



MATTHEW

Practical, Easy-To-Use Devotionals Made for Families.



BOOK SUMMARY

..... **MATTHEW**

MATTHEW



SETTING

This true story about Jesus' life was written by Matthew, one of His disciples (someone chosen to learn closely from Him). Matthew wrote this story within two decades of Jesus' death. Back then, that was considered a really short and trustworthy time frame! Some of the eyewitnesses to Jesus' life, death, and resurrection (rising from the dead) were still alive! That meant that they could confirm what Matthew was saying!

The way Matthew chooses his words tells us that the people he was writing to probably knew the story of the Old Testament. (He points back to it a lot of times!) That likely means that much of his audience was Jewish. Why is that important for us to know? Because God's story of saving people from sin (the ways we rebel against Him) didn't start when Jesus came!

God has been working out His plan and helping His people for a very long time! (See Who is God's Family? It will help you know some of

what Matthew's readers knew!) If we're going to really see who Jesus is and what He came to do, we need the Old Testament!

Matthew's story happened in the Roman Empire, in the land of Israel, about 2000 years ago. That land was given to the Jewish people by God, but they lost control of it because they ignored God's instructions and love. He gave them many warnings and pleaded with them to stop, but eventually, the consequences came.

The Romans were now in power, and the Jewish people were waiting for a Rescuer from God. Almost no one was expecting the kind of Rescuer that God sent! He knew that His people's biggest enemy wasn't Rome or any human power, but Evil itself. That's the very thing that made them ignore His love and instructions! God was going to destroy darkness (that's another word for evil) and death by sending Jesus!



MATTHEW



OVERVIEW

In Matthew, Jesus shows us with His actions and tells us with His words that He's the true King over everything! He's the Rescuer sent by God! He's actually God Himself!

Matthew records more of Jesus' teachings than almost anyone else! We also get to see Jesus do miracles, like healing people. He shows us what life is like with Him as the King.

In God's Kingdom (Matthew also calls it the Kingdom of Heaven), sad people will be comforted, sick people will be healed, poor people will have all they need, sins (the ways we rebel against God) will be forgiven, and people will be blessed for being gentle and peaceful.

Jesus' Kingdom is different than the Kingdoms of this world! At the end of the story, King Jesus shows His power in a very unusual way—by

dying for His people. God raises Him from the dead, and Jesus has the victory!

Throughout the story, Matthew shows us how people react to Jesus. Some worship Him and believe that He's the King and Messiah (the Rescuer that God promised). Some don't believe Him and fight against Him. Sometimes the stories surprise us because the ones who love Jesus aren't the ones we expect. As we watch those scenes happen, it calls us to think about how we will respond to Him, too.

***One thing to note: Sometimes, "the Jews" appear in Matthew's stories. He's almost always talking about the Jewish leaders (including the Pharisees) who were against Jesus and eventually plotted to have Him killed. He doesn't usually mean the average person of the Jewish faith.*



MATTHEW



THEMES

For Matthew, one of the biggest themes is “fulfillment” (that means the coming of things you’ve been waiting for or the finishing of unfinished things). The whole story of the Bible has been moving toward Jesus’ arrival. And now He’s here!

Matthew points back to the Old Testament dozens of times (even just a few words at a time) to help his readers see how Jesus fulfills its promises and patterns. Matthew starts his book with a list of family members to see how Jesus fits in the big story.

Matthew takes a few key people from Israel’s history, and in just a few words, shows how their lives pointed to Jesus. For example, he mentions the greatest Old Testament Israelite King—David. His life pointed to the true King—King Jesus! He does the same thing with Moses and Abraham (important people in the Old Testament story).

In Jesus, all the hints, promises, and threads from the very beginning come together. But

the fulfillment is bigger, better, and much different than what anyone had expected. Even Jesus’ disciples didn’t fully see what His life and death meant until after His resurrection (being raised from the dead). Sometimes we can only see things clearly after they’ve happened!

Remember to watch for the phrase “the Kingdom of God” or “the Kingdom of Heaven” as you go! Every King has a Kingdom, and Jesus brought about God’s reign on Earth in a whole new way! The King had come in person, bringing His rule of perfect righteousness (that’s God’s goodness), justice, kindness, and power among us. He taught the people of His Kingdom how to live like He does and join His mission.

By dying for His people and rising from the dead, Jesus saved us from our sin, showed us what Kingdom love looks like, and fulfilled many of the promises God had made in the Old Testament.

HOW TO USE

In Matthew’s gospel, we see that Jesus wants us to be a part of His family and citizens of His Kingdom! How will we respond? Will we believe what Jesus says about Himself, each of us, and His Kingdom? Will you let Him love and forgive you? Will you be one of His people?





READING PLAN

..... **MATTHEW**

MATTHEW



FAMILY READING PLAN

our family name

○ Chapter 1

Matthew Connects Jesus To The Old Testament; The King Has Come!

○ Chapter 2

Jesus Fulfills Prophecies

○ Chapter 3

John The Baptist Prepares The Way For Jesus/ Jesus Is Baptized

○ Chapter 4

Jesus Wins Against Temptation And Begins His Ministry

○ Chapter 5

Jesus Teaches People What Life In His Kingdom Should Be Like

○ Chapter 6

Jesus Talks About God's Values And How We Can Live Them Out

○ Chapter 7

Jesus Gives Practical Wisdom And Warnings

○ Chapter 8

Jesus Does Amazing Miracles And Notices A Man's Faith

○ Chapter 9

Jesus Shows His Power And Authority By Healing And Forgiving

○ Chapter 10

Jesus Trains And Sends Out His Disciples

○ Chapter 11

Jesus Talks About John The Baptist/ The Seriousness Of Jesus' Call

○ Chapter 12

Jesus Stands Up To The People And Spiritual Forces Against Him

○ Chapter 13

Jesus Teaches In Parables And Helps People See God's Kingdom

○ Chapter 14

The Death Of John The Baptist/ Jesus Shows His Power By Miracles

○ Chapter 15

Human Rules Vs Humble Faith/ Jesus Feeds People Miraculously

○ Chapter 16

People Respond To Jesus (Good And Bad)/Jesus Shows He Will Die

○ Chapter 17

Jesus Shows Who He Really Is!!!/ Again Shows That He Will Die

○ Chapter 18

Jesus Addresses People's Hearts And Teaches Them

○ Chapter 19

Jesus Gives Hard Teachings That Reveal The Heart

○ Chapter 20

Jesus Tells An Important Story/ Warns His Disciples About His Death

○ Chapter 21

The King Arrives In His City

○ Chapter 22

Jesus Avoids A Trap And Gives Some Important Teachings

○ Chapter 23

Jesus Warns The Religious Leaders Of Their Spiritual Danger

○ Chapter 24

Jesus Talks About The Future: For Jerusalem & One Day His Return

○ Chapter 25

Jesus Talks About Being Ready For His Coming: Living His Way

○ Chapter 26

The Events Leading Up To Jesus' Death

○ Chapter 27

God's Rescue Plan Is Fulfilled: The Death And Burial Of Jesus

○ Chapter 28

Jesus Is Alive!!!! He Sends His Disciples Out To Continue In His Name





FAMILY JOURNALS

..... **MATTHEW**

CHAPTER 1

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Matthew Connects Jesus To The Old Testament; The King Has Come!

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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HIGHLIGHT

Matthew starts his book with a list of family members to help us see how Jesus fits in the big story. Matthew takes a few key people from Israel's history, and in just a few words, shows how their lives point to Jesus. For example, he mentions the greatest Old Testament Israelite King—David. His life pointed to the true King—King Jesus!

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines inside, intended for students to write or draw what stood out to them.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Grey shaded area for writing thoughts.

This story inspired me to...

Grey shaded area for writing how the story inspired the student.

WORTH A NOTE

Notice the pattern "X the father of Y?" Pretty fun, huh?!? Well, Matthew chooses to break the pattern with the mention of a few key women: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, the wife of Uriah, & Mary. Their unique stories all point to Jesus, too.



Jesus Fulfills Prophecies

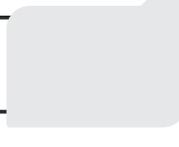
SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









HISTORY

Matthew's story happened in the Roman Empire, in the land of Israel, about 2000 years ago. That land was given to the Jewish people by God, but they lost control of it because they ignored God's instructions and love. God gave them many warnings and pleaded with them to stop, but eventually, the consequences came. The Romans were now in power over the Jewish people, and the Jewish people were waiting for a Rescuer from God.

FIND

Matthew points back to the Old Testament dozens of times (even just a few words at a time) to help his readers see how Jesus fulfills its promises and patterns. Can you find the verses from the Old Testament?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 3

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

John The Baptist Prepares The Way For Jesus/ Jesus Is Baptized

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 17) For Matthew, one of the biggest themes is “fulfillment” (that means the coming of things you’ve been waiting for or the finishing of unfinished things). The whole story of the Bible has been moving toward Jesus’ arrival. And now He’s here! He’s the Messiah (the Rescuer sent by God!). With these words, we learn God’s view of Jesus: His Son and His Delight.

A NOTE

WORTH In Jesus, all the hints, promises, and threads from the very beginning come together. But the fulfillment is bigger, better, and much different than what anyone *had expected*. Even Jesus’ disciples didn’t fully see what His life and death meant until *after His resurrection* (being raised from the dead). Sometimes we can only see things clearly after they’ve happened!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

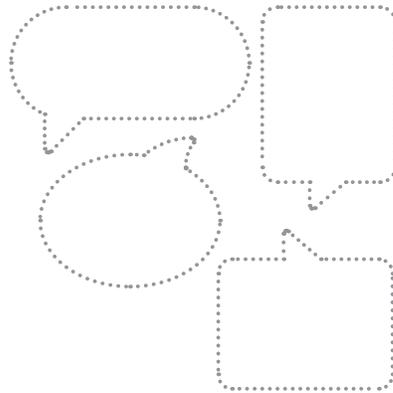
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Wins Against Temptation And Begins His Ministry

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



HIGHLIGHT

In God's Kingdom (Matthew also calls it the Kingdom of Heaven), sad people will be comforted, sick people will be healed, poor people will have all they need, sins (the ways we rebel against God) will be forgiven, and people will be blessed for being gentle and peaceful.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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WORTH A NOTE

In Matthew, Jesus shows us with His actions and tells us with His words that He's the true King over everything, even evil! Look at Jesus' response to Satan's temptations. What words did He choose? Where did they come from? Jesus uses God's Word to stand against evil because those words have power (See Ephesians 6:10-17).



CHAPTER 5

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Teaches People What Life In His Kingdom Should Be Like

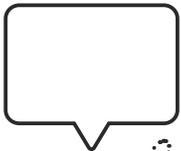
SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

HIGHLIGHT

Every King has a Kingdom, and Jesus brought about God's reign on earth in a whole new way! The King had come in person, bringing His rule of perfect righteousness (that's God's goodness), justice, kindness, and power among us. He taught the people of His Kingdom how to live like He does and join His mission.

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

FIND

Remember to watch for the phrase "the Kingdom of God" or "the Kingdom of Heaven" as you go! How many do you count?



Jesus Talks About God's Values And How We Can Live Them Out

SUMMARY (write or draw)

Large empty rectangular box for writing or drawing a summary.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three circles: the first and third are dotted lines, the middle one is a solid line.

FAV WORDS

Decorative horizontal line with speech bubble icons on either side.

PICK ONE

Matthew records more of Jesus' teachings than almost anyone else! In today's chapter, we learn about giving, prayer, fasting, money, and worry. Which one stood out to you the most? Write about it in A Place For Your Thoughts.

FUN FACT

(vs. 7-13) One of Jesus' teaching is on prayer. Sometimes, people think prayer is scary or confusing. Others think prayer should be long and include lots of big, fancy, complicated words. But Jesus teaches prayer is a matter of the heart.

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 7

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Gives Practical Wisdom And Warnings

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

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WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 28-29) The scribes were Jewish men who had positions of power because of their formal education. They studied the Torah (also known as Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). People in the community gave them LOTS of respect for their religious education on the Bible. Note: People were amazed at Jesus' teaching because it had an authority the scribes' did not.

FACT

FUN

It's okay to talk to God about what you need emotionally, physically, mentally, and spiritually. He is a good Daddy who wants to (and is able to) give good gifts. Remember the prayer in Chapter 6? Simply ask Him for what you need then trust His way of answering.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

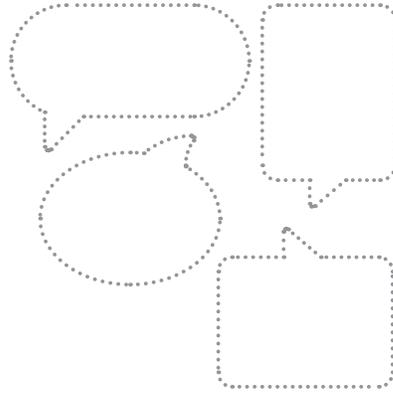
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Does Amazing Miracles And Notices A Man's Faith

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 1-3) The leper said "if you are willing", meaning he was at the true mercy of Jesus' healing. How much vulnerability, dependency, and courage did it take for the leper to ask for healing? How would the leper's world change if he was healed? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-3) Leprosy is a skin disease causing withered hands, scaly skin, sores, and ulcers. It smells similar to a dead, rotting animal, and sometimes the skin would fall off, including the nose. There was no cure for leprosy, and it spread through touch, so people with leprosy had to announce they were coming by shouting, "Unclean, Unclean!" People were afraid of catching it, so they sent the lepers outside the city where they had no friends, no work, and no neighbors.



CHAPTER 9

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Shows His Power And Authority By Healing And Forgiving

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

Blank space for writing a summary of the chapter.

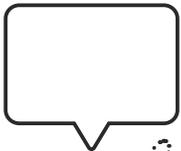
HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 9-13) The government required everyone to pay taxes, which meant they were forced to give part of their money. The people who collected the money were called tax collectors. During this time, the tax collectors often mistreated and hurt people because they lied and cheated. For example, if someone owed \$5 in taxes, a tax collector might charge \$20 and keep the extra \$15 for himself, his friends, or his boss. The fact that Jesus invited Matthew to be his friend, follower, and the author of this book says SO MUCH about Jesus' love. What does it say to you? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Large graphic of the letters 'M' and 'T' with dotted lines inside, intended for students to write what stood out in the chapter.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Large grey rectangular area for writing thoughts or drawing.

This story inspired me to...

Large grey rectangular area for writing how the story inspired the student.

FUN FACT

(vs. 9-13) The "Matthew" in this story is the same Matthew who wrote the book we are reading, and this is the moment where he meets Jesus for the very first time! So fun!!!



Jesus Trains And Sends Out His Disciples

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









HIGHLIGHT

Jesus' good news of God's Kingdom goes beyond the Jewish people to include all people, so He calls twelve people together (including Matthew, the tax collector and our author!) and sends them out with His power, authority, and love to carry out His Kingdom work. The followers of Jesus Christ are called disciples. He supports them by giving instructions on how to be a disciple and also how to handle rejection.

RESPONSE

In Matthew's gospel, we see that Jesus wants us to be part of His family and citizens of His Kingdom! How will we respond? Will we believe what Jesus says about Himself, about each of us, and about His Kingdom? Will you let Him love and forgive you? Will you be one of His people?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 11

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Talks About John The Baptist/ The Seriousness Of Jesus' Call

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

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WORTH A NOTE

Matthew shows us how people react to Jesus all throughout the story. Some worship Him and believe that He's the King and Messiah (the Rescuer that God promised). Some don't believe Him and fight against Him. Sometimes the stories surprise us because the ones who love Jesus aren't the ones we expect. As we watch scenes happen, it calls us to think about how we will respond to Him, too.

LIGHT

HIGH

(vs.4-6) Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise to Eve, Abraham, David, and the Prophets! All the threads of the story were coming together! He was the Messiah (the Rescuer)! Wow!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

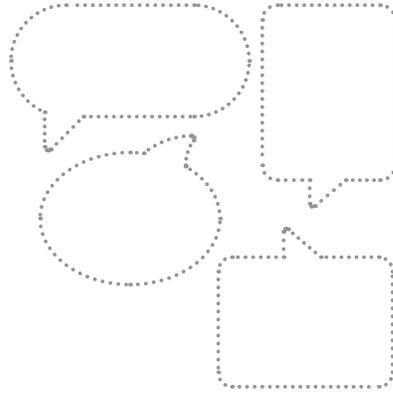
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Stands Up To The People And Spiritual Forces Against Him

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



FUN FACT

(vs. 48-50) In God's Kingdom, Jesus teaches His followers they have a new family, a spiritual family(!) in addition to their physical family.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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BACKSTORY

The Pharisees were a group of Jewish religious leaders who emphasized good works and "rule-following" that went beyond what God required in the Torah (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy). They called these extra teachings the "oral law". Many people held the Pharisees in high standing because they went above and beyond in their works for God. Note: How did they respond to Jesus and God's Kingdom work?



CHAPTER 13

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Teaches In Parables And Helps People See God's Kingdom

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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PICK ONE

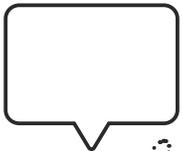
Jesus tells 7(!) stories to explain how God's Kingdom (or the Kingdom of Heaven) works. Which one did you like the most? Why? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

Blank space for writing about the favorite story.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes for writing or drawing what stood out in the chapter.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Blank space for writing or drawing thoughts.

This story inspired me to...

Blank space for writing or drawing inspiration.

FUN FACT

A parable is a story that teaches. Jesus loved to tell stories that showed us something about God's Kingdom because they helped people's hearts get ready to receive God's love. Who doesn't love a good story?!?



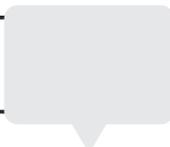
The Death Of John The Baptist/ Jesus Shows His Power By Miracles

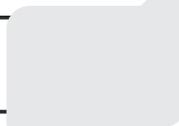
SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 23) Jesus needed time away from people to be alone and rest. In the quiet of the evening, He used the silence to have a conversation with God.

PICK ONE

Jesus continues to show people God's power to provide, heal, and rescue. Which one of these encounters with Jesus is your favorite? Why? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 15

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Human Rules Vs Humble Faith/ Jesus Feeds People Miraculously

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

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WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 21-28) Look at the different responses between the Pharisees (Jewish + respected, moral men), scribes (theological, formal education + Jewish), and the Canaanite woman (non-Jew + probably no theological education + lower social status). The religious authorities found Jesus' teaching offensive while the woman was grateful to experience healing. Why are the responses so different? What do you think offended the scholars? Why was the woman so desperate? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

STORY

BACK

(vs. 1) "From Jerusalem" means these men have significant influence, positions of power, and are probably of greater authority within the scribes and the Pharisees' organization. They have heard about the teachings of Jesus and come to investigate.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 16

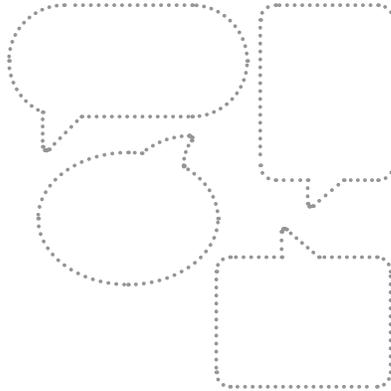
MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

People Respond To Jesus (Good And Bad)/Jesus Shows He Will Die

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 16) This response is the first time in Matthew's story that anyone admits Jesus is the Messiah (God's Rescuer!) or "the Christ." Peter also adds that he believes Jesus is God's son.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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BACKSTORY

(vs. 1) The Sadducees are another religious organization made up of wealthy, influential men based out of Jerusalem. Unlike the Pharisees who included men of common status, the Sadducees were mostly men of titles and high social rank. The two groups often disagreed with each other. Note: If these groups were rivals, what caused them to unite?



CHAPTER 17

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Shows Who He Really Is!!!/Again Shows That He Will Die

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

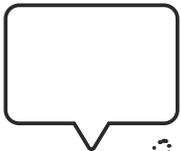
FUN FACT

(vs. 1-8) In a very special moment between Jesus and His followers/friends, Jesus gives them a brief glimpse of who He is, even while He walks on the earth. His face shined like the sun, and His clothing turned white, like a light. Can you imagine how bright? Although Jesus was human, He was still also God.

WHAT STOOD OUT

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FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...

WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 5) When the disciples heard God's voice, they were afraid and fell down with their faces to the ground. Jesus, God in human form, came to them and comforted them, with a human voice and touch. How does Jesus, in human form, help us connect to God?



Jesus Addresses People's Hearts And Teaches Them

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









HIGHLIGHT

The disciples wanted to know who is the greatest in God's Kingdom, so Jesus calls over a little child as an example, giving the students an unexpected answer. Note: Think about a young child. They aren't able to have lots of success or money. They are simple-minded and don't perform for love or change who they are to be accepted. They love BIG.

RESPONSE

(vs. 21) Jesus tells them a story about God's Kingdom using two people who both owe debts. Which person do you relate to most in the story? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

This story inspired me to...



Jesus Gives Hard Teachings That Reveal The Heart

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

HIGHLIGHT

Jesus is on the move again healing crowds and teaching His disciples "on the go." People brought children to Jesus, but His disciples snapped at them. He then explains how the Kingdom of God is made for all people, including children.

A NOTE

WORTH

Jesus continues to teach the disciples about the Kingdom of God, including *how to enter it*. What is Jesus' response after the rich, young ruler asks the question? What is the disciples' response?

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

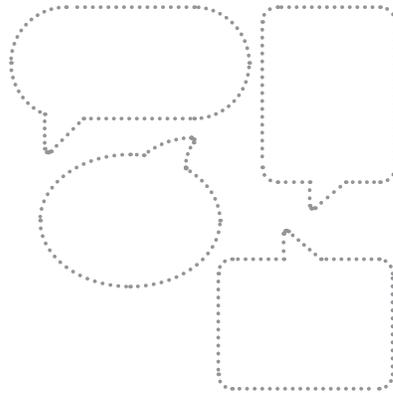
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Tells An Important Story/Warns His Disciples About His Death

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



RESPONSE

(vs. 32) Jesus asked the two blind men a simple question, *What do you want Me to do for you?* If Jesus were in human form sitting beside you right now and asked you that question, what would be your answer? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

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This story inspired me to...

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HIGHLIGHT

(vs. 29-34) As people heard about Jesus' healing, the crowds grew. Two men, who couldn't see Jesus, but heard the crowd pass by, screamed. They screamed so loud that they annoyed the crowd, who told them to be quiet. Did they stop screaming? Nope! They screamed even louder! Why? Because they wanted to be healed. Note Jesus' response. Was He annoyed with their request or their desire for healing? What did He do about it?



CHAPTER 21

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

The King Arrives In His City

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

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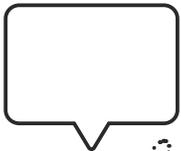
BACKSTORY

(vs. 1) Jerusalem was the most important place for formal Jewish education; its students had a world-wide reputation. Even though the Roman government was in charge, the primary place for religious leaders and their families was Jerusalem, the city where Jesus would fulfill His mission to become the true King and Messiah (God's Rescuer).

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines for notes on what stood out in the chapter.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Large grey box for writing thoughts or drawing related to the chapter.

This story inspired me to...

Large grey box for writing how the story inspired the reader.

FIND

The tension between the religious authorities and Jesus is growing! Find all the moments where the Pharisees, chief priests, and scribes react to Jesus. What is their reaction? What did Jesus say to cause that reaction? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.



Jesus Avoids A Trap And Gives Some Important Teachings

SUMMARY (write or draw)

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









PICK ONE

The tension continues to rise between the religious authorities and Jesus. Matthew writes about four (!) different times when the religious organizations try to trick Him into making a mistake. Look over the four questions the leaders use as a trap. Which one stands out to you? Why? What was Jesus' response? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

FUN FACT

(vs. 46) Jesus handles the religious authorities in such a way that they never ask Him another question again!

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 23

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Warns The Religious Leaders Of Their Spiritual Danger

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

HIGHLIGHT

Jesus directly addresses the evil behind the religious organizations of the scribes and the Pharisees by exposing them. Jesus, the voice of God (remember Matthew 17?), speaks out about His belief in their organizations.

FIND

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

How many times can you count "Woe to You" or "What Sorrow?" Look at each one closely. Which one stands out to you the most? Why? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.

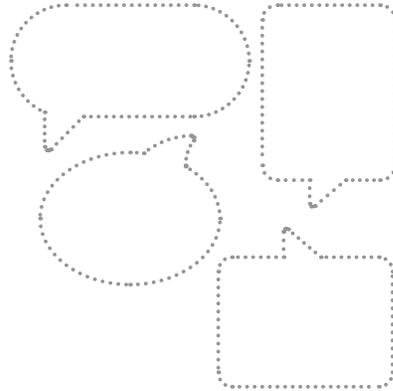
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Talks About The Future: For Jerusalem & One Day His Return

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



BACKSTORY

(vs. 1-2) Jerusalem was home to the Temple, a huge, **GINORMOUS**, building where God chose to put His presence. Jesus predicts this Temple will one day be entirely gone. He had told his disciples (12:6) that there is One greater than the Temple. It was Himself- Jesus! God was coming to be with the people in a new way!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

1
2
3

This story inspired me to...

.....
.....
.....

WORTH A NOTE

When Jesus goes to trial on the way to His death, they bring up a quote Jesus said, "I am able to destroy the Temple of God and rebuild it in three days" (26:61). These words were offensive to the religious authorities. This structure was everything to them, but Jesus meant He was the Temple. He was God Himself. People would no longer have to go to a place to worship or meet with God. They could meet God through Jesus.



CHAPTER 25

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

Jesus Talks About Being Ready For His Coming: Living His Way

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

Blank space for writing a summary of the chapter.

HIGHLIGHT

Jesus is teaching God's Kingdom to His disciples through stories (parables). He knows His time on earth is coming to a close, so He gives them story after story on the Kingdom of Heaven.

WHAT STOOD OUT

Three large vertical boxes with dotted lines for writing about what stood out in the chapter.

FAV WORDS



A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

Blank space for writing thoughts.

This story inspired me to...

Blank space for writing about inspiration.

PICK ONE

Of all the stories and teachings Matthew includes, which one stands out to you? Why? Write about it in *A Place For Your Thoughts*.



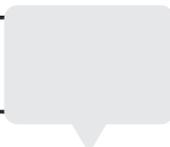
The Events Leading Up To Jesus' Death

SUMMARY (write or draw)

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS









WORTH A NOTE

(vs. 50) The definition of "friend" in this text is *a person who attaches himself to someone for selfish purposes*. How do you think Jesus felt when He saw Judas coming? What about His thoughts? Have you ever experienced betrayal? Hurt by a friend? If so, Jesus can empathize with you.

HIGHLIGHT

God's Kingdom and the kingdom of the religious authorities are continuing to clash. The chief priests and scribes made their move to have Jesus arrested and taken to court.

A place for thoughts (write or draw)

This story inspired me to...



CHAPTER 27

MATTHEW

TODAY'S DATE

God's Rescue Plan Is Fulfilled: The Death And Burial Of Jesus

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

FAV WORDS

.....
.....
.....
.....

FULFILLMENT

Jesus' Kingdom is different than the Kingdoms of this world! At the end of the story, King Jesus shows His power in a very unusual way—by dying for His people. In dying, He defeated death itself! He fulfilled many of the promises God made in the Old Testament! Jesus was the Plan all along! When He died, He made a whole new covenant with us.

LIGHT

HIGH

(vs. 11) Jesus is now in front of a Roman governor in a Roman court. The clash between the two kingdoms has reached its breaking point. The result is the death of Jesus, who, although He lived a perfect life, pays for the sins of the world.

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

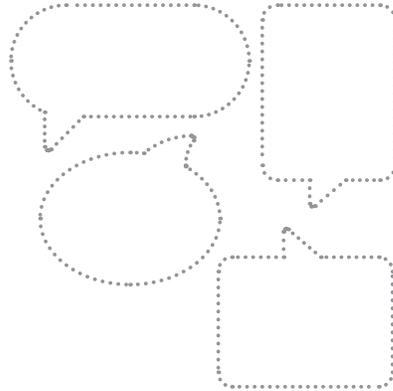
This story inspired me to...



Jesus Is Alive!!!! He Sends His Disciples Out To Continue In His Name

SUMMARY *(write or draw)*

FAV WORDS



HIGHLIGHT

Every step Jesus took, every word Jesus spoke, every life Jesus healed was part of God's Rescue plan to bring us back into relationship with Him. God raised Jesus from the dead, and Jesus has the victory! God destroyed darkness (that's another word for evil) and death through Jesus!

A place for thoughts *(write or draw)*

WHAT STOOD OUT

1
2
3

This story inspired me to...

.....
.....
.....

RESPONSE

By dying for His people and rising from the dead, Jesus saved us from our sin, showed us what Kingdom love looks like, and fulfilled many of the promises God had made in the Old Testament. The way we respond to it is by believing Him! We trust what He's done for us. In this new covenant, God forgives us of all our sins- past, present, and future- and He makes us new! When God comes to live in us, He's always with us every minute of every day. Not even death can separate us now! That's really Good News!

