Acts 1: 8

According to Acts 1: 8, what job has Jesus given His disciples?

A witness is someone who tells the truth about what they know. Jesus wants us to tell the truth about Him to everyone we know. Sometimes we get to tell people about Jesus with our words. Other times, we tell people about Jesus by the way that we live.

How can you be a witness for Jesus to the people around you?

Jesus could come back at any time! You may see Him in the clouds one day! If you have accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you may get to go to His home in Heaven early if He comes back during your lifetime! How does knowing that make you feel?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise God for having a plan for the end times. Thank Him for having a plan for your life, too. Ask Him to help you be ready for Jesus to come back. Tell Him how excited you are that you will get to see Him in person one day when He returns!

MATTHEW 25: 1-13

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 25: 1-13.

How many bridesmaids were foolish?

What foolish thing did they do?

How many bridesmaids were wise?

What wise thing did they do?

Which bridesmaids were ready when the groom came?

Why do you think some people think that they don't need to live for God until they are older?

How are those people like the foolish bridesmaids in Jesus' story?

What is the danger of waiting until you are older to live for God?

How can you be like the wise bridesmaids?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for inviting you to know Him. Ask Him to help you live for Him now and every day.

MATTHEW 25: 14-30

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 25: 14-30.

Why did the master give some servants more money than others?

Which servants did what the master asked them to do?

Why was the master displeased with the third servant?

What gifts and talents has God given you?

God made each and every person on this earth. He made you differently than He made anyone else. He gave you special gifts that you can use to bring Him glory and honor.

How can you use your gifts to show everyone how great God is?

“Work at everything you do with all your heart. Work as if you were working for the Lord, not for human masters. Work because you know that you will finally receive as a reward what the Lord wants you to have. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Colossians 3: 23-24

You may not know what your gifts are. That’s okay. God asks us to do the best we can with what we have, so that we can bring Him glory and honor. If you are studying in school, God wants you to do the best you can to honor Him. If you are playing a game, God wants you to do your best. That doesn’t mean that God wants you to win every game or make straight A’s. It just means that He wants you to do your best – win or lose – so that He will be honored.

Think about this: Do you give your best in everything? If not, how can you change that?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank God for giving you His best. Thank Him for the gifts He has given you. Tell God that you want to use His gifts to bring Him honor. Ask Him to help you always do your best for Him.

MATTHEW 25: 31-46

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 25: 31-46.

Describe what you think Jesus will look like when He comes back “in all His glory”. (**BONUS:** Read Revelation 1: 12-16.)

What do you think Jesus means by “doing right” in verse 37?

What will the people who knew Him receive when Jesus comes back? (verse 34)

How did those people serve King Jesus on earth?

What will the people who do not know Jesus receive?

How did they choose not to serve Jesus?

What side will you be on when Jesus comes back?

Following Jesus is a choice. We can either choose to receive Jesus' gift of salvation and serve Him or we can choose to reject Him. We can choose instead to live life all about ourselves. One day, Jesus will judge us by the choices we have made.

How can you choose to serve Jesus right now?

You can serve Jesus by serving the people He loves so much. What are some of the needs of the people around you? Write out some ideas of how you can help those people.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for choosing to love you. Thank Him for the friendship you have with Him. Ask Jesus to show you each day how to serve the people around you in His name.

MATTHEW 26: 1-13

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 1-5.

When was the Passover Feast?

What did Jesus say was going to happen during Passover?

The Passover Feast is one of the many parties God set up to help the Israelites remember all that He had done for them and all that He was still going to do. Passover reminded them of when God helped the Israelites escape Egyptian rule.

After God sent nine plagues, the Egyptian Pharaoh still would not let the Israelites go free. For the tenth plague, God sent the angel of death. Every first-born son in every family living in Egypt would die UNLESS they followed God's instructions. If a family sacrificed (killed) a perfect lamb and spread its blood on the doorframe of their house, the angel of death would not kill any first-born sons in that house.

Everyone who followed God's instructions was saved. The angel of death literally "passed over" their houses. The next morning, Pharaoh agreed to let the nation of Israel go free. (Exodus 7-12)

How is the sacrificial lamb in the Passover story like Jesus?

The Passover lamb's blood saved the Israelite people from death. What did Jesus' blood save you from?

Do you think it's interesting that Jesus died on the cross for your sins during the Passover Feast? Why/why not?

Read Matthew 26: 6-13.

Why did the woman pour perfume on Jesus?

What kind of perfume did the woman pour on Jesus?

Why were the disciples upset that she had done this?

What did Jesus think about what the woman had done?

The woman gave Jesus the most expensive and beautiful thing she had. Jesus appreciated her act of worship, even though no one else understood what she was doing. How can you worship Jesus through your actions? What can you do to thank Jesus for what He has done for you?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Spend time worshipping Jesus for who He is. Thank Him for choosing to die on the cross for you even though He didn't deserve to die.

MATTHEW 26: 14-30

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 14-30.

Who decided to betray Jesus?

How much money did he get for handing Jesus over to the chief priests?
(verse 15)

Did Jesus know who was going to hand Him over to the chief priests?

How would you have felt if you knew that one of your closest friends was going to hand you over to the people who wanted to kill you?

In verse 26, Jesus says that His body is like the bread. What did He do to the bread?

In verse 27-28, what does Jesus say the cup is like?

Why did Jesus say His blood was going to be poured out?

This part of Jesus' last meal is called the "Lord's Supper". People who have accepted Jesus' gift of salvation eat bread and drink wine (or grape juice) to remind them of what Jesus did for them on the cross. The bread reminds us that Jesus offered His body for us when He died on the cross. The wine (or grape juice) reminds us that Jesus' blood was the price He paid, so we could be in Heaven with Him.

Most Christians do not forget in their minds that Jesus died for them. However, we do forget in our hearts that Jesus has paid a very high price for us. We often choose to sin and are not truly sorry about it. But when we take time to remember that Jesus took our punishment for the sins we have committed, it helps us to choose to follow Him and stop sinning on purpose.

Have you ever taken the Lord's Supper?

You know in your head that Jesus paid the price for your sins. What are some ways that people show that they have forgotten about the cross in their hearts?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus that you will always remember what He has done for you on the cross. Ask Him to help you always remember in your heart, too. Thank Him for what He has done. Ask Him to help you choose to follow Him always.

MATTHEW 26: 31-46

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 31-35.

Who would turn away from Jesus according to verse 31?

What did Jesus say Peter would do before the rooster crowed three times?

What did Peter and the disciples say to Jesus after He had predicted these things?

Read Matthew 26: 36-46.

What did Jesus ask Peter and the two sons of Zebedee (James & John) to do while He prayed?

What did Jesus pray for?

When Jesus went back to the disciples, what were they doing?

What did Jesus ask them to do?

Did they do what He asked?

How many times did Jesus pray for God to take the cup of suffering away from Him?

Jesus did not want to suffer. No one wants to be beaten, made fun of, and killed for a crime they did not commit. Jesus never sinned. Did Jesus have to die on the cross? Could He have chosen to leave us out of Heaven like we deserve?

And yet, Jesus chose to go through with God's plan for our salvation. He was about to face the hardest time in His life, so that we could be saved. Jesus knew that without His sacrifice, no one – including His disciples – would be able to go to Heaven. How do you think Jesus felt when He found His friends sleeping again?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Try to imagine how Jesus felt as He prayed that night in the garden of Gethsemane. Thank Jesus for sacrificing Himself for us when we did not deserve it.

MATTHEW 26: 47-56

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 47-56.

What was the large crowd carrying?

Why do you think they brought weapons when they came to arrest Jesus?

What signal did Judas use?

What did Jesus call Judas?

What did one of Jesus' disciples do when the crowd arrested Jesus?

Why did Jesus tell him to stop fighting?

Did Jesus fight the people who arrested Him?

What did the disciples do in verse 56?

How is that different from what they had all told Jesus they would do when they were eating the Passover Feast in the upper room?
(Matthew 26: 35)

When the mob of people came to arrest Jesus, He did not fight back. Jesus had every right to fight back, but He knew that He would have to let the mob take Him if He was going to take our punishment on the cross. He gave up His rights, so we could have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

Has someone ever hurt your feelings or done something mean to you?

Did you have the right to fight back or do something mean to them?

How could you have given up your right to fight back (like Jesus did) in that situation?

What does it mean to “give up your rights” in order to follow Jesus?
Give an example.

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being strong. He could have fought back and won, but He chose to let the crowds take Him. Thank Him for choosing to take your punishment by dying on the cross. Ask Him to forgive you for any sins you have committed.

MATTHEW 26: 57-68

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 57-68.

Where did the crowds take Jesus?

Where was Peter?

What did Jesus say when everyone was telling lies about Him in verse 63?

Do you think it would be hard to be quiet if people started to tell lies about you? Why/why not?

Why do you think Jesus chose to stay silent?

What did Jesus say when they asked Him if He was the Christ?

What did the people do when Jesus said this?

Jesus was telling the truth – He was the Christ, God’s Son. One day, He will return to earth just as He said. Why do you think the people did not believe Him?

Peter was sitting nearby while all of this was happening. Why do you think Peter didn’t do anything?

Have you ever seen someone being picked on?

What did you do?

What should you do when you see someone being picked on?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Praise Jesus for being God. Thank Him for taking the punishment that you deserve because of your sins. Ask Him to help you stand up for what is right even when it is hard.

MATTHEW 26: 69 - 27: 10

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 26: 69-75.

How many times did Peter say he did not know Jesus?

Each time Peter said he did not know Jesus, he became more and more forceful with his words. Why do you think he started to swear?

How did Peter feel when he heard the rooster crow?

Why do you think he was sad?

Read Matthew 27: 1-10.

Why was Judas sad?

Why did he give the money back to the priests?

Peter and Judas both sinned. They both did something wrong. They were both very sorry for what they had done. What are some differences between Peter and Judas?

In John 21: 15-19, Peter meets with Jesus after He had risen from the dead. Jesus asks Peter 3 times if he loves Him. Each time, Peter answers that he does love Jesus. Jesus forgave Peter completely and even used Peter to start and take care of the church.

Did Peter deserve to be put in charge of the church?

Why do you think Jesus forgave Peter?

Peter and Judas looked at sin in two very different ways. Peter sinned and chose to accept Jesus' forgiveness. Jesus allowed him to start over

and follow Him from then on. Judas, however, chose to try to take care of his sin on his own. He did not ask Jesus for forgiveness. He returned the money, but there was nothing he could do to take back what he had done to Jesus.

What are some ways that people might try to take care of sin on their own or earn their forgiveness?

There is nothing we can do to deserve Jesus' love and forgiveness – He gives it to us for free.

(Romans 6: 23) All we have to do is ask Him. Nothing we can do will make Jesus love us more. Nothing we can do will make Him love us less.

Have you sinned and not asked Jesus to forgive you? If so, ask Him to forgive you now. Or maybe you have asked Jesus to forgive you, but you still feel like you need to do something to earn His forgiveness. Remember that everyone has sinned. No one deserves to be forgiven. That's why Jesus chose to take our punishment on the cross. We can be forgiven only because of what Jesus did for us, not because of anything we could do for ourselves.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Ask God to forgive you for your sins, then thank Him for forgiving you for free. Spend some time just talking to Jesus. Ask Him to teach you how to live more like He did – without sinning.

MATTHEW 27: 11-26

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 27: 11-26.

Who did Jesus tell Pilate that He was in verse 11?

Why was Pilate was amazed in verse 14?

What did Pilate's wife tell him while he was sitting on the judgment seat? (verse 19)

What did the crowd want Pilate to do?

Why did Pilate wash his hands in front of the people?

What sentence did Pilate give to Jesus in verse 26?

Pilate had crowds of people telling him that he should sentence Jesus to death. Did Pilate want to do this?

Have you ever done something you know you shouldn't have because there were lots of people around who wanted you to do it? If so, tell about that time.

Do you think it is harder to make the right choice when the people around you are making wrong choices? Why/why not?

How do the friends you choose influence the choices you make?

What can you do to get ready for the next time you are faced with a hard choice in front of your friends?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for choosing to die on the cross for your sins. Ask God to help you always care more about what He thinks than about what other people think. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the strength to make the right choices even when it is hard.

MATTHEW 27: 27-44

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 27: 27-44.

What did the soldiers do to Jesus?

Why were the soldiers making fun of Jesus?

What did the sign say on Jesus' cross?

Lots of people made fun of Jesus. They said that if He really was God that He would save Himself. Jesus really is God, but He chose not to save Himself.

Jesus, God's Son, let people make fun of Him, beat Him, and crucify Him. Why?

"When you sin, the pay you get is death. But God gives you the gift of eternal life because of what Christ Jesus our Lord has done."

Romans 6: 23

According to Romans 6: 23, what gift does God give us because of Jesus?

What does that mean?

Have you ever accepted God's gift to you?

Romans 10:9-10 says,

"Say with your mouth 'Jesus is Lord.' Believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead. Then you will be saved. With your heart you believe and are made right with God. With your mouth you say that Jesus is Lord and so you are saved."

Check your heart. If you have never accepted God's gift by choosing to follow Him, you can choose right now. Trust in Him as your Leader and Lord.

If you have made this choice before, tell about your choice in the space below.

Jesus loves you. He loves you so much that He chose to go through a lot of pain and even death, so you could have the gift of being in Heaven forever with Him. After reading everything that Jesus went through for you, how important do you think you are to Jesus?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Thank Jesus for loving you enough to take your punishment. Thank Him for His gift of eternal life in Heaven.

MATTHEW 27: 45-66

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 27: 45-56

What did the sky look like when Jesus was dying on the cross?
(verse 45)

What did Jesus say before He died?

What did the people think Jesus was doing?

What happened to the temple curtain?

The temple curtain was extremely thick and separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple. The Holy of Holies was the place where the high priest would meet with God to ask forgiveness for the sins of the people. The high priest was the only one who was allowed to enter into this place to meet with God. When Jesus died, the curtain miraculously tore from top to bottom!!

Because of Jesus' sacrifice, we have been forgiven. Jesus paid the price for our sins once and for all! We no longer need to ask a high priest to talk to God for us. We can talk to God ourselves through prayer.

What else happened when Jesus died?

What did the Roman guards say when they saw all that happened when Jesus died?

Why do you believe that Jesus is the Son of God?

Read Matthew 27: 57-66.

What did the chief priests and Pharisees call Jesus in verse 63?

What did the chief priests and Pharisees do after Jesus was buried?
Why?

The Pharisees and chief priests also saw everything that happened when Jesus died. Why do you think they still did not believe that Jesus was God's Son?

Jesus died for the sins of everyone in the world – including the sins of those who do not believe in Him. Whether or not we choose to accept Jesus' gift of salvation is up to us. Jesus does not force us to accept His gift. He waits for us to ask Him to forgive us and to be in charge of our lives. He wants us to choose to love Him.

How do you show Jesus that you love Him?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Tell Jesus that you choose to love Him with your life. Ask God to teach you how to love Him with your life more and more each day.

MATTHEW 28: 1-20

Opening Prayer

Spend a few moments in prayer asking God to prepare your heart for what He has to teach you.

Bible Study

Read Matthew 28: 1-15

What did the angel do?

Why did the guards faint?

What did the angel say to Mary and Mary Magdalene in verses 5-7?

Do you think you would have been afraid if you had been there that morning?

Verse 8 says, "...They were afraid, but they were filled with joy." What is joy?

What did the women do when they saw Jesus?

What are ways that you worship God?

What did Jesus tell the women to do?

What did the chief priests pay the guards to say about the empty grave?

Why do you think the chief priests still did not believe in Jesus even though He had risen from the dead?

Read Matthew 28: 16-20

How did the disciples know that Jesus was alive?

Matthew 28: 19-20 is called "The Great Commission". A "commission" is an instruction, or a job, given to a large group of people. This instruction is the last command that Jesus gave His disciples before He went back to Heaven. Jesus told His disciples to do a very important job. What was that job?

Whom can you tell about Jesus?

Why is it important to tell people about Jesus?

Who told you about Jesus?

Shortly after telling this to the disciples, Jesus went back to Heaven. (You can read that part of the story in Acts 1.) Imagine what it would have been like to see Jesus, risen from the dead. What would you have done if you had seen Him as He was going back to Heaven?

Write out anything that God taught you during your quiet time today in the space below.

Closing Prayer

Take some time to pray. Look back through this book at all of the things God has taught you through His Word. Thank Him for teaching you about Him. Ask Him to keep teaching you more and more how to live like Him.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Keep going!

Keep reading through the New Testament, section by section. Start your own quiet time journal to remind you of all the things that God teaches you about Him.

Pray!

Because of Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross, we are allowed to talk to God! We can tell Him anything. So talk to the God who made you. Ask Him to help you keep growing up in your friendship with Him.

Go!

Jesus told His disciples in Matthew 28 to GO. Tell people you know about Jesus. Tell people you don't know about Jesus, too!