

TERM 1 2026
TEACHING SERIES

PART 3

Matthew

DANGEROUS FAITH

The Miracle Behind The Miracles

SERIES COMPANION

TERM 1 2026

Name: _____



Contents

Series Introduction.....	2
Resources	5
How to Use This Companion.....	6
Series Song	9
Maps.....	11
The Lord's Prayer.....	12
Episode 1: Miraculous Faith (1 Feb)	13
Episode 2: Fearful Faith (8 Feb).....	16
Episode 3: Healing Faith (15 Feb)	19
Episode 4: Declaring Faith (22 Feb)	22
Episode 5: Compassionate Faith (1 Mar)	25
Episode 6: Reassuring Faith (8 Mar).....	28
Episode 7: Childlike Faith (15 Mar)	31
Episode 8: Restoring Faith (22 Mar)	34
Episode 10: Family Faith (5 Apr)	40

Series Introduction

Why is genuine repentance so rare? Christians talk all the time about 'repentance'. It's an ancient word meaning 'to change your mind', a turning of your life to follow in a different direction. For thousands of years Christian preachers have called us to 'repent' by submitting to Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Every other day, Christian parents and teachers show kids at home and in the playground how to 'repent' to one another: facing our friend, acknowledging our failure, asking for forgiveness and, finally, changing our behaviour. We're called to repent to others out of our repentance to God. It's such a common call for Christians. It's prayed for and talked about by Christians and assumed and expected to be practised by all Christians: repentance. But how often do we really see someone else repent? How often do we experience it? How often do we 'repent'?

We started our journey through Matthew's gospel two years ago, with the 'Dangerous Promises' of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Remember Abraham's dysfunctional family? Abraham who was the father of Isaac, the father of Jacob, the father of Judah and his brothers. Brothers who chose to learn the hard way what it means to repent.



Judah finally got there, didn't he? Judah repented! It was like some sort of miracle: we remember his long arc of brotherly jealousy, terrible sin, slow-growing awareness, conviction of need, and then beautiful repentance in faith on his knees before Joseph, his wronged brother (and early Jesus-like figure). There it was, highlighted in Matthew's gospel, the opening book of the New Testament, harking back to the opening of the Old: Repentance.

We also heard how the promised forerunner to this Messiah, John the Baptist, first arrived with God's message of repentance! "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Also in that opening term, Matthew introduced us to Jesus, the main character in his biography. And the first message Jesus preached? "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near!" Both Testaments, old and new with the same message: Repent.

We ended Part 1 with Jesus proclaiming his good news, healing every disease and news about him spreading all over, with huge crowds coming to follow him. And wondered how people will respond.

Then last year we continued in part 2: 'Dangerous Life', still waiting for responses. Matthew took us on a climb upward in chapter 5, climbing a mountain with the hordes, even the first disciples (from whom we still haven't heard a word). We climbed for Jesus' first big slab of recorded teaching, his famous 'Sermon on the Mount'.



Matthew struck us with his portrayal of Jesus as a greater Moses, who we recall also went up a mountain, in order to come back down and teach huge crowds of God's people. And as we listened to this Jesus, constantly quoting Moses but radically recasting his teaching, we got the eerie sense he was preparing us for some kind of greater Exodus... some 'dangerous deliverance' from a different type of slavery.

Even Jesus' 'Sermon on the Mount' was shaped like a mountain, reaching its zenith with his famous prayer.

Initially, we were excited by his 9 beatitudes, or 'flourishings'. We found courage in hearing about the meek inheriting the earth and his promise that for those of us hungry for righteousness, we'd be filled! That if we show mercy, we'll receive mercy. Hope, straight out of the blocks, in chapter 5!



But then we stumbled over some of Jesus' difficult teaching. What did he mean by saying that unless our righteousness surpasses the Pharisees, we'll certainly not enter his kingdom of heaven? And his command to 'Be perfect, as your heavenly father is perfect'? Is this even possible? And what to make of his warning in chapter 7 that 'not everyone who says 'Lord' will enter the kingdom, but only the one who does the Father's will'? Dangerous, this 'life' business, indeed.

And then we remembered that Moses had come down from his mountain to teach his people the law of God's flourishing life, from the Lord who wants to heal us. And we learnt the better translation of Jesus' actually-very-hopeful command: 'Be whole, as your heavenly Father is whole.' Jesus promised to lead us in living well, to live an integrated life, holistic, flourishing, holy as God himself is holy ... whole!

Most of all, we were stunned to learn how Jesus showed us the way to such a flourishing life: at the peak of his prayer at the zenith of his teaching! Right in the middle of the middle of his sermon, the key to being 'made whole': repentance in faith! *"Our Father in Heaven, forgive us our failures as we also have forgiven those who fail us."*

And now, we come to Part 3 in Matthew's gospel. Chapters 8-12. With Jesus coming down from the mountain, the large crowds following him. He also comes down different to how Moses did: no stone tablets of law, because he's come to fulfil the law! No tablets held in hands, but only Jesus' healing hands. In fact, Jesus is the ultimate, walking example of the Father's flourishing life that he's just been teaching about.



What will happen? Will the crowds repent? Will his first disciples believe? Will anyone? Will we hear from God's chosen people, Israel, responding in faith to Jesus' vision of the Father's flourishing life? Will Jesus find repentance – people changing their minds, individuals doing a U-turn with their life to follow in a different direction?

True repentance, we'll see, is rare. Very rare. So rare, in fact, that even Jesus will be amazed!

Our 'Big Idea' for this series in chapters 8-12 of Matthew's gospel is:

Jesus now embodies God's loving kindness through miracles, which reveal the dangerous faith needed to enter his Kingdom of Heaven.

Our prayer is that as we journey together as four church families in this next phase of the life of Jesus, through the eyes of Matthew, we too will grow in our embodiment of Jesus. May we embrace his loving kindness to us and the dangerous faith necessary to enter God's Kingdom for ever.

Your brothers in Christ,

Rev Peter Evans (Stanthorpe PC)
Rev Troy Wilkins (Mackay & Sarina PC)
Rev Dave Bailey (Rose City PC Warwick)
Rev Andrew Purcell (Callide Valley PC)



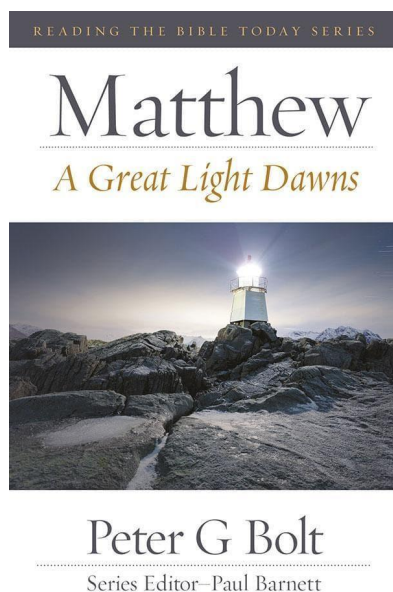
Resources

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

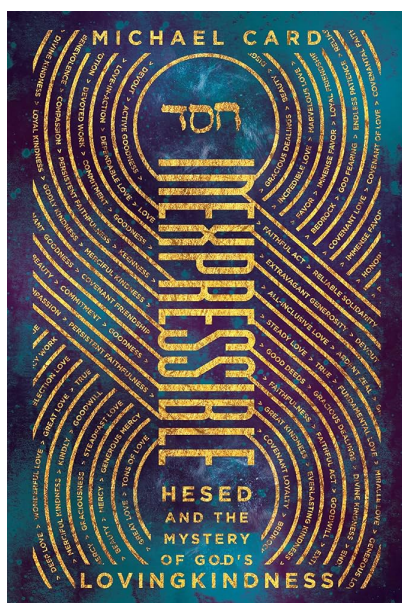
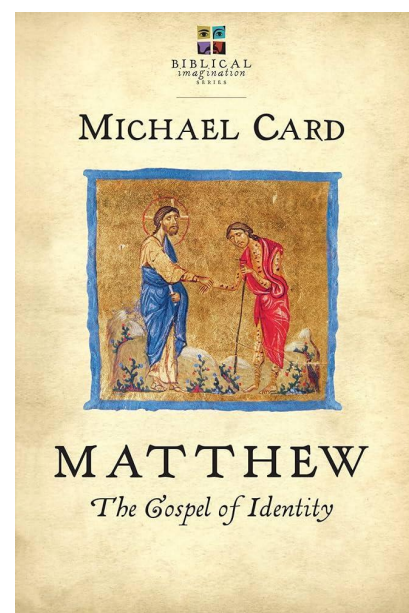
1. Matthew 1-13 <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-1-13/>
2. Matthew 14-28 <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew-14-28/>

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.

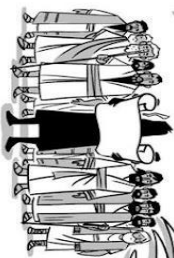


For those who'd like something to sink their teeth into and enjoy the beauty of this gospel have a look at ***Matthew: The Gospel of Identity*** by Michael Card.



Inexpressible by Michael Card offers a "Rosetta Stone" for understanding God's character through the Hebrew word *hesed*. He defines this complex term—often translated as "steadfast love"—as the moment when someone from whom you expect nothing gives you everything. By tracing this theme from the Old Testament to its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus, the book provides a bridge between scholarly linguistic study and practical, life-changing devotion.

AUTHOR: 3



30-40 YEARS
OF
ORAL TRADITION

MATTHEW

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO

Things to look for

#1 2 QUOTATIONS
(THERE ARE A LOT)

#2 LOOK CLOSELY AT THE
PEOPLE WHO ACCEPT JESUS

FAITH = TRANSDUCATION

ORAL TRADITION
Matthew
SEE 9-18.10.3



1. MESSIAH
FROM THE LINE OF
DAVID

2. NEW
MOSES

3. GOD
-WITH-
US



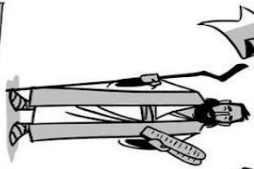
CONNECT JESUS TO OLD TESTAMENT



Immanuel
= GOD WITH US

FULFILL OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETIC PROMISES

1-3 ABRAHAM DAVID JESUS



MOSES

JESUS

- OUT OF EGYPT
- CROSS THE RED SEA
- WANDERERS FOR 40 YEARS
- RECEIVES LAW FROM MOUNTAIN
- OUT OF EGYPT
- BAPTISM IN THE JORDAN RIVER
- WANDERERS FOR 40 DAYS
- GIVES LAW FROM MOUNTAIN

JESUS > MOSES

- DELIVER FROM SLAVERY
- GIVE NEW DIVINE TEACHING
- SAVE FROM SIN
- INITIATE A NEW COVENANT

4-7 ANNOUNCING GOD'S KINGDOM

SERMON ON THE MOUNT (4:5-7)

GOD'S KINGDOM
• CONFRONT EVIL
• RESISTANCE GOD'S REIGN
• CREATE A NEW FAMILY

HOW TO LIVE IN GOD'S KINGDOM
• FULFILL THE TORAH
• HEART IS LOVE

8-10 JESUS BRINGS KINGDOM INTO PEOPLE'S LIVES

STANDING IN THE (4:12)

EXPECT ACCEPTANCE AND REJECTION

TO THE SON OF THE SON OF THE SON

11-13 RESPONSES TO JESUS

PARABLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM (4:13)

POSITIVE: JESUS IS THE MESSIAH!
NEUTRAL: JESUS IS THE MESSIAH?
NEGATIVE: JESUS IS NOT THE MESSIAH!

PARABLES IN COMMENTARY

14-20 DIFFERENT EXPECTATIONS ABOUT THE MESSIAH

THE UPRIDE DOWN KINGDOM (4:17-20)

• CAN THE HEAVEN OF GIVING IT MAN

SUFFERING SERVANT (4:23)

21-25 CLASH OF KINGDOMS

CLASH OF KINGDOMS (23-25)

• ASKING AUTHORITY
• NO THREE IN COMPROMISED HOUSES OF HYPOCRISY
• OFFENDED
• NONE TO KILL JESUS

CLASH OF KINGDOMS

26-28 PASSOVER MEAL - NEW MEANING

RETELLS THE STORY OF...
• RESCUE FROM SLAVERY
• BIRTH OF PASSEVER LAMB
• BIRTH OF JESUS

YOU HAVE BLASPHEMED GOD!
THAT'S NOT THE MESSIAH!
SANCTUARY (JACOB LABERS)

HE'S INNOCENT BUT...
LET HIM BE CRUCIFIED!
PILATE

HE'S JUDGED ON THEIR BEHALF

PARABLES ABOUT THE KINGDOM

GREAT COMMISSION
JESUS IS KING
TELL ALL NATIONS
ALL PEOPLE
JOIN THE KINGDOM

BOOKS OF MOSES (TORAH)

1 2 3 4 5

How to Use This Companion

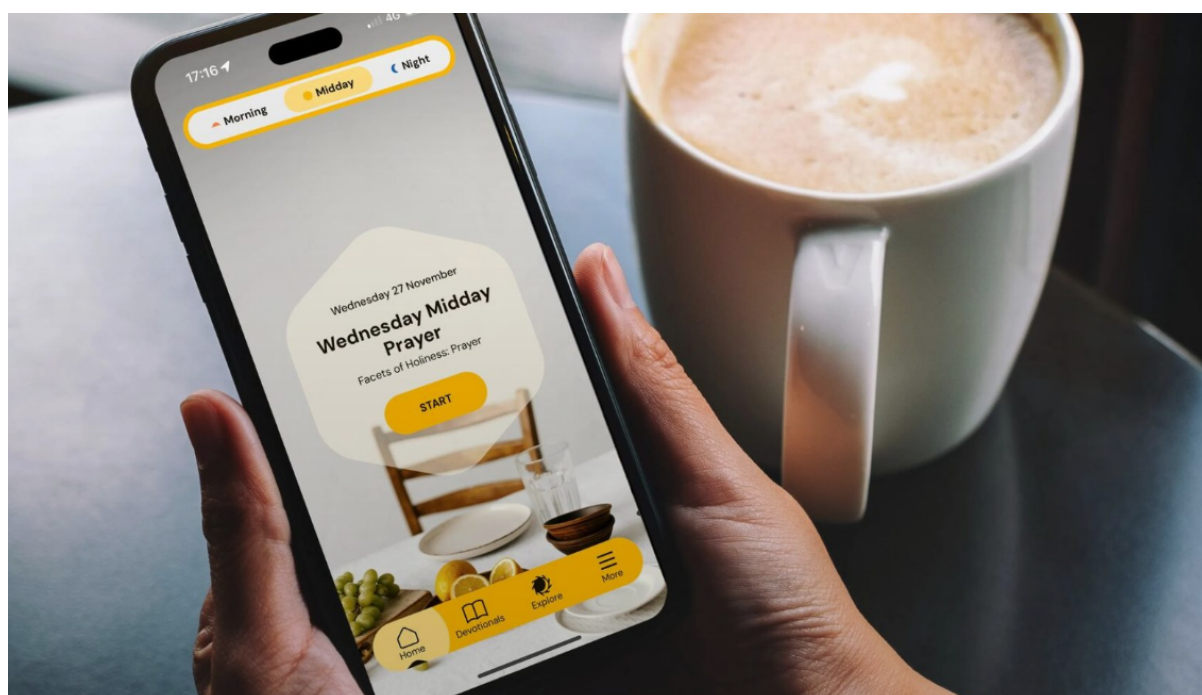
Here's how to use your Series Companion this term:

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 through 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 may include Spotify song playlists, 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?'

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.

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:

'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

Check out articles and other readings to go deeper on this topic distributed through our church social media posts.

Series Song

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

Verse 1

What gift of grace is Jesus my redeemer
There is no more for heaven now to give
He is my joy my righteousness and freedom
My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to his
Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 2

The night is dark but I am not forsaken
For by my side the Saviour he will stay
I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need his power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley he will lead
Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 3

No fate I dread I know I am forgiven
The future sure the price it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And he was raised to overthrow the grave
To this I hold my sin has been defeated
Jesus now and ever is my plea
Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Verse 4

With every breath I long to follow Jesus
For he has said that he will bring me home
And day by day I know he will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne
To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to him
When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me

Ending

When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat
Yet not I but through Christ in me
Yet not I but through Christ in me

CCLI Song # 7121852

Jonny Robinson | Michael Farren | Rich Thompson

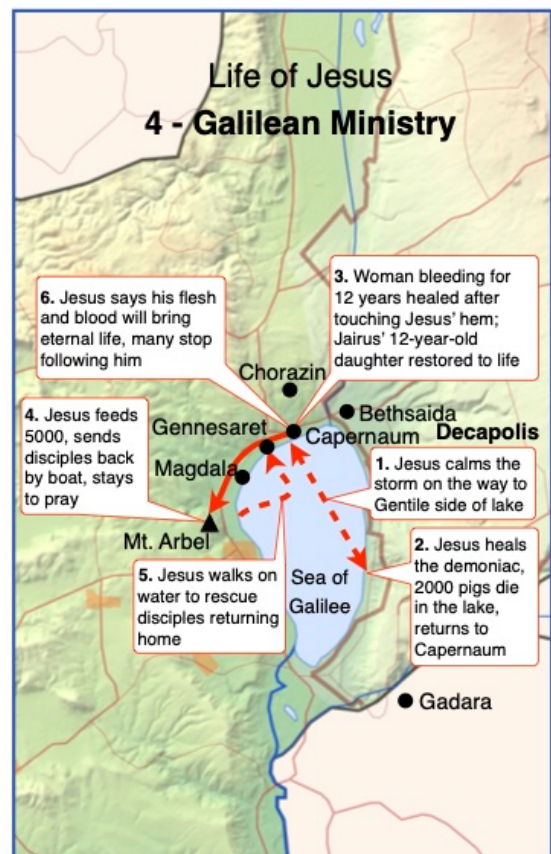
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Maps



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.

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.

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

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.

Sermon Traction

Episode 1: Miraculous Faith (1 Feb)

Passage: Matthew 8:1-17

Key Verse: *Matt 8:10*

Empty space for sermon notes.

Episode 1 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
1 Feb

Big Idea: Coming down empty handed, Jesus embodies the flourishing life of his sermon on the mount, through miracles that reveal the dangerous faith we need to enter his 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: Isaiah 61:1-3

Background Reading: Exodus 34:1-7, 29-32

Matthew Reading: Matthew 8:1-17

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 8:27*

1. **PRÉSENTATION** : Le présent document a pour objet de définir les modalités de mise en œuvre de la politique de confidentialité de la société.

1. **PROTECTOR DE DATOS DE CARÁCTER PERSONAL** (en adelante, **PROTECTOR**) es el encargado de velar por el cumplimiento de la normativa de protección de datos de carácter personal, así como de asesorar y controlar el cumplimiento de la misma por parte de la entidad.

Episode 2 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
8 Feb

Big Idea: Jesus powerfully offers new life and a home in him through faith to those captured in the fear of sin and death.

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 107:28-32

Background Reading: Jonah 1:1-12

Matthew Reading: Matthew 8:18-34

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 9:13*

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be addressed. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

2. Next, it is essential to gather relevant information and data. This can be done through research, consultation with experts, or by analyzing existing resources.

3. Once the information is gathered, the next step is to develop a plan or strategy. This involves breaking down the problem into smaller, manageable parts and determining the best approach to solve each part.

4. After the plan is developed, the next step is to implement the solution. This involves putting the plan into action and monitoring the progress to ensure that the solution is effective.

5. Finally, it is important to evaluate the results of the solution. This involves assessing the outcomes and determining whether the problem has been successfully resolved.

Episode 3 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
15 Feb

Big Idea: Jesus invites sinners to rise to a new feast with him through faith that brings healing, forgiveness and restoration.

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: Hosea 6:1-3, 6

Background Reading: Isaiah 25:6-8

Matthew Reading: Matthew 9:1-17

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Sermon Traction

Episode 4: Declaring Faith (22 Feb)

Passage: Matthew 9:18-34

Key Verse: *Matt 9:29*

Empty space for sermon notes.

Episode 4 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
22 Feb

Big Idea: Against rising opposition, the good news spreads that declaring faith in Jesus brings what we desperately seek: wholeness in Him.

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 55:6-7

Background Reading: Psalm 116:1-9

Matthew Reading: Matthew 9:18-34

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Sermon Traction

Episode 5: Compassionate Faith (1 Mar)

Passage: Matthew 9:35-10:42

Key Verse: *Matt 9:36*

Episode 5 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
1 Mar

Big Idea: Brimming with God's loving kindness, Jesus now sends out twelve apprentices to the lost sheep of Israel, as a foretaste of his Great Commission for the whole world.

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 9:35-38

Background Reading: Matthew 9:35-10:15

Matthew Reading: Matthew 10:16-42

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Sermon Traction

Episode 6: Reassuring Faith (8 Mar)

Passage: Matthew 11:1-19

Key Verse: *Matt 11:6*

Episode 6 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
8 Mar

Big Idea: Jesus reassures everyone that no matter our circumstances, the fruit of his flourishing life will prove he is the Coming One, the Messiah, the Son of Man.

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 126:1-6

Background Reading: Isaiah 35:3-6

Matthew Reading: Matthew 11:1-19

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 11:28*

31

Episode 7 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
15 Mar

Big Idea: Despite his unrepentant community, Jesus reveals his heart, offering to exchange our striving for his ease, our weariness for his rest and our heavy burdens for his Father's tender blessing.

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: 2 Peter 3:8-9

Background Reading: Jonah 3

Matthew Reading: Matthew 11:20-30

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 12:8*

34

Episode 8 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
22 Mar

Big Idea: Jesus gives an object lesson that finding rest for our souls simply requires reaching out in faith for restoration from the servant who will be broken.

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: Hosea 6:1-3, 6

Background Reading: Isaiah 42:1-7

Matthew Reading: Matthew 12:1-21

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 12:28*

37

Episode 9 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
29 Mar

Big Idea: The Kingdom of God has now arrived and our citizenship will be seen (or exposed) in the whole, flourishing life of bearing the fruit of the Spirit of God.

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

Background Reading: Psalm 2

Matthew Reading: Matthew 12:22-37

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

Key Verse: *Matt 12:50*

40

Episode 10 Discussion



**Following
Sunday**
5 Apr

Big Idea: Jesus reveals that true faith is dangerous because no matter how many signs we want, we can't enter his Kingdom without a resurrection, have the kingdom without the king or belong to God's family without doing the will of his Father.

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 28:1-10

Background Reading: Matthew 4:12-17

Matthew Reading: Matthew 12:38-50

Benediction: The Lord's Prayer

3. Reflect - Connecting with our Minds

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.

