

UNLEASHING GOD'S WORD

HOW TO APPROACH BIBLE STUDY

There are a number of ways to approach the study of the Bible:

SYNTHETIC — Overview of the Bible as a whole to provide a grasp of the overall message

ANALYTICAL — Process of viewing the Bible verse by verse to get a detailed understanding

TOPICAL or DOCTRINAL — Study of the Bible according to its many topics and doctrines

BIOGRAPHICAL — Study of the Bible according to its people and characteristics

The **synthetic** or **overview** approach is extremely helpful because we can grasp the big picture. Such an overview will help in understanding the details later on in one's study of the Bible. Our goal is to give the reader key terms, verses, themes or purposes of each of the books along with a brief description of the content.

FOUR DIVISIONS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

BIOGRAPHICAL	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
HISTORICAL	ACTS			
DOCTRINAL	ROMANS PHILIPPIANS 1 & 2 TIMOTHY	1 & 2 CORINTHIANS COLOSSIANS TITUS 1 & 2 PETER	GALATIANS 1 & 2 THESSALONIANS PHILEMON 1, 2 & 3 JOHN	EPHESIANS HEBREWS JAMES JUDE
PROPHETICAL	REVELATION			

GOSPELS:	MATTHEW	MARK	LUKE	JOHN
PORTRAIT:	Mighty King	Humble Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
WRITTEN TO:	The Jews	The Romans	The Greeks	Everyone!
THEME:	Credentials of Jesus	Actions of Jesus	Teachings of Jesus	Presenting His Deity
ORDER WRITTEN:	1 – MARK	2 – MATTHEW	3 – LUKE	4 – JOHN
KEY VERSE:	MATTHEW 21:4-5	MARK 10:45	LUKE 19:10	JOHN 20:31

WHO WAS MATTHEW?

"As Jesus went on...He saw a man named Matthew sitting at the tax collector's booth. 'Follow me,' He told him, and Matthew...followed Him. While Jesus was having dinner at Matthew's house, many tax collectors and 'sinners' came and ate with Him....When the Pharisees saw this, they asked... 'Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and 'sinners'?' On hearing this, Jesus said, 'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'" MATTHEW 9:9-12

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

ACTION	TEACHING	TRANSITION
1-4 PREPARATION OF THE KING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Background Birth Baptism Temptation 	5-7 SERMON ON THE MOUNT	7:28 <i>"When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at His teaching..."</i>
8-9 POWER OF THE KING (10 Miracles) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace to the Outcasts (8:1-22) Peace to the Troubled (8:23-9:17) Restoration to the Broken (9:18-38) 	10 THE SENDING AND TRAINING OF THE 12	11:1 <i>"After Jesus had finished instructing His twelve disciples, He went on from there to teach and preach in the towns of Galilee."</i>
11-12 THE AUTHORITY OF THE KING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Authority Explained (11) <i>"Come to me..."</i> Authority Affirmed (12) <i>"Lord of the Sabbath..."</i> 	13:1-52 THE PARABLES OF JESUS	13:53 <i>"When Jesus had finished these parables, He moved on from there."</i>
13:53 - 17:27 THE KING MEETS OPPOSITION	18:1-35 KINGDOM LIVING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Humility (18:1-14) Honesty (18:15-20) Forgiveness (18:21-35) 	19:1 <i>"When Jesus had finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan."</i>
19-23 LIFE IN THE KINGDOM <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The King's Instructions (19-20) The King's Presentation (21) The King's Pronouncements (22-23) 	24-25 THE RETURN OF THE KING <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future (24:1-25) His Return (24:26-35) Living Expectantly (25) 	26:1-2 <i>"When Jesus had finished saying all these things, He said to His disciples, 'As you know, the Passover is two days away - and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified.'"</i>
26-27 THE PASSION OF THE KING (Betrayed) (Last Supper) (Tried) (Crucified) (Buried)		
28 THE RESURRECTION OF THE KING (THE EMPTY TOMB!) (THE GREAT COMMISSION)		

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

GREAT THEOLOGICAL THEMES AND LIFE APPLICATIONS

1. CHRISTOLOGY – Jesus is the _____

"When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' 'But what about you?' He asked. 'Who do you say I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'" MATTHEW 16:13-16

2. FULFILLED PROPHECY – You can _____ to Fulfill His Promises

Old Testament – Promise

New Testament – Fulfillment

"Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ." MATTHEW 1:17

"All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel' - which means, 'God with us.'" MATTHEW 1:22-23

3. SPIRITUAL FOUNDATIONS – Life is Best Lived with _____

Jesus personally gives over 200 real and practical lessons of how God desires people to live. A few examples of these include:

- Having faith (9:29)
- Dealing with fear (8:26)
- God answering prayers (8:2)
- The promise of salvation (10:22)
- Obeying God (15:19)
- Loving your neighbor (19:19)
- Sacrificing (20:22)
- Resolving legal issues (5:25)
- Commitment in Marriage (19:1-12)
- How to give to others (6:2)
- Forgiving those who sin against you (6:14)
- Resisting temptation (4:2)
- Being a hypocrite (23:28)
- Acknowledging Christ (10:32)
- Serving the King (28:16-20)

4. GRACE – It's _____!

"A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham...the father of Isaac...the father of Jacob...Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed....the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David... father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife..." MATTHEW 1:1-6

5. THE GREAT COMMISSION - Living Under the _____!

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'" MATTHEW 28:18-20

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SMALL GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

1. How did your family practice religion when you were growing up?
2. Looking back at this week's teaching by Pastor Ray, was there anything that particularly caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
3. Take turns reading aloud from Matthew 6:1-15.
4. What does verse 1 mean by *"Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them."* What does the statement: "Doing the right things for the wrong reasons" mean?
5. What does verses 6-7 mean? Why do you think it was important to Jesus to give instructions on how to pray? What should be revealed in a prayer?
6. If *"your Father knows what you need before you ask Him,"* (8) — why ask Him?
7. Read aloud the Lord's Prayer (9-13) again. How can this be an example or a pattern for our own prayers?
8. What is your reaction to verse 10? What are some examples of other people of today's world reactions to verse 10? Are we resigning ourselves when we pray *"Your will be done"*?
9. Does God lead us *"into temptation"* (13) or does He allow us to be tested by them? Give an example of a recent *"temptation"* in your life. How can God help?
10. Why do you think Matthew writes to the Jews about Jesus giving a warning about forgiveness? (12, 14-15) If we refuse to forgive others, God will refuse to forgive us. Why? What is the connection between forgiving and being forgiven?
11. Do you know anyone -- family, neighbor, co-worker that can't forgive someone who has wronged them? Why is it easy to ask God for forgiveness but hard to grant it to others?
12. Thinking about this group discussion, what is one thing in your spiritual life that you could start doing that would improve your walk with God? What can the group pray for you this week?

Praise God for the gift of His son. Thank Him for the Bible and its wise words—God is good!