

# MATTHEW: THE WAY OF JESUS

## *Bible Reading Plan*

For this series, we'll be focusing on the practice of journaling as a way to further meditate on the words of Jesus. Each week you're given several options for you to journal through. You can choose to spend all week on one passage or journal each day through a related passage of Scripture.

Related resources: ["How to Study the Bible"](#)  
[Practicing Journaling](#)  
[FollowingJesusTogether.com/abide](#)

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## Week 1 (August 17-22)

The invitation of Jesus is into a whole new reality - where through repentance, Jesus becomes our King and we become agents of His Kingdom.

[Matthew 4:12-17](#)

[Matthew 3:1-12](#)

[Isaiah 9:1-2](#)

[Amos 5:6-8](#)

[Psalm 23:1-4](#)

[Deuteronomy 30:1-3](#)

## Week 2 (August 24-29)

The Sermon on the Mount is arguably the most important teachings of Jesus contained in one place. It is essentially His manifesto for life in the Kingdom of God. In the opening lines, he radically redefines what it means to be blessed - and it's not what you might think.

[Matthew 5:1-12](#)

[1 Peter 4:12-16](#)

[Isaiah 6:1-4](#)

[John 16:16-24](#)

[2 Corinthians 7:5-10](#)

[James 4:6-10](#)

## Week 3 (August 31- September 5)

Jesus calls his followers salt and light. Because of God's redemptive work in our lives, we are enabled and empowered to live this sort of life.

[Matthew 5:13-16](#)

[Deuteronomy 7:6-11](#)

[John 15:1-8](#)

[Ephesians 5:1-14](#)

[Philippians 2:12-18](#)

[John 8:12-20](#)

## Week 4 (September 7-12)

One of the key distinctions for followers of Jesus is how we treat and respond to the Bible. The Bible is a controversial piece of literature, but our aim is to handle it like Jesus - and for Jesus it is authority. He trusts and submits to it and so should we.

[Matthew 5:17-20](#)

[Matthew 18:1-4](#)

[Romans 3:27-31](#)

[2 Timothy 3:10-17](#)

[Psalms 119:9-16](#)

[Philippians 3:1-9](#)

## Week 5 (September 14-19)

Anger and rage seem to be commonplace today. But, the way of Jesus is altogether different. Jesus reveals the vicious cycle of anger, how to break it and live his vision of the Kingdom.

[Matthew 5:21-26](#)

[Matthew 18:21-34](#)

[Colossians 3:12-17](#)

[Proverbs 17:9-10](#)

[Luke 6:37-42](#)

[Luke 12:57-59](#)

## Week 6 (September 21-26)

When Jesus teaches about the Law, he doesn't just talk about behavior modification, but the real heart behind the sin. His insight into the human condition and our deep need for God is monumental. Lust is not simply natural or benign but creates a wake of objectification and oppression in the lives of others. The way of Jesus calls us to take drastic measures to eradicate its poison from our lives.

[Matthew 5:27-32](#)

[Genesis 1:26-28](#)

[Psalms 101:1-4](#)

[1 John 2:15-17](#)

[Proverbs 5](#)

[1 Corinthians 6:18-20](#)

## Week 7 (September 28-October 3)

Life in the kingdom is a life of truth and commitment. Followers of Jesus are committed truth-tellers understanding that our lives are predicated on Jesus' commitment to tell the truth and fulfill it. This is not always easy and may, in fact, cost you... but Truth and Integrity are always markers of true disciples.

[Matthew 5:33-37](#)

[James 5:7-12](#)

[Proverbs 10:19-21](#)

[Ephesians 4:25](#)

[Psalm 25:4-7](#)

[Proverbs 12:17-19](#)

## Week 8 (October 5-10)

To follow Jesus is to reject the either/or option of flight or fight, and to look for a third way, a creative, wise, intelligent, bold, and at times risky way to fight evil in a nonviolent way.

[Matthew 5:38-42](#)

[1 Peter 2:21-25](#)

[Romans 12:14-21](#)

[Psalm 37:18-24](#)

[Luke 6:27-36](#)

[Proverbs 21:24-26](#)

## Week 9 (October 12-17)

The most radical of Jesus' 6 examples of his way: enemy love. For Jesus, it's not enough to reject fight or flight and to look for creative alternatives to violence. He's actually after love for our enemy. If we only love the people we like, how are we any different from the rest of the world.

[Matthew 5:43-48](#)

[Luke 23:32-38](#)

[1 Peter 3:8-12](#)

[Romans 5:6-11](#)

[Isaiah 53:1-6](#)

[Isaiah 53:7-12](#)

## Week 10 (October 19-24)

Life in the Kingdom is about living in the presence and approval of God, not other humans. Many of us though, live our lives enslaved to the approval and affirmation of others. Sometimes that looks religious, sometimes it doesn't... but the way of Jesus is freedom from that tyranny and a call to practice the pursuit of God with honesty, transparency, and sincerity.

[Matthew 6:1-6](#)

[1 John 2:28-29](#)

[1 Corinthians 13:1-3](#)

[Luke 18:9-14](#)

[Isaiah 29:13-14](#)

[Ezekiel 33:12-16](#)

## Week 11 (October 26-31)

Throughout the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches His way is a life with God. We want to learn to live and pray as Jesus teaches.

[Matthew 6:5-18](#)

[Matthew 7:7-11](#)

[Philippians 4:4-9](#)

[John 17:1-4](#)

[Psalms 102:12-17](#)

[2 Chronicles 7:11-18](#)

## Week 12 (November 2-7)

Jesus teaches that whatever we set our hearts on we give power to - it becomes our master. We need not look any further than our wallets to discern who our master is. The invitation of Jesus is to have our hearts freed from these masters, to live simply and generously finding fullness and satisfaction in God alone. But, this is easier said than done in a consumeristic culture like our own. It will require intentional and decisive action for followers of Jesus in the 21st century.

[Matthew 6:19-24](#)

[Luke 12:13-21](#)

[Luke 12:32-34](#)

[1 Timothy 6:6-10](#)

[1 Timothy 6:17-19](#)

[James 5:1-6](#)

## Week 13 (November 9-14)

Worry. Fear. Anxiety. It's hard to name a more common epidemic in our society - especially now. But there is a whole new way of life offered to the follower of Jesus - one free of anxiety. Rooted in a trust in God, your life can be marked by a non-anxious presence... which is perhaps the greatest need in our day.

[Matthew 6:25-34](#)

[1 Peter 5:6-7](#)

[Psalm 42:1-6](#)

[Psalm 42:6-11](#)

[Psalm 147:7-11](#)

[Philippians 4:4-9](#)

## Week 14 (November 16-21)

Jesus shows us the danger of assuming the worst about others, blame-shifting, and failure to question yourself before assigning blame to someone else.

[Matthew 7:1-6](#)

[Romans 2:1-3](#)

[Romans 14:10-12](#)

[James 4:11-12](#)

[John 8:1-11](#)

[Luke 6:37-42](#)

## Week 15 (November 23-28)

Not everyone who looks like a Christian is one.. and this is a horrifying truth for all of us to wrestle with. There are false teachers - whose ways expose them... and worse, people who look the part... but never really knew Christ. A warning we all need to hear.

[Matthew 7:12-28](#)

[Luke 22:34-40](#)

[Luke 13:22-30](#)

[Psalm 16:11](#)

[Deuteronomy 6:4-9](#)

[Leviticus 19:17-18](#)