

A study in
MATTHEW
Chapters 26-28



DICKSON
BAPTIST CHURCH

HOW TO USE THIS STUDY

This 8-week study in Matthew 26-28 is designed to be used by groups of any size, in any setting - anything from two friends reading the Bible together in their lunch break, to an entire Connect group meeting after dinner on a weeknight. All you need is a Bible and this booklet.

Before you begin, it might also be helpful to watch through the Bible Project's introductory video on Matthew 14-28 (only 7 mins long), available on their website:

<https://bibleproject.com/videos/matthew-14-28/>

Each study in this booklet has **three** components:

- 1) looking at the passage using the questions provided,
- 2) discussing the application questions that go with it, and
- 3) finishing with personal reflections.

For a 60-minute bible study we recommend you structure your time in the following way:

1. Read the passage (5 mins)
2. Explain what the passage is about (10 mins)
3. Discuss what the passage means (10 mins)
4. Discuss the application questions (25 mins)
5. Share your response to the passage (10 mins)

Week ONE

Matthew 26:1-16

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

Have you ever been moved to worship Jesus in an extravagant way?

What could make you turn away from Jesus? Is there anything worth more to you than Jesus?

Have you reflected on how much Jesus poured out for you?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

What is God saying to me?

What does this mean for how I live?

Does this change what I think or believe?

Is there anything I should do or stop doing?

Is there something I want to be held accountable for?

Week TWO

Matthew 26:17-30

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

*What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?
What things are unclear or confusing?
What do you think the main point of this passage is?*

4 Discuss the following application questions:

What do you know about the Jewish festival of Passover? (Hint: look at Exodus 12:21-42). How does Jesus fulfil (or transform) the Passover?

Jesus knew that Judas would betray him, and yet he still sat down to eat with him. What does that tell you about Jesus' love?

When we celebrate the Lord's supper it has a backward 'remembering' aspect (verses 26-27), as well as a forward 'anticipation' aspect (verses 29). What are we remembering? What are we anticipating?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

*What is God saying to me?
What does this mean for how I live?
Does this change what I think or believe?
Is there anything I should do or stop doing?
Is there something I want to be held accountable for?*

Week THREE

Matthew 26:31-56

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

Peter had a lot of confidence in himself to be faithful, and yet he failed. Does this teach you anything about your own ability to be faithful under pressure? What should we have confidence in?

The cup that Jesus refers to is a reference in the Old Testament to the cup of God's judgement (for example, Psalm 75:7-8). Does it move you that Jesus drank the cup he didn't deserve for our sake?

At the end of this passage Jesus is all alone. Is it a comfort to know that Jesus has faced betrayal, loneliness, and temptation?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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Week FOUR

Matthew 26:57 - 27:10

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

Think of a time in your life when you became aware of your own sin and failure. How did it feel, and how were you tempted to respond?

Judas knew he had sinned, but didn't know what to do with his guilt and shame. The real tragedy of Judas' life is that he didn't take his sin to the feet of Jesus and ask for his forgiveness. What things might stop you from falling upon Jesus' mercy?

Jesus went to the cross for one purpose: to make things right between us and God. If someone came to you broken and overwhelmed by their sin, and doubting things could ever be fixed, what would you say to them? How could you speak the gospel into their life?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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Is there something I want to be held accountable for?

Week FIVE

Matthew 27:11-26

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

There are multiple ways that the people in this story twist justice. What does this say about humanity? Is it possible to wash our hands and say we are innocent?

Jesus has said previously in Matthew that he is the judge of the world (for example, Matthew 25:31-32). Who is being judged in this passage? Why does Jesus stay silent?

In this story we see the innocent condemned (Jesus), while the guilty go free (Barabbas). What does this teach us about the gospel?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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Week SIX

Matthew 27:27-44

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

The mockery inflicted on Jesus is horrible to behold. What does it say about human nature that we are capable of such cruelty?

There is great irony in this passage that Jesus is mocked as a saviour (verse 42), mocked as a king (verse 29, 37), and mocked as the Son of God (verse 43). Do you accept that Jesus is your Saviour, King and God?

What does it say about our sin that Jesus had to die like this? What does it say about Jesus' love that he was willing to die like this?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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Week SEVEN

Matthew 27:45-66

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?

What things are unclear or confusing?

What do you think the main point of this passage is?

4 Discuss the following application questions:

Jesus cries out on the cross that God has forsaken him (verse 46, quoting Psalm 22). Does it comfort you that Jesus knows what it is like to feel forsaken by God?

The temple curtain being torn in two (verse 51) is a sign that Jesus' death has removed the barriers and given us access to God. How do you make use of this access?

Joseph and the women present at Jesus' death and burial show great boldness in honouring Jesus. How willing are you to be identified as a follower of Jesus?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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Week EIGHT

Matthew 28

1 Begin by reading the passage. Have someone read it aloud, then have someone else re-read it.

2 Using your own words, have a go at explaining what this passage is about.

What is said? What happens? If it's a story, what's the plot?

3 Discuss what you think this passage means.

*What is it saying about God? What is it saying about people?
What things are unclear or confusing?
What do you think the main point of this passage is?*

4 Discuss the following application questions:

If Jesus has risen from the dead it changes everything!
What difference does it make to you to have a risen saviour?

“When they saw him, they worshipped him, but some doubted...” (verse 17). What in this passage helps you to worship? Do you have doubts?

Read Jesus’ “Great Commission” in verse 18-20.
Have you responded to Jesus’ call to be his disciple?
Have you responded to Jesus’ call to make disciples?

5 Finish by taking turns sharing: what is your response to this passage?

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