
SERIES 1: KNOWING JESUS AS MESSIAH

BOOK 4: Following Jesus as Messiah

Matthew 1-7:28

Book 4: Following Jesus as Messiah

Introduction

As the Old Testament unfolds, from our first family's fall to the exile and return of Israel to its promised land, the promise of God's chosen Messiah has grown in glorious clarity. Now, God reveals the fulfillment of all these promises as the promised Seed is now raised up for us in humble flesh as Jesus, our Messiah. Read Matthew to discover how God reveals His glorious Messiah to you in the humility of His Son.

God first reveals Jesus as Messiah to Israel, so Matthew introduced Jesus to a Jewish, Law-observant audience. By learning of how Jesus came first to the family of His origins as the Son of David and the Son of Abraham, we can see how His long-promised mission as Messiah finally is fulfilled.

For, Jesus Messiah is first sent to Israel but for the purpose to restore God's blessings to all the nations of earth (Gen. 22:18). As the Son of God, Jesus as Messiah *multiplies* sons to build a royal house, a family for God and David (2 Sam. 7:11, 13) which would establish an eternal throne and Kingdom (16). For, the Son of God would be *disciplined for sins* (14) in order to make His people righteous (Jer. 23:5-6).

So, begin to read Matthew to see how Jesus Messiah calls you as a disciple to live in God's household as a son of God, joining Jesus to build this House and ruling Kingdom!

STEPS of a *Devoted Disciple*:

Your *Devotion* matters to the Lord. For, there is only one Lord and God, and He deserves creation's highest honor and praise. So, you were made to give yourself to the Lord God in loving devotion of heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30). In this same devotion to the Lord, Jesus Christ calls you to follow Him as His disciple. These short devotionals guide you in the Word to cultivate a heart devotion to the Lord as His disciple.

- First, **discover** what His life-giving Word has to say to you personally, being careful to write down your insights to share with others.
- Then, **discuss** His Word with those closest to you: your family, your friends, and in your home fellowship group (your spiritual family).
- Next, **dialogue** to compare views on key passages with a partner—either another disciple, or an older mentor or younger mentee.
- Finally, **develop** key skills as you abide in the Word by applying it to your life as you read the devotional, notes, and footnotes.

START HERE: *Humble Yourself in Prayer:*

Devote yourself to the Lord to hear and do His Will for you.

☐ *Do I want to humble myself under the Lordship of God by faith?*

☐ *Or, will I live as my own Lord, relying on my own understanding?*

PRAYER OF DEVOTION

Lord God, I devote my life to you today. I offer you my soul to live humbly under your Lordship; my mind to seek your will and Spirit; my heart to love you and others; and, my strength to obey your Word and Will!
Amen.

Chapter 1: JESUS MESSIAH: Our Family Son

Matthew 1:1-17

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

a. Preview Matthew 1:1-17

Family Messiah: The Son of David, the Son of Abraham. Jesus is a familiar Messiah, the Firstborn Heir of his people as the Son of Abraham and of his house as the Son of David. So, read Matthew 1 to get to know Jesus Messiah by meeting his family generations! First, consider that Jesus Messiah is the **family head** of both a family, the house of David, and a people, the Israelites. Consider that as Messiah, Jesus is not simply *a son* but *the son* of both Abraham and David—the Head of the family as its designated Firstborn Heir, their long-promised *Seed* (Gen. 22:17-18 and 2 Samuel 7:12). Then, read the family story of Jesus Christ to discover the **family reason** God *raised up* Jesus by Mary to be the Messiah. Along the way, note God's promise of Messiah to both Abraham and David. Finally, see how Jesus Messiah brings God's **blessings** to all the **generations** of Abraham.

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 1:1-17 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. What do we learn about the family of Jesus Christ? Why is this important?

Q2: What should we expect Jesus to do for us as the Son of Abraham (Gen. 22:17-18) and the Son of David (2 Sam. 7:12-16)?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. How does the family position of Jesus entitle him to be God's chosen Messiah? (Matthew 1:1)

1. Family Head: Right to Redeem. Jesus is *anointed* by God as His Messiah because he is both *the Son of Abraham* and *the Son of David*. That is, of all the sons of Abraham, Jesus is the appointed Heir and Firstborn Son to *multiply spiritual sons* and restore God's blessing to all families of earth (Gen. 22:17-18). Of all the sons of David, Jesus is *raised up by God* from David himself to be the family Redeemer (2 Samuel 7:12) who atones for (14), gathers a house (13) and rules (16).

Q2. What is the family reason that God *raised up Jesus* as the Messiah of Abraham's line? (Matthew 1:2-16)

2. Family Reason: Restoring Blessing. The story of Messiah ends in Jesus, for it recounts God's *redemptive* work to save Israel. God promised to Abraham Messiah as his Seed to claim a homeland and bless the nations (2; Gen. 22:17-18), and this Messiah would be of the ruling line of Judah (3) and David (6). However, the royal line of David was cursed at Jeconiah (11; Jer. 22:30). So, God fulfills His promise to David to *raise up Seed* through Mary (16). Jesus is His name.

Q3. Why are the generations from Abraham to Messiah listed? (Matt. 1:17)

3. Blessed Generations: Covered in Blessing. Listing the *family generations** of Jesus Messiah indicates all the generations of his family, both his earthly *people* of Abraham and his *household* of David (17). Because these generations are the *family* of Jesus Messiah, they were offered the *blessings* He brought as their family *Heir*. Unfortunately, Israel at first rejected Jesus as their *rightful Firstborn Son and Messiah*. But, Jesus would one day restore His family (Zech. 12:10).

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Familiar Messiah: Family Purpose. Never think that Jesus Messiah comes to us as an *orphaned, anonymous* Redeemer. Coldly detached from any family involvement, his only task is to fulfill a religious purpose.

Instead, Matthew affirms that Jesus is a *kinsman-redeemer*, a Messiah who is *related* to both a people, the sons of Israel, and a household, the sons of David (1:1). Because Israel and David have a place in the *human family*, Jesus comes to all of us as a *familiar Messiah*, one we were meant to know. Jesus comes to us the *Son of Abraham*, from the line of Shem, whom our common father Noah promised would build a spiritual *tent* to come home to the true God (Gen. 9:26-7). So, Abraham's Son is the one restoring God's "blessing" to all the nations of the earth, both Jew and Gentile (Gen. 22:18). Likewise, Messiah is the chosen Son of David, our *kinsman-redeemer* who suffers to atone for our sins (2 Sam. 7:14) to build us into a new *household* of God and David (13), a royal house to rule heaven and earth (16).

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
DIFFER: Disagree What insight or Bible verse to differ ?	

Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

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Key lesson to learn?

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Notes¹: Blessed Generations: God Cares for Families.

These generations of Abraham listed here all *belong* to Messiah, who is the family's Firstborn Heir, the Son of Abraham and the Son of David (Matt. 1:1). Because He is their rightful Heir, He has the right to bless them. However, Israel has rejected Jesus as their Heir until this day, thus forsaking her right to His portion and blessing as Messiah, choosing desolation (Mt. 21:19).

Added Notes: Generations/ Seed: Expecting an Heir. Throughout Genesis, the words “generations” (*toledot*) and “seed” (*zera*) *pair up* to trace the lineage of Messiah. For, “generations” specifies a family and its posterity, and “Seed” designates the chosen Seed, the Firstborn Son who inherits and passes on the family's inheritance to rest of the tribe. So, the generations of “Perez” (Ruth 4:18) have as their Firstborn Son the “Seed” of David (2 Sam. 7:12).

Chapter 2: JESUS IMMANUEL: The Son of God

Matthew 1:18-25

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

a. Preview Matthew 1:18-25

Raised Up Savior: Seed of Woman, Son of God. Jesus Christ is raised up by the Holy Spirit from a Virgin to fulfill God's promise of a Family-Redeemer (Genesis 3:15, 2 Samuel 7:12-14). So, read Matthew 1:18-25 to discover how God fulfills His promise to perfectly save you through Jesus, your Savior! First, see how Jesus is ***raised by the Spirit*** from a virgin to give us a Savior promised from our first fall (Genesis 3:15) until God's promise to David of Messiah (2 Samuel 7:12), for this Messiah would be both born as a human but also as God Himself. So, discover how only ***Jesus saves*** because He takes on human flesh to bear our sins. Yet, he also brings God's very presence near to us as ***Immanuel***, who is "God with us"! Jesus is our perfect redeemer with the power of God to save yet the *personality* to be your friend!

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 1:18-25 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. Why is it important that Jesus Christ was born by the Holy Spirit from a virgin?

Q2: What do you want Jesus Immanuel to do for you? Why is he the only one to help you?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. Why did God raise up Jesus Immanuel by the Holy Spirit from a virgin? (Matt. 1:18-20; Gen. 3:15)

1. Raised up by Spirit: Born of Virgin. From our first fall into sin, God has always promised our Family Savior to be “the Seed of Woman” (Gen. 3:15). God would raise up Messiah from our line, from a woman, to save us. In Isaiah 7:14, God reaffirms that this woman would be *virtuous* woman who had not known man intimately. For, God himself would “raise up” Messiah from such a pure woman by the Holy Spirit (2 Samuel 7:12).

Q2. How does Jesus fulfill His mission as our family Savior, raised up as a human like us? (Matt. 1:21-22)?

2. Jesus Saves: Seed of Woman. God promised Messiah to be the Firstborn Heir of our family line, because it is the Firstborn Son's right to *redeem* His family, to *save us* from our greatest threat—the Sin which the Serpent uses to enslave us (Gen. 3:15). So, as the Savior of our human family, our Messiah, the Son, is named “Jesus”—literally meaning, “God Saves!” (1:21).

Q3. How does the birth of Jesus make him unique and different than any other human? (Matt. 1:23-25)?

3. Immanuel: Son of God with Us. Because it was God himself who *fathered* Jesus by the Holy Spirit, He is literally the “Son of God” who was *begotten or born* of God spiritually (Ps. 2:10) to embody the fullness and presence of God. In this way, Jesus is also “Immanuel”—ensuring that God lives with us bodily in the presence of His Son (Is. 7:14). Because God dwells with us in His Son, we are not alone!

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Family Savior: Jesus Immanuel. Have you felt the isolating chill of sin? That is the feeling as the warmth of God's blessing withdraws from you. Our first parents and we, their human generations, have ever felt sin's chill. But God has promise all of us a Family Savior, from our first fall into Sin (Gen. 3:15).

But, our Family Savior would need to break from the normal cycle of naturally occurring birth, for no mere human could ever *save us* from the enormity of our sin. For, even your own sin has an *eternal weight* and a *priceless cost*, for your sin has *tarnished* the holy glory of God's *image* which you bear (Gen. 1:26). So, the Savior promised to our family must be *one of us, born of "woman,"* (Gen. 3:15), yet greater than us to bear our infinite sin debt. So, Jesus comes to you as *one of us*, given a human name you can call on as your family member come to help you. But Jesus is also *Immanuel*, God with us, who alone can bear our unbearable sin debt. So, draw near to him in worshipful gratitude, for He saves you!

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
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Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

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(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

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Notes²: Raising Up Seed: The Son of Man/ The Son of God.

God raises up Jesus by the Holy Spirit (Mt. 1:18) by using David's own bodily (i.e. *genetic*) material (2 Sam. 7:12) to conceive one born of flesh (David's) and spirit (God's—Ps. 2:10). According to Jewish Law, one raised up for a deceased person is the Son of two fathers. So, Jesus is literally the direct-line Son of David and the literal Son of God who alone bears sins as Immanuel!

Added Notes: Saving from Sin: Payment (Son of God) and Atonement (Son of Man). Only our Family Savior, raised up by the Holy Spirit to be both the Son of Man (Seed of Woman- Gen. 3:15) and the Son of God (2 Sam. 7:14) can atone for our sins. For, only the Son of God's infinite life can be the infinite *ransom* payment (Mark 10:45) and only the Son of Man can actually pay this price with his *blood* as the propitiation for sins (Rom. 3:25). So, only Jesus is our perfect family Savior, freeing us from our sins!

Chapter 3: KING OF ISRAEL: Worshipping Shepherd-Ruler **Matthew 2:1-12**

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

a. Preview Matthew 2:1-12

Worthy King: Rightful Shepherd. Jesus was born with God's authority to shepherd first his people of Israel as the King of the Jews. So, read Matthew 2 to discover the different ways that we might respond to the God-given authority of Jesus Messiah. First, notice that the first to find Jesus are the ***humble seekers*** who know of God's promise. The passage shows us that we need to approach the Word of God also in ***humility***, for the Jews had overlooked the promises of Messiah's birth and right to shepherd his people (1-6). Then, avoid being like Herod, who was ***hardened*** in his ***hypocrisy*** (7), for his heart was "troubled" by Jesus though faking a desire to worship him. Finally, see how our joyful worship of Jesus as King leads to ***honoring sacrifice*** as we offer him what is precious! (8-12).

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 2:1-12 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why did the wise men go through so much difficulty to worship Jesus, the King of the Jews?

Q2: How can we respond to the authority of Jesus as King like the wise men and avoid being like Herod?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. Why were the wise men drawn to worship Jesus? (Matthew 1:1-6)

1. Humble Seekers: Finding Promised King. The wise men who came to Jerusalem seeking Jesus were drawn to the “king of the Jews” (2). These men knew that God had *appointed* Jesus with authority to rule over his people, so they came to worship the one who was given God’s authority and power on earth. The scriptures further clarified that this King would gently and lovingly *shepherd* his people Israel, being of David’s tribe (6). Do we seek such a King?

Q2. Why did Herod respond differently to the rule of Jesus?
(Matt. 1:7-8)

2. Hard Hypocrisy: Kingly Competition. Herod and the rest of Jerusalem has the Word of God and its promises but were *blind* to the coming of Jesus as King because their hearts were hardened. Herod was satisfied in his own *rule* over the Jews and so was threatened by the rightful rule of Jesus as King. So, his heart was “troubled” (2) by Jesus. Even if his words *faked* a desire to “worship” this rightful king (7-8) his actions proved the hard and murderous heart he had (16).

Q3. How do these humble seekers respond to Jesus by faith?
(Matthew 1:9-12)

3. Honoring Sacrifice: Heart of Joyful Worship. With increasing joy, these humble seekers find Jesus and worship him! This joyful worship is by *faith* that knows the reality of God’s promise, for their *fleshly eyes* saw a weak and unimpressive baby (11). And, this joyful worship of Jesus as King leads them to give their “treasures” (11) to him. The joyful worshipper offers in sacrifice what is most precious!

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Worshipping the King: False words or Fragrant Sacrifice? We can respond to the God-given authority of Jesus in two very different ways—by faith or by flesh. By faith, the wise men knew of God's promise of the coming "king of the Jews" (2), the one to rule his people with a *shepherd's heart* (6). If you have a similar faith, you will *seek* for Jesus as they did. You will *welcome* His rule in your life, knowing that God empowers him to *shepherd you* for your good! With such a *heart* to welcome His rule, you will also experience *exceeding joy* as you give yourself to him in worship! And, this joyful worship will prompt you to sacrificially offer to him gifts-- perhaps not "gold" or "myrrh" (11) but was is *valuable* and *precious* in your life!

But, avoid the trap of *fleshly hypocrisy* that clings to its own *self-rule* to see Jesus as a threatening intruder (3). If your heart is hardened by your own self-rule, you will fear a loss of control. So, though you may fake a desire to worship, your heart will be *troubled* and fearful in the Lord's presence.

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
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Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

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Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

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Notes³: Fleshly Hypocrisy: False words. Our human condition is *flesh* apart from faith's surrender to God, so it claims Self-Rule and resists the authority of God as an intrusion (Rom. 8:7-8). As Herod exemplifies, such fleshly Self-Rule will always be *troubled* (Mt. 2:3) at the prospect of Messiah's Kingship and will resist it at heart, even one's words claim to worship. But, a fleshly heart will eventually be revealed in action (16).

Added Notes: Promised King: Ruler of Judah. The Word of God clearly promises Messiah as the coming "King" who will graciously *shepherd* His people Israel (Micah 5:1-5). This promise was first revealed that this King would emerge from Judah's tribe (Gen. 49:8-12) and even echoed in the mouths of foreign prophets like Balaam, who feared this "lion" (Num. 24:9) who whose rule would extend from Israel to the nations (17-19).

Chapter 4: LORD OF KINGDOM: Preparing for His Way

Matthew 3

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word for yourself then Write Insights to Share with others.*

a. Preview Matthew 3

Lord Messiah: Bringing Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus Christ is the Lord of the Kingdom of Heaven, the spiritual rule of God which He establishes on this earth in the lives of His disciples. So, read Matthew 3 to know how you might enter the Kingdom of Heaven! First, ***prepare*** your life for His ***Lordship***. Jesus possesses all authority as the Lord of his Kingdom, so ***repent*** of your fruitless flesh to walk in his new way! (1-10). Then, discover how Jesus has the might and right to bring you into His Kingdom by a ***rebirth by the Holy Spirit*** (11-12). Learn of how this rebirth, as portrayed in ***baptism***, conveys to you the Spirit's holy power like ***fire***! (12). Finally, accept the rule of the Lord Jesus as having the ***family support*** of God, as the Father approves and the Spirit anoints Jesus as Messiah to rule as Lord in His Kingdom! (13-17).

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 3 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. How can we enter the Kingdom of Heaven, which Jesus brings?

Q2: What do you need to *repent of* to prepare to live with Jesus as your Lord and to walk in His way?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. How can we prepare to walk with the Lord in his Kingdom? (Matthew 3:1-10)

1. Prepared for Lord: Repent of flesh. We are naturally *unprepared* to live with the Lord in His heavenly kingdom because we are people of the *flesh*, accustomed to ruling our own lives (3). So, we must first *repent*—reject our old life of living alone in this world. To abandon the things in our lives which impede the Lord’s way and will for our lives. If we are willing to walk in the new way of the Lord, we will bear “good fruit” that proves our repentance (8).

Q2. What will Jesus do so that people of the flesh can live in His spiritual kingdom? (Matt. 3:11-12)

2. Rebirth by Holy Spirit: Promised Spiritual Life. As the Lord of the Kingdom of Heaven, Jesus is “worthier” and “mightier” (11) than any human, for He has the heavenly right to give a spiritual “rebirth”—a *baptism* from death to life—by the Holy Spirit and His *fiery* spiritual power (11). This spiritual rebirth reaps a great *harvest* to be gathered into the Kingdom. But, the Lord also judges those unworthy (12).

Q3 Why does Jesus have the authority and power to bring the Kingdom of Heaven to earth? (Matt. 3:13-17)

3. Family Support: Anointed as Lord. God anoints Jesus as Messiah, the Lord to rule the Kingdom of God forever (16; 2 Sam. 7:16; Isaiah 61:1-3; Psalm 45:6-7). Because Messiah is to be the family of God’s *family redeemer*, God as a family unity fully supports Jesus as Messiah, working together to anoint Him. So, the Holy Spirit descends and rests on Jesus as a sign of His anointing (Is. 11:1-3). God the Father testifies of his love and pleasure to appoint Jesus as Messiah (17).

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Lord Jesus: Entering Kingdom. God knew that in the flesh, none of us are ready to live with Jesus Messiah as He brings His spiritual kingdom to earth. For, we have grown accustomed to life in the flesh. So, God's witnesses, starting with John the Baptist, proclaim: "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (3:2). Are you willing to give up what is earthly in this life that is keeping you from Jesus and His kingdom? First, are you willing to *prepare your way of life* to live with Jesus as your "Lord"? (3) To live with Jesus as your Lord means that you repent of living as your own "Lord," determining your *way* in life. Look at the Pharisees—their lives were *full*, but they needed to "bear good fruit" of the Kingdom instead of their own *fleshly works*. Second, are you ready to be motivated by a different *fire*, the fire of the Holy Spirit and his holy life? Then, be ready for a *rebirth* to move from earthly death to *life* in the Kingdom! (11). Finally, will you join Jesus in His Kingdom family? For the Father anoints and the Spirit seals Jesus as our *family redeemer*, our Messiah!

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
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Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

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Notes⁴: Anointed by the Spirit: Header. The promise of Messiah began as the promise of the chosen Seed in the book of Genesis then grew into the Anointed Son of David who would redeem His people (2 Samuel 7:12-16). This Anointed Son (Ps. 2:10) would be chosen as the Spirit of God descended on Him and rested (Isaiah 11:1-3 and 61:1-3) to mark the Father's approval. For, Messiah is both Son of David and Son of God.

Added Notes: Pleasing the Father: As Messiah, Jesus is not defined by his role as the *redeemer* or *Savior* of the world. For, God did not mention any of these distinctions. Rather, God testified of Jesus Messiah that he is "my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (3:17). Messiah is first a Son. Beloved as the "Son of God" and the Son of David (2 Sam. 7:12, 14). As a Son, he is pleasing to God, His Father. So, He raises up sons to please the Father too!

Chapter 5: HUMBLED SON: The Son of God/ The Son of Man **Matthew 4:1-11**

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself
then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

a. Preview Matthew 4:1-11

Humbled Messiah: Son of God and Son of Man. Jesus Messiah is the promised Seed raised up as both the Son of God and the Son of Man. Read Matthew 4 to see how Jesus is perfectly the Son of God and the Son of Man, humbled as a Son to raise up other sons for God! Satan tempts Jesus to dishonor His Father by abandoning his proper role as Son, but Jesus affirms His proper worship, as we should too!

First, notice that the enemy tempts Jesus to abuse His place of sonship to be *self-independent* but Jesus affirms that he lives by humbly ***depending on God's Word*** (4:3-4). Then, see how the tempter seeks to pervert the very relationship between Father and Son with *self-willfulness*, but Jesus is only ***moved*** by ***God's Will*** (5-7). Finally, the devil tempts Jesus to be *self-indulgent* to take what is pleasing, but Jesus ***seeks*** only ***God's glory!*** (8-11)

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 4:1-11 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. How is Jesus tempted as the Son of God? How can we similarly be tempted as the *sons of God*?

Q2: How does Jesus and how can we overcome Satan's temptations as sons?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. How does Satan tempt Jesus to be *self-providing as the Son of God*, and how does Jesus respond? (Matt. 4:1-4)

1. Dependent on God's Word: True Life. As both God, having all rights and power, yet also a man, beset with the needs and wants of the flesh, Jesus was tempted to rely on His own considerable power—to become self-providing of all His needs—independent of God. Satan says, if he is hungry, just *make* bread to satisfy himself! (4:2). Jesus responds as a Son who first *depends completely* on the Father for provision (4) and second needs first the Father's "Word" for life."

Q2. How does Satan tempt Jesus to do whatever He wants as the Son of God? His response? (Matt. 4:5-7)?

2. Moved by God's Will: Humble Surrender. Satan then seeks to pervert the very Father-Son relationship, challenging Jesus to impose His own will upon the Father, forcing him to do the bidding of Jesus. If Jesus “threw” himself down, he’d also cast off His *fear* of God, making him a mere puppet (5). Instead, Jesus said that the “Lordship” of God should never be tested (7). For, only the Lord’s Will has the authority to move the Son to act, not mere Self-interest or whim.

Q3. How does Satan tempt Jesus in the world as the Son of God, and how does Jesus respond? (Matt. 4:8-11)

3. Seeking God's Glory: Pure Worship. Jesus knew of the world’s kingdoms and their glory (8), also being aware that he would inherit it all one day. Likewise, we can be tempted to grasp for this world, knowing that the saints will inherit it with him one day (Mt. 5:5). But Jesus reaffirms the eternal reality of being a Son: all the world’s glory, present nor future, can replace the “Lord your God” as the focus of our worship, for His glory is all that we seek and serve! (10).

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Son's Faithfulness: Humbled Glory. Satan knew that Jesus, as God's Son and Heir, would possess all of heaven and earth. But now, as the Son of Man, he was humbled in the flesh to finish His work of redemption. So, the enemy attacked His very identity as a Son, seeking to undermine the relationship between Son and Father. If His rights as Son could turn Jesus from the Father to his current needs or future possession of this world, all would be lost! In the same way, the enemy tempts you with the world, challenging you as a son of God to grasp for what will be given to you in the Kingdom. Meet your needs now! Live willfully to please yourself now! Seek the world's glory now! But, abandon the Father's Word (4:4), His Will (7), or His Worship (10) to live as you please now! Thankfully, Jesus, the perfect Son of God, reaffirmed His eternal relationship with His Father. We live fully only on the "Word of God" (4:4). We act only on the Will of the "Lord our God" (7). We worship only our Lord and God (10).

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
DIFFER: Disagree What insight or Bible verse to differ ?	

Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

Notes⁵: Putting God to the Test: Knowing but not doing right.

To put God to the test is to impose your will on God, which is an affront to His Lordship because it shows a lack of fear and reverence of His will. By willfully putting himself in danger by throwing himself off the pinnacle, Jesus was forcing God to save Him. Or, when we do what God has forbidden, we also test God. Often, God will discipline us if we test him.

Added Notes: Life-giving Word of God. To understand why the Word of God is the source of our life (Mt. 4:4), we must first realize that true “life” is when we are fully alive, flesh and spirit. So, the *flesh* of our ancestor Adam lived from the fruit of this earth, but Adam only became *hai nefesh*—a “living soul” when the Lord God *breathed* life into Him (Gen. 2:7). So, our souls only live by the God-breathed, inspired, Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16).

Chapter 6: KINGDOM OF LIGHT: Following Jesus

Matthew 4:12-25

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write Insights** to Share with others.

a. Preview Matthew 4:12-25

Kingdom of Light: Call of Messiah. Jesus Messiah is the Great Light of heaven who calls the people living in spiritual death and darkness to come into the Kingdom of Heaven. So, read Matthew 4:12-25 to discover how you might also leave this world's darkness and death to enter the Kingdom of God!

First, read of how the coming of Jesus Messiah into the land of Galilee brings the spiritual presence of the Son of God as a **great light** into this world of spiritual death and darkness (12-16). Then, learn that you must first **repent** to **enter** the Kingdom of God, forsaking this world's way of spiritual darkness and death—separation from God (17)! Finally, see how the **kingdom spreads** in this world of darkness as people are called to *follow* Jesus as Messiah, their light of life (19), as the name of Jesus is proclaimed (24), and healing spreads.

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 4:12-25 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. Why is Jesus Messiah the Great Light coming into a world of spiritual darkness and death?

Q2: What must we do to be part of this spreading light of the Kingdom of Heaven?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. Why is Jesus Messiah called the Great Light that comes into darkness and death? (Matthew 4:12-16)

1. Great Light: Header. Ever since our first parents sinned, the earth has been corrupted by a spiritual darkness and death. (16). And, no fleshly action or work can reverse this absence of God's presence and spiritual life. Rather, the promised Messiah, the Son of God, comes into our world from heaven to bring His spiritual light and life to us, a people accustomed only to darkness and death (John 1:4). So, when Jesus was revealed in Galilee, the light of heaven dawned on earth.

Q2. How can we enter the Kingdom of Heaven now? (Matt. 4:17)

2. Repent to Enter: Kingdom on Earth. Earth has cold and isolated from the warm light of Heaven's Kingdom, but Jesus announced that the "Kingdom" is now "at hand"—it is within reach! So, we of dead flesh can now enter its life and safety now, but we must repent. For, we can never bring this world's darkness and death into its light. First, we repent of the dark Godlessness that dishonors God in its unbelief and human pride. Then, we repent of sin and its death!

Q3. How does the Kingdom spread on earth? (Matt. 4:18-25)

3. Kingdom Spreads: Hearts and Healing. Like the unstoppable dawning of the new day, the Kingdom of Heaven spreads through the work of Jesus Messiah. First, the Kingdom of Heaven spreads as it is populated by followers of Jesus, as Jesus and His *disciple-fishermen* call people into the Kingdom. Then, as the *fame* of Jesus's name spreads, people witness the power of the Kingdom as the sick are *healed* and the demons *flee* by the mighty name of Jesus (25).

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply *God's Word as a Growing Disciple to read Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.*

Dawning Light: Reasons to Repent. The shift into the Kingdom of Heaven is meant to be an all-consuming change. From an underground, darkened dungeon to the brilliance of a summer's day. From the offensive rot of a long-entombed corpse to a newborn baby's smile. So must the Kingdom spread among us, like the long-night of tyranny to the dawn of a new day! So, begins the change as Jesus Messiah is revealed! Have you experienced this life-giving, world-shifting entrance into the Kingdom of God now? If not, you may need to consider what you might have to *repent of*—to abandon in order to join this Kingdom of God on earth. First, is Jesus your only *light* and *life*? In the world, you are accustomed to living in the *shadow of death*-- relying on the dead things of this world to make your way—fleshly habits, wisdom, and solutions. But now, come to Jesus alone for life. Second, abandon your old priorities and sense of power. Instead, Jesus and His Kingdom are your priority, and drawing people into this life your mission! For, a healing and restoring Kingdom power accompany your testimony! (24).

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
DIFFER: Disagree What insight or Bible verse to differ ?	

Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

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Notes⁶: Kingdom of Heaven: Within Reach. The Kingdom of Heaven is marked by the Rule and Lordship of God, so it is realized on earth as Jesus invites people to be subjects of His Lordship to know His *light* and *life* (Mat. 4:16). When we join the Lord Jesus in His Kingdom, we are reborn as members of His ruling and royal family, sons of God to inherit this Kingdom rule with Jesus Messiah, the Firstborn Son.

Added Notes: Kingdom Come: Witness and Wonders. We have already defined the Kingdom of Heaven as the realm covered by the rule of Jesus Christ as Lord. So, as His name is proclaimed and people subject themselves to His rule, the Kingdom's *relief* and *freedom* are evident (24). God chooses how the Kingdom's restorative work is expressed on earth, but the Kingdom's reality is meant to be seen and experienced on earth!

Chapter 7: KINGDOM FAMILY: Sons of the Father

Matthew 5:1-48

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write Insights** to Share with others.

a. Preview Matthew 5:1-48

Sons of Father: Heaven and Earth. Jesus teaches His disciples to live as Sons in the Kingdom of Heaven while still humbled on this earth. So, read Matthew 5 learn how disciples are called to live in two realms as disciples of Jesus Messiah! First, discover how you can be ***blessed as a disciple*** by living faithfully in both the kingdom of heaven and on this humbled earth. Being a disciple of the Kingdom will often require you to make hard and unexpected choices on earth (1-14). Second, learn how to live a ***righteous life in Messiah***, who has fulfilled the Law that we might be righteous in heart and action (21-32). Finally, learn how our righteous lives are ***perfected as sons*** of our Father, who gives us a heavenly love even for our enemies (33-48).

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 5:1-48 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. Why do disciples of Jesus live differently on this earth?

Q2: What Kingdom realities motivate disciples to suffer hardship on this earth?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. How are disciples blessed by heavenly power while on earth? (Matthew 5:1-16)

1. Blessed Disciples: Heaven and Earth. Oddly, disciples who are *poor in spirit*—that is, they realize they utterly need to receive the spiritual realities of the kingdom—these disciples have full access to the Kingdom fullness now, as the King rules in them and through them for His purposes. While they *will* in the future *inherit the earth* as well (5), they must now live meekly, subject to the powers ordained in this life and to earth's limitations. Owning all but living meekly as servants.

Q2. How can disciples live exceedingly righteous lives? (Matt. 5:17-32)

2. Righteous in Jesus: Fulfilled Law. Disciples are called to have a righteousness that surpasses the fleshly, self-righteousness of the Pharisees (20). For, Jesus fulfills all the “Law and the Prophets” in himself and gives this “righteousness” to His people as their Messiah (Jer. 23:5-6). Because Jesus is the *righteousness* of a disciple, you simply need to surrender and receive it, asking him to live through you (Gal. 2:20; Phil. 3:7-9). We receive if we ask in submission.

Q3. How can we respond to earthly adversity with heavenly grace? (Mt. 5:33-48)

3. Perfected as Sons: Heavenly Love. Disciples are not called to live merely human lives, to do “the same” as people of this world (5:47). Rather, as sons of our “heavenly Father,” we are called to be “perfect” (48)—that is, complete and attaining a character like his own. When we resemble our Father’s character, we will “love” without condition and even those who are against us as “enemies” (44).

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Kingdom Sons: Humbled on Earth. As a disciple of Jesus Messiah, you live in an odd contradiction between heaven's vast and perfect spiritual fullness and the earth's humbled and imperfect limitations. But earth's harsh conditions perfectly showcase the Lord's Kingdom *blessings* and the fullness of His righteousness and God's Fatherhood in us! But we must never live merely fleshly lives, to be the "same" as the surrounding people of this world (47).

Rather, remember your *birthright* as son of the Kingdom's heavenly Father (16). You have received as your right all the fullness of his *holy perfection*. Also, be aware of your *responsibility* as a servant of the Kingdom's Lord and Messiah (11), given the distinction of suffering to bring His "light" to this dark world (14). Suffering with him but also sharing in the Kingdom as your reward (10). The Kingdom and its spiritual blessings are fully yours, if only you come to Jesus alone to *bless* and *satisfy you with his righteousness* (6, 17) and you determine to *serve Him humbly on this earth* (5).

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
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Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

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Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

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Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

Notes⁷: Fulfilling Law and Prophets: Promised Messiah. The Law and the Prophets promised a Messiah who would redeem His people from their greatest enemies: First, the *overruling Serpent/slave-master of this dark world* (Gen. 3:15). Second, by saving them from their own sin which enslaves them to Satan and his world. Messiah does this giving His people an imperishable “righteousness” (Jer. 23:6), which Jesus paid for on the cross (Rom. 3:23-25).

Added Notes: Kingdom Sonship: Growing in Family Likeness. In the same way that God ordained that Jesus Messiah be made “perfect through suffering” (Heb. 2:10), so He also humbles us through the world’s opposition and persecutions that we might bear the righteous family image of our Father (5:48) and the Lord Jesus (Rom. 8:29).

Chapter 8: KINGDOM RIGHTEOUSNESS: Pleasing the Father **Matthew 6:1-18**

Step 1. Discover: Preview and View God's Word for yourself
then Write Insights to Share with others.

a. Preview Matthew 6:1-18

Father's Reward: Heart of Righteousness. Jesus teaches His disciples to see the Father's Reward rather than human recognition as the reason for their righteous living. So, read Matthew 6:1-18 to discover how you can cultivate your *secret*, private life to be seen and rewarded by your Heavenly Father!

First, discover the motives behind our *sacrificial giving*, whether to be seen and recognized by a surrounding social and religious audience or to be *seen* and *rewarded* by our *heavenly Father* (1-4).

Then, see how we can please our Father by our *sanctifying prayers*. Rather than focusing on prayer as people-directed activity, for our social status or personal gain, we focus our prayers on the holy name of God for our reward. (5-15). And, see how the Father sees and rewards *simple fasting* as a way seek the Lord.

b. Prayerfully Matthew 6:1-18 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. Why is it important that your heavenly Father sees and rewards you in secret?

Q2: How different are the rewards coming from other humans and the reward from your heavenly Father?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. Why should our *sacrificial giving* be done in secret?
(Matthew 6:1-4)

1. Sacrificial Giving: Pleasing Father Alone. Our lives as disciples are meant to be an offering devoted entirely to God, our heavenly Father, lest we become *fleshly servants* rather than disciples of Messiah's heavenly kingdom! Starting with the *sacrificial gifts* we offer in righteous devotion, these are meant to be "seen" and "rewarded" only by our heavenly Father. Thus, the *secret life* we share with the Father remains holy and wholly devoted to God.

Q2. How can we pray so that our Father sees and rewards us?
(Matt. 6:5-15)

2. Sanctifying Prayers: Honoring Father as Holy. Our prayers should also be *devoted* to God as our Heavenly Father. For, prayers come from the *secret life* we share with our Father, who *knows us* deeply as He sees and rewards us when we draw near (6,8). Because we are known by our Father, our hearts should align with His heart, so we desire His “name” to be “hallowed”—to be set apart as holy and precious (9). As we *set ourselves apart* as holy, we pray the same for His name.

Q3. What fasting and self-imposed deprivation does God regard as our Father? (Verse)

3. Simple Fasting: Known only by Father. As we have seen, God as our Father wants us to be singularly devoted to him, especially in the righteous acts we offer to Him as disciples. So, the fleshly temptation for fasting is to be socially affirmed to be seen among people as a special devotee. However, our Father wants us to be singularly devoted to Him, so even our fasting should be private, a heart agreement secretly shared between Father and son.

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to **read** Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Precious Sonship: Devoted to the Father. Secrets shared between Father and son are precious because they are kept hidden from strangers. So, there is a private, *secret* life of sonship which disciples of Jesus are expected to have with their heavenly Father. Imagine that when you draw near to God as your heavenly Father, there are secrets that He shares with you which mark you as special. So, learn to guard your *secret* and *shared* life as a child of God. In this way, you ensure that you are properly *devoted* to the Lord in all your life, so that He might reward you with His favor. First, share a secret life of *sacrificial giving* with your heavenly Father, which He will enjoy watching and rewarding! (4). Your Father enjoys watching you grow in such sacrificial giving, because God Himself gives sacrificially (Jn. 3:16). And, your Father is watchful as you grow in *sacred prayer*, because you reflect to Him your heart's desire for His "name" to be sanctified (6:9), which is the heartbeat of the family's kingdom (Hab. 2:14). Finally, the Father shares your private times of *surrendered fasting* when you seek nothing but Him!

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question
! Differ	
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
DIFFER: Disagree What insight or Bible verse to differ ?	

Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

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Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

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Notes⁸: Sanctifying Name of Father: Secret Life of Faith. In this idolatrous world of competing idols, set your heart through prayer to *sanctify* the name of your Father, to set it apart as holy and worthy above all else in this life! For, the Father is matchlessly pre-eminent in Heaven, so our hearts and lives should align with this heavenly reality. If He is holy, we should also be holy (1 Pet. 1:16).

Added Notes: Father's Reward: Responsive Grace not Works Earned. When the Father watches and rewards He responds to us freely in His grace. For, His reward is not a *wage* which we are owed through our works. Rather, He values when we live lives that please him! Rewarding the Son who pleases you is not cheapened as a mercenary transaction. Instead, reward is rooted in familial love, the Father's affirmation of his approval!

Chapter 9: KINGDOM TREASURE: Seeking Kingdom

Matthew 6:19-34

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself
then *Write Insights to Share* with others.

a. Preview Matthew 6:19-34

Serving Father: Seeking Kingdom. Jesus Messiah teaches us as His disciples that our hearts should treasure and serve the Father and His Kingdom first in our lives. So, read Matthew 6:19-34 to discover how you can live fruitfully with your Father in this life, fearlessly walking by faith so that you gain a heavenly treasure! First, learn to ***treasure heaven*** as your heart rests at home with your Father and His rule (20). If you treasure heaven above all else on earth, then you will be free to *serve* God rather than the world (24). Then, you will be freed from this world's anxieties of life (25) as you focus not on visible needs but on the Father's provision by faith (26-30). Allowing you to ***seek His Kingdom*** as your first priority! (33). Knowing that all your earthly needs are provide as your future treasure grows, you can be ***faithful*** every ***day*** (34)!

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 6:19-34 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. *Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.*

Q1. What should we set our hearts on in this life as disciples?

Q2: How will the Father's work in our lives shape how we live?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. *Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.*

Q1. What should we treasure in this life as disciples of Jesus Messiah? (Matthew 6:19-24)

1. Treasure Heaven: Serving Father. In this world of present needs, your Father calls you to treasure your true home with Him in Heaven (20). If your heart rests with Him in our eternal home, then you will be free to “serve” Him in this life freely (24) rather than being entangled by this world’s present needs and money. For, treasuring Heaven and serving your Father will enlighten your life with his light (22)!

Q2. What should we focus on in this life as disciples of Jesus Messiah? (Matt. 6:25-33)

2. Seek the Kingdom: Faith in Father's Provision. If we live by faith in the Father's provision for all our needs as His precious sons (26), then we will be freed from this world's *anxieties* (30). Living by faith in the Father frees us to set as our first priority *his kingdom* and *his righteousness!* (33). That is, we will search for opportunities and ways that the kingdom of God, the Father's blessed rule, can take place on earth.

Q3. How should we live every day? (Matt. 6:34)

3. Daily Faithfulness: Relaxing Control. Jesus instructs His disciples to not be overwhelmed by anxiety for the future but to live one day at a time. By warning against anxiety, He implies that disciples should instead live by its alternative, faith. Disciples can give up anxiety of the future by faith, entrusting to Jesus and the Father both their daily needs and future demands.

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Serving Father: Fearless Faith. Though you walk by faith on this earth, your heavenly Father wants to be a brilliant presence in your life! Remember first that you call on a *father* who is not limited by mortality but has the all-power of your Creator! And, He cares for even the smallest of His creatures, from the little “birds” (28) to even the blades of “grass” covering the fields (30). His power on this earth is encompassing, but His *brilliant presence* is for you as a disciple if you value Him! So, let's start with your heart and what your eyes are drawn to in this life. Will you choose to *treasure* your Father and His *heavenly home*? (20). By faith, setting your heart on the Father in heaven fills your life with His light. And, you will be freed to *serve Him* in this life rather than this earth's treasure. Once your heart aligns with your Father's priorities and service, then you can *seek* first His will to establish His Kingdom's rule and blessing on this earth (33). Find opportunities to serve Him, while He provides for all your needs! As you seek and move forward in your faith for His Kingdom, your Father provides all things for you!

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
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Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

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Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

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What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

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Notes⁹: Father's Provision: Fearless Faith. As sons of our *heavenly Father*, we should live as the people of this earth who *treasure* what is passing and *anxiously pursue* the passing things of this life. Instead, our Father's provision blesses us so that our needs are met so that we might be enslaved to our bodily needs, endlessly searching for food and clothing (31). Instead, His grace frees us by faith to serve Him and value His heavenly life!

Added Notes: Seek Kingdom and Righteousness: Freed Focus. Faith in our *heavenly Father* frees us from the overwhelming anxieties of life, for our Father provides for our *daily needs* (31-32). Freed from fear, we disciples can focus our lives on the *Kingdom of God* and living under our Lord's rule by living *righteous* lives to grow to resemble our Father!

Chapter 10: JESUS CHRIST AS LORD: Obeying the Word of Christ

Matthew 7

Step 1. Discover: *Preview and View God's Word* for yourself then **Write** *Insights to Share* with others.

a. Preview Matthew 7

Household Relations: Following Father and Lord. Jesus Messiah instructs you on how you can live in the Household of God as part of His Kingdom. Read Matthew 7 to discover how you are to live as a brother, a son of your heavenly Father, and a disciple of Jesus as your Lord!

First, consider the role you are to take as a **responsible brother** to relate to other family members in the household of God. (7:1-6). Then, continue to learn of how you might receive the *good, life-giving gifts* from your heavenly Father as you live as a **fruitful son** that reveals your Father's life in you! (7-20). Finally, approach as your *family Lord*, who expects you to obey His words because you are a **wise disciple** who obeys His word and the Father's will to secure your own household in the Lord (21-29).

b. Prayerfully Read Matthew 7 and Write your insights to share

SEEING What is this Bible passage about? Key words, ideas	
LEARNING What does it mean? What is it teaching me?	
DOING What lesson can I apply to my life?	

Step 2. Discuss: Share Viewpoints. Read the Passage and Discuss Questions with Family, Friends, and Fellowship Group.

Q1. How can you live in the family of God as a brother, a son of the Father, and a disciple of the Lord?

Q2: What is the good fruit which the Father will see to judge you as a *healthy tree*?

Step 3: Dialogue: Compare Viewpoints as Disciples. Answer, share, & compare insights with partner, mentor, or mentee.

Q1. How can you live with your other brothers in God's family? (Matthew 7:1-6)

1. Responsible Brother: Humbly Helping. As members of the Father's household, we want to all grow up together. However, Jesus instructs that we are to relate to one another as "brothers" (4) who never usurp the Father's place of authority and judgment (1). We have no right to *judge* one another as if have now seized the rights to *judge* our brothers. Instead, we are responsible for removing our own *stumbling blocks* so that we can them help our brothers.

Q2. How can you live as a healthy, fruitful son of your heavenly Father? (Matt. 7:7-20)

2. Fruitful Son: Receiving Father's Gifts. As members of God's household, we remember that every *good, life-giving* gift of grace comes from our heavenly Father! So, it is our responsibility to approach him as needy children who *ask, seek, and knock* for all that we need to be nurtured in His spiritual kingdom. Our Father is not only the source but the *way* to life (13). That is, we follow His way and will even if it is difficult in life. This life bears *good fruit* pleasing to God!

Q3. How can you live wisely in the Father's household? (Matt. 7:21-29)

3. Wise Disciple: Building Household. Jesus Messiah is the Lord over the Father's heavenly household. So, he expects his disciples not simply to refer to him with honor but to live under the Rule and Will of the Father. This means abandoning a "lawlessness" (23) that has no place in the kingdom. Rather, to *do* the Father's will (21) and to *do* His words of Lordship so that our own households are grounded on His authority!

Step 4: Develop: Review & Apply God's Word as a Growing Disciple to *read* Devotional, Notes, and Footnotes.

Healthy Disciples: Bearing Family Fruit. Never imagine that you can live in isolation as a disciple of Jesus Messiah, depending on and pleasing only yourself. Jesus is not simply an idea to agree with or a puppet Lord with no real influence in your life. Rather, to be a disciple of Jesus Messiah is to join the most important family of all, with God as your heavenly Father and Jesus Himself as your Lord. God has placed you in His Kingdom family to be a brother among other brothers! You have no spiritual advantage or power to *judge*—that is, control the destiny or outcome of any other brother (7:1). Rather, your authority to deal with the sin in your life will help you to humbly help others (5). Because you are not self-sufficient in this spiritual family, you must always humbly depend on your heavenly Father for all things *good*—that is, life-giving (11). If you are nourished by the Father by following His *way* and will, you will find “life” in him (14). Thus, do the will of your Father by obeying the commands of Jesus as your Lord (24), and your house will be fruitful!

Respond to Devotional: (mark passage above)	
✓ Agree	? Question ! Differ
SUPPORT: Agree What insight or Bible verse to add ?	
QUESTION: Modify What to question or change?	
DIFFER: Disagree What insight or Bible verse to differ ?	

Personal Study Notes: Understanding the Passage:

Write and share notes with your partner/ mentor/ mentee.

What is the *big idea* of this passage?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

- key verse:

What is a key idea?

Teaching Preparation Notes: Sharing the Passage:

Share lesson with partner, family, or group.

What is the *big lesson* to learn in this passage?

- verse:

Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

- verse:

Key lesson to learn?

(write a question for people to discover this lesson)

Notes¹⁰: Lord, Lord: Mistaken Disciples. We have the opportunity today to follow and obey Jesus Messiah as our Lord, keeping to His Words. But, there is also the very real opportunity for you to *fake* devotion to Jesus as Lord, especially since we live in world of people who can see only appearances but not the heart. So, if you appear powerful but have not subjected yourself to the Word and Will of Jesus Christ, you will lose everything on the day of judgment.

Added Notes: Healthy Tree: Good Fruit. You are a healthy tree in the Kingdom of God if you are rooted in the Kingdom's source of life, the *goodness of God* as your Father and the *saving authority* of Jesus Messiah as your Lord. Such connections will keep you healthy in the Kingdom and lead to this *good life* overflowing as fruit that reproduces what you have enjoyed!

Prayer Requests:

Prayer Request/ Date	Answered Prayer/ Thanks

Journaling:

What is God teaching you?	How are you growing?

Sermon Notes:

Sermon Notes/ Date	Applying it to my life

Notes: