

Name: _____









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Series Introduction

Welcome to the second instalment in our long, slow journey of teaching through Matthew's Gospel. It's part two in what we hope to be a seven-part series over the next few years. We've called this term 'Dangerous Life', following our first instalment last year, 'Dangerous Promises'.

This term, in Matthew chapters 4-7, we're hearing the most famous sermon in history: Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount'. In it, Jesus casts a vision of the 'perfect' life of a true community of disciples of the Lord (Matthew 5:48). But what does he mean? How can we aspire to follow him into such a vision, when we are so 'imperfect'?

We're going to see that the key to understanding Jesus' 'Dangerous Life' is found in the bookends of the sermon, the location of his sermon, and in the heart of His prayer, taught at the heart of his sermon. For this reason, we'll also be learning the Lord's Prayer each Sunday.

It's called 'The Sermon on the Mount' because Jesus deliberately teaches it on a mountain - like Moses, teaching the Israelites back in the Exodus. And like Moses did for them, Jesus now calls for us, to a **dangerous** new way of living. We're going to hear his call to a life that's not impossible nor burdensome, but restful, beautiful, holy, healing, blessed, good, fruitful and whole. A dangerous life because it's the vision of Jesus' coming Kingdom of Heaven, for which his perfect life resulted in death before resurrection, and to which he calls us to risk all, saying, 'Come, follow me!'

Your brothers in Christ,

Rev. David Bailey, Rose City PC (Warwick)

Rev. Peter Evans, Stanthorpe PC

Rev. Andrew Purcell, Callide Valley PC

Rev. Troy Wilkins, Mackay & Sarina PC



Resources

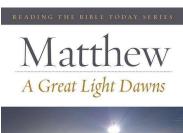
The Bible Project provides a great overview of Matthew's gospel over two videos.

- 1. Matthew 1-13 https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-1-13/
- 2. Matthew 14-28 https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-14-28/

We also recommend a few commentaries for those who would like something for their personal study.

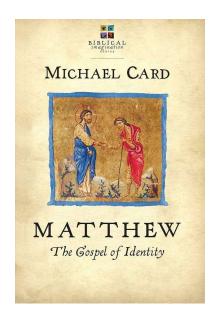
A good introductory book that is highly accessible and a great first go-to is *Matthew: A Great Light Has Dawned* by Peter Bolt.

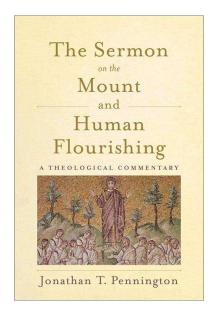
For those who'd like something to sink their teeth into and enjoy the beauty of this gospel have a look at *Matthew: The Gospel of Identity* by Michael Card.



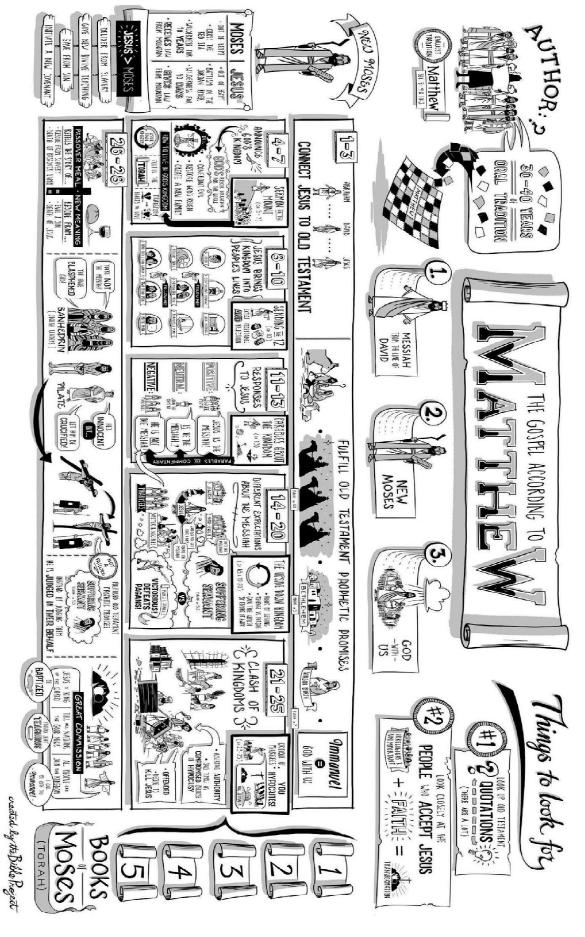








Jonathan Pennington's *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing* offers rich insights into Jesus' teaching, showing how it calls us into a whole, flourishing life with God. This thoughtful commentary helps us dig deeper into the Sermon's meaning, shaping our hearts and lives. A valuable resource for personal study!



How to Use This Companion

Here's how to use your Series Companion this term:

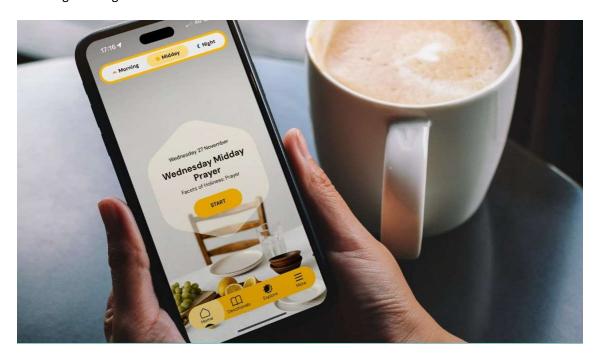
1. In Church

Our week starts by learning together in church on Sunday. Here, we learn to be loved by God, together, as a church family. Use this companion to take notes on the page provided. This will help you learn - letting God's Word gain traction in your heart, preparing you to learn every other day of the week to come.

2. Each Day

Our week continues by learning in our daily lives - distracting as they are!

One very helpful daily resource is **Lectio 365**, a free daily devotional app that helps you pray the Bible every day. Simply download the app to your phone, then listen first thing in the morning and last thing each night!



You can check out our extra resources posted this term on our Facebook page, too.

Also, use this companion as a helpful resource for your daily journey of following Jesus at home, and at your place of work or study or rest. These resources include our customised Spotify song playlist, some great books for further reading and highly practical podcast and article recommendations.

We've included these resources to help you let God's Word gain traction in your daily life, even when we're not together.

3. At Growth/Home Group

Our week includes gathering in Growth/Home Groups and being transformed by God's love together. Use your notes from Sunday (and your daily learnings) to share how you are learning to be loved, and learning to love like Jesus.

Our growth groups traditionally use pre-written 'studies'. This series continues this habit: each episode has a set of 'study' questions on the following pages. However, in recent years some of our churches have tried something different with our questions: process-based rather than content-based questions. This means we've moved from 'information focussed' groups to 'transformation focussed' groups. So, for this series, our questions direct the group towards possible transformation out of the passage, in the presence of God and the wisdom of each other. ¹

The Seven R's

The best way to understand how these studies work is to assume we've written them for grown-ups! That is, we're making certain assumptions about adult education in the 21st century: that you're self-motivated and highly impacted by experience, that you learn well through discussion with other adults in a healthy and non-anxious setting, and that the primary role of the group leader is to facilitate the group's learning rather than having to teach it. This means that each week we'll follow a similar pattern, working through the 'Seven Rs' to help us reflect on, respond to and grow through God's word together.

These are:

1. RELATE (Connect with our Group)

First, we begin with our experience of church together on Sunday, as we relate to one another. If God's Word was opened, God was at work in our church! This could be in a number of ways: in the sermon, singing, readings, video, conversations, prayers, welcoming, morning tea, on the drive home, etc:

'Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?'

2. REMEMBER (Connect with God's Word)

Next, we remember God's word by hearing the Matthew episode and the other readings for this week:

'Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?'

3. REFLECT (Connecting with our Minds)

God's word is something we should reflect on together. This question helps us think through the meaning of the passage, using our minds:

'With one another, reflect on Sunday's lesson. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?'

4. REACT (Connecting with our Senses)

This is about our senses, beyond just our intellect: God's word provokes reaction in the rest of our 'selves'! Share what you sense, and how you feel in your body, as you read through these passages:

'How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, or feel?

5. RESPOND (Connecting with our Lives)

God's gospel changes everything. This question helps us respond to God's word in our day-to-day life following Jesus:

¹ Although we have been refining this process over the last few years in our own churches, the original idea for this approach was provided by Tim Dyer, of John Mark Ministries.

'Share one thing that you need to do or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.'

6. RENEW (Connecting with God)

Renew one another in prayer - Spend time praising God for who He is, confessing our sin, thanking God for what He's done, and praying for one another and for those who still need to be delivered by Jesus:

'Pray for each other to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.'

7. RESOURCE - Further Reading

Series Song

Abide

Song by Aaron Keyes, Aaron Williams, Jake Fauber CCLI Song #7168160

Lyrics

Verse 1

For my waking breath
For my daily bread
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the sun to rise
For my sleep at night
I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 1

You're the way the truth and the life You're the well that never runs dry I'm the branch and You are the vine Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 2

Where the Spirit leads
As I'm following
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the victories
Still in front of me
I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 2

You're the way the truth and the life You're the well that never runs dry I'm the branch and You are the vine Draw me close and teach me to abide Be my strength my song in the night Be my all my treasure my prize I am Yours forever You're mine Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 3

When I pass through death As I enter rest I depend on You I depend on You For eternal life To be raised with Christ I depend on You I depend on You

Tag 1

Oh would you teach me Would You teach me to abide

Tag 2

I depend on You I depend on You

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer is a gift from Jesus, teaching us how to approach our Heavenly Father with reverence, trust, and dependence. Throughout this series, we'll pray the Lord's Prayer together each week, uniting as God's people, not only in our local churches but also with our sister churches across QLD, under the words our Lord and Saviour gave us. These powerful words remind us of God's holiness, His kingdom's purpose, our daily dependence on Him, and the grace we both receive and extend to others. We encourage you to carry this prayer into your week—at home, at work, on the sporting field, or in Growth Group. Let its truth shape your heart and actions as we grow in living as God's people together. Let's pray and live these words deeply.

Traditional Version

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done,
On earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Presbyterian Book of Worship

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be Your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory
are Yours
Now and for ever. Amen.

Contemporary Version

Our Father in Heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our failures,
as we also have forgiven those who fail us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.
For yours is the kingdom, the power and
the glory
Forever and ever, Amen

Episode 1: The Called Life (2/2/2025)

Passage: Matthew 4:17-5:2

Key Verse: Matthew 4:17

Episode 1 Discussion



Following Sunday 2/2/2025 **Big Idea** In the most famous sermon in history, Jesus goes up a mountain, like Moses, calling a new Israel out of exile, teaching us how to live his dangerous life together, for God's coming Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Psalm 90:1-12

Background Reading: Exodus 19:1-6

Matthew Reading: Matthew 4:17-5:2

Benediction: Matthew 7:13-14

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 2: The Beautiful Life (9/2/2025) Passage: Matthew 5:1-12
Key Verse: Matthew 5:7

Episode 2 Discussion



Sunday 9/2/2025 'beautiful' life of the ideal Israelite living in exile and how those following Him will be rewarded in the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Psalm 1:1-6

Background Reading: Deuteronomy 18:14-19

Matthew Reading: Matthew 5:1-16

Benediction: James 1:12

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 3: The 'Righteous' Life (16/2/2025) Passage: Matthew 5:13-20		
Key Verse: Matthew 5:20		

Episode 3 Discussion



Following Sunday 16/2/2025 **Big Idea** Jesus provokes His own people, teaching a heavenly, flourishing, whole-of-life righteousness that fulfils the law of Moses.

1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Psalm 89:14-18

Background Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Matthew Reading: Matthew 5:11-20

Benediction: Matthew 5:3-10

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 4: The Flourishing Life I (23/2/2025) Passage: Matthew 5:21-32 **Key Verse:** Matthew 5:19

Episode 4 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Matthew 4:17

Background Reading: 2 Samuel 11:1-17 **Matthew Reading:** Matthew 5:17-32

Benediction: Matthew 5:3-10

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 5: The Flourishing Life II (2/3/2025) Passage: Matthew 5:33-48		
Key Verse: Matthew 5:19		

Episode 5 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Matthew 4:17

Background Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2

Matthew Reading: Matthew 5:17-20, 33-48

Benediction: Matthew 5:3-10

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 6: The Inner Life (9/3/2025) Passage: Matthew 6:1-18
Key Verse: Matthew 6:14

Episode 6 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Psalm 40:1-8

Background Reading: Matthew 25:31-46 **Matthew Reading:** Matthew 6:1-21 **Benediction:** Matthew 6:19-21

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 7: The Prayer for Life (16/3/2025) Passage: Matthew 6:9-15		
Key Verse: Matthew 6:9b-10		

Episode 7 Discussion



Following Sunday 16/3/2025 **Big Idea** The Lord gives his followers a new story to live by: His prayer for God's heavenly rule to flourish in our life together here on Earth.

1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Isaiah 35:1-10

Background Reading: 1 Kings 18:16-39 **Matthew Reading:** Matthew 6:7-15 **Benediction:** Revelation 21:1-4

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 8: The Undivided Life (23/3/2025) Passage: Matthew 6:19-34		
Key Verse: Matthew 6:33		

Episode 8 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Background Reading: Matthew 19:16-30

Matthew Reading: Matthew 6:19-34

Benediction: Matthew 6:33

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 9: The Wise Life (30/3/2025) Passage: Matthew 7:1-14	
Key Verse: Matthew 7:11	

Episode 9 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Lamentations 3:37-40

Background Reading: Ps 77:1-12 **Matthew Reading:** Matthew 7:1-14

Benediction: Matthew 7:11

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

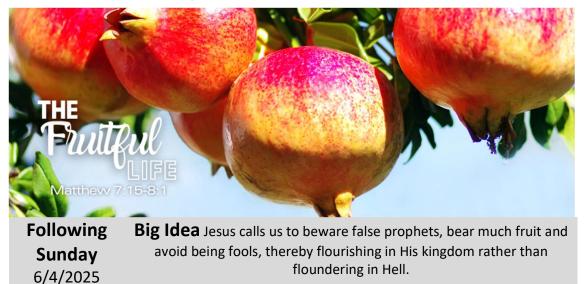
6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading

Episode 10: The Fruitful Life (6/4/2025) Passage: Matthew 7:15-8:1	
Key Verse: Matthew 7:17	

Episode 10 Discussion



1. Relate - Connect with the group

Where did you see or experience God at work in church together on Sunday? (Eg. in the sermon, Bible readings, songs, prayer or a conversation)?

2. Remember - Connect with God's Word

Together, hear out loud the readings from church (especially the background and Matthew readings). What strikes you afresh?

Call To Worship: Revelation 21:1-8

Background Reading: Psalm 1:1-6

Matthew Reading: Matthew 7:13-8:1

Benediction: Matthew 7:24

With one another, reflect on Sunday's sermon. Share what you learned. What's a question you'd like to ask of the group?

4. React - Connecting with our Senses

How do you feel about what is said in this passage? How does it impact you? If you were to put yourself in the shoes of someone in this passage, what would you see, smell, touch, taste, feel?

5. Respond - Connecting with our Lives

Share one thing that you need to do, or change, to be obedient. What is God convicting you of personally? Make a commitment to be accountable for one way you are learning to be loved by Jesus.

6. Renew - Connecting with God

Pray for one another to respond in practice. Needs to be simple, and achievable in a significant way. Changes that stay are often habitual, leading to genuine renewal in our lives.

7. Resource - Further Reading