



THE GOSPELS

MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE



Mission 66

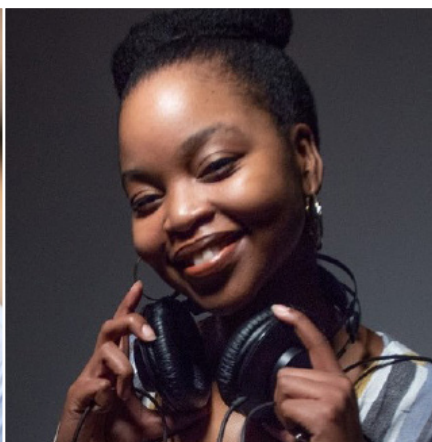
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HERE'S YOUR MISSION 66 STUDY GUIDE OF THE GOSPELS!

Mission 66 brings the Bible to life each day as our hosts take you on a journey from Genesis to Revelation. You'll understand God's Word in a fresh way and grow in your intimacy with the Lord.

In this chapter-by-chapter audio commentary, John Mathews and Esther Sisulu come alongside you each day to open the Scriptures in a personal and applicable way. This Study Guide will help you follow each lesson, so that the teaching goes deeper into your heart and life.



John and Esther adapt the teaching of Brazilian Bible teacher Luiz Sayão, who originally taught the content in Portuguese. Known as Rota 66 (or Route 66) in Brazil, Mission 66 is a takeoff on the name of the famous U.S. highway. But, of course, it also refers to the 66 books of the Bible.

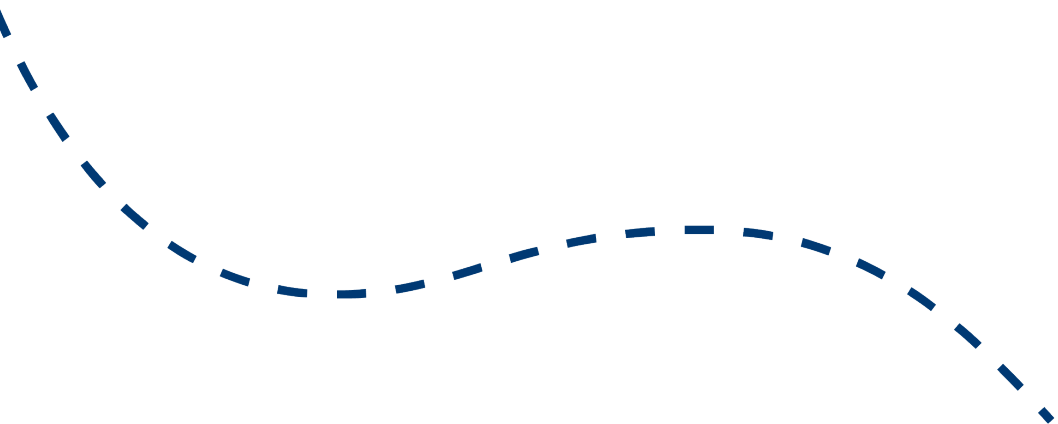


Mission 66 is a partnership between Dr. Sayão and TWR (Trans World Radio). Beginning in 2023, they launched an initiative to translate, produce, and distribute the program in the most-spoken languages in the world. A co-host team in each language will teach the content.

Projects are at various stages in English, Spanish, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesian, German, Japanese, Arabic, Ukrainian, Italian, French and three other languages.

Your donation to Mission 66 at **www.mission66.org** will go towards the production and distribution of the program into the top 10 languages of the world.

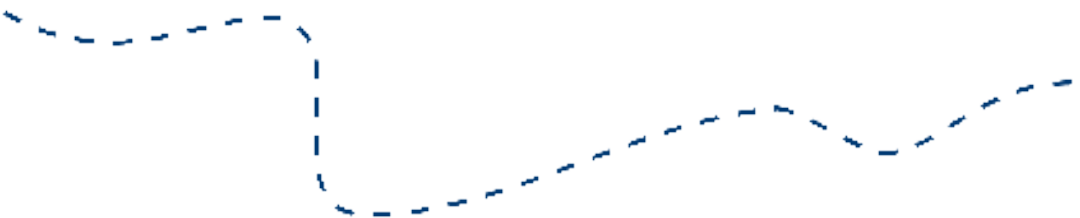
Episodes can be heard on many radio stations around the world, as well as on demand at www.mission66.org, TWR360 www.twr360.org/m66 and on many podcast apps.





MATTHEW

*Answers to the questions in this study guide
may be found beginning on page 86.*



MATTHEW 1

Today on Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, explore the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew, beginning our journey through the New Testament. The theme for today's study is "Pre-natal Checkup," focusing on the genealogy of Jesus Christ and the miraculous circumstances surrounding his birth. The chapter highlights the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and emphasizes that Jesus, though born of Mary, was conceived by the Holy Spirit, thus without sin. The genealogy includes surprising names of imperfect individuals, demonstrating that God's plan of salvation weaves through the lives of the weak and flawed. This genealogy underscores Jesus' legitimate claim to the title of the Messiah, as he is shown to be a descendant of David and Abraham. Through this lineage, we understand that God's grace transcends human imperfection, as he uses all people in his redemptive work.

QUESTIONS:

Who is considered the author of the Gospel of Matthew?

Why does the genealogy in Matthew 1 include unexpected and imperfect individuals?

What does the name "Jesus Christ" signify?

How is Jesus related to Joseph, David, and Abraham?

Why is the virgin birth of Jesus significant to Christian faith?

How does the Bible present Mary, the mother of Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Can you think of a situation in your life where you felt imperfect or unworthy, and how might this understanding of God's grace help you see that situation differently?

MATTHEW 2

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, delve into Matthew chapter 2, discussing the theme “A Star is Born.” The chapter recounts the visit of the Magi, wise men from the East who followed a miraculous star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus, the newborn “star” or important figure prophesied to be the Savior. King Herod, feeling threatened by the birth of a new “king,” deceptively instructs the Magi to inform him of Jesus’ location under the guise of wanting to worship him. After the Magi are warned in a dream, they avoid Herod and return home by another route. Herod’s rage leads to the massacre of male infants in Bethlehem, fulfilling Old Testament prophecies. Joseph, warned by an angel, flees to Egypt with Mary and Jesus, later returning to Nazareth after Herod’s death. This chapter shows God’s providence in protecting Jesus and fulfilling prophecies through unexpected events and people.

QUESTIONS:

Who were the Magi and where did they come from?

Why did King Herod feel threatened by the birth of Jesus?

How did the star guide the Magi to Jesus?

What is the significance of the gifts given by the Magi?

How does the return of Jesus’ family from Egypt fulfill prophecy?

What does the term “Nazarene” refer to in the context of Jesus?

REFLECTION:

Consider how God can use even the most unlikely people and events in his plans. How does this understanding affect the way you view your own life circumstances?

MATTHEW 3

In today's episode of Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, discuss Matthew Chapter 3, themed "Make Way for the King!" John the Baptist emerges as a herald in the wilderness, calling people to repentance because the kingdom of heaven is near. John's ascetic lifestyle and baptisms in the Jordan River signal the impending arrival of Jesus, the Messiah. He warns even the self-righteous Pharisees and Sadducees to bear fruit in keeping with repentance. John also prophesies about Jesus, who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire, signifying a new era. Jesus' baptism by John marks the beginning of his ministry, witnessed by the heavenly declaration, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," confirming Jesus' divine nature and role as the anointed one.

QUESTIONS:

Who was John the Baptist and what was his role?

Why did John the Baptist call people to repentance?

What was significant about John's attire and diet?

How did Jesus' baptism differ from the baptism of others by John?

What does the term "baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire" mean?

What happened immediately after Jesus was baptized?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think it was important for Jesus to be baptized even though he was without sin?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever taken a public step to show others a change in your life? How might baptism be similar to this kind of declaration?

MATTHEW 4

In today's episode of Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, examine Matthew Chapter 4, focusing on "The Devil's Temptation." Jesus, led by the Spirit, faces the devil's temptations in the wilderness after fasting for 40 days. He combats each of Satan's temptations with Scripture, emphasizing the power of God's Word in resisting evil. The devil tries to lure Jesus by promising him all the kingdoms of the world without suffering, but Jesus stands firm in His mission. After overcoming temptation, Jesus begins his ministry, preaching repentance and calling his first disciples. He performs miracles, healing the sick and demonstrating his divine authority, fulfilling prophecies and revealing that the kingdom of heaven is near.

QUESTIONS:

Who led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted?

What does Jesus use to resist the devil's temptations?

What was the first temptation the devil presented to Jesus?

How does Jesus respond to the devil's misuse of Psalm 91?

Where does Jesus begin his ministry after overcoming temptation?

Who were the first disciples Jesus called?

REFLECTION:

What does Jesus' resistance to temptation teach us about the importance of knowing Scripture?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

When faced with a tough choice, how can you use the lessons from Jesus' temptation to make the right decision?

MATTHEW 5

Today on Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, explore the profound teachings of Jesus in Matthew Chapter 5, focusing on "A Surprising Spirituality." This chapter introduces the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus outlines the characteristics of true Christian virtue, contrasting them with worldly values. The Beatitudes, a series of blessings for those who embody specific godly traits, kick off the sermon. Jesus calls his followers to be humble, merciful, and to seek righteousness. He challenges common interpretations of the law, urging a deeper understanding of sin that extends beyond actions to intentions. Jesus emphasizes love for enemies and the pursuit of perfection, guiding believers toward the ethics of the kingdom of heaven. This sermon reshapes our understanding of spirituality and morality, pushing us to strive for a higher standard that reflects God's perfection.

QUESTIONS:

What are the Beatitudes, and where can they be found in the Bible?

What does "poor in spirit" mean, according to Jesus?

How does Jesus expand on the Old Testament commandment not to murder?

What does Jesus say about loving one's enemies?

How does Jesus redefine adultery in his sermon?

What does Jesus mean when he says his followers are the salt of the earth and the light of the world?

REFLECTION:

Consider the depth of the statement "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." What does it mean to find comfort in God during times of mourning?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Think of a situation where you felt wronged or mistreated. How can Jesus' teachings on loving your enemies and turning the other cheek apply to your response?

MATTHEW 6

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, delve into Matthew Chapter 6, continuing the exploration of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, focusing on "A Different Spirituality." This chapter challenges believers to examine their motives behind charitable acts, prayer, fasting, and handling material possessions. Jesus emphasizes that spiritual practices should not be performed for earthly recognition but for God's eyes alone. He teaches the Lord's Prayer as a model of sincere communication with God. Furthermore, Jesus cautions against the anxiety of daily needs, urging trust in God's provision, and advises prioritizing the pursuit of God's kingdom over worldly treasures. This chapter calls for a transformative approach to spirituality, one that transcends external appearances and aligns with the divine values of humility, sincerity, and faith.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus say about practicing righteousness before others?

What should be the motivation behind giving to the needy, according to Jesus?

How does Jesus instruct his followers to pray?

What does the Lord's Prayer emphasize in our relationship with God?

Why does Jesus tell us not to worry about our daily needs?

What does Jesus mean by "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness"?

REFLECTION:

Consider the importance of motives in your actions. How does knowing that God sees your heart impact the way you live out your faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Can you think of a time when you did something good but for the wrong reasons? How can you apply Jesus' teachings to ensure your future actions are sincere and for God's glory?

MATTHEW 7

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, discuss Matthew Chapter 7, concluding Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with the theme "An Efficient Spirituality." Jesus teaches about the importance of not judging others hypocritically but instead examining oneself first. He encourages persistent prayer, promising that God responds to those who ask, seek, and knock. The chapter also highlights the Golden Rule, advising treating others as one would like to be treated. Furthermore, Jesus warns about false prophets, whose true nature can be discerned by their actions. He emphasizes the need for genuine obedience to God, comparing those who hear and act on his words to a wise man building his house on a solid foundation. This chapter calls for a practical and lived-out faith, urging believers to align their actions with God's will.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus teach about judging others in Matthew 7?

How should we approach giving to the needy, according to Jesus?

What is the Golden Rule that Jesus mentions?

Why does Jesus warn about false prophets, and how can we recognize them?

What does Jesus say about those who call Him "Lord" but do not do God's will?

What analogy does Jesus use to describe those who hear and act on his words?

REFLECTION:

How can you ensure that when you make judgments about others, you do so with humility and self-reflection, as Jesus teaches?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Think of a situation in which you had to make a difficult decision. How can Jesus' teachings in Matthew 7 guide you to make choices that align with God's will and righteousness?

MATTHEW 8 – 9

In today's Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, dive into Matthew Chapters 8 and 9, in which Jesus demonstrates his divine power through various miracles, reflecting the theme: "Experiencing Supernatural Power Leads to a Super-Radical Decision." Jesus heals a leper, the servant of a centurion, and many others, showcasing authority over sickness, nature, and even death. These acts confirm Jesus as the Messiah and challenge onlookers to make radical decisions about their faith. The chapters reveal a Savior who is compassionate and willing to heal all who come to him, regardless of their societal status. Through these miracles, Jesus proves that he is not just a historical figure but God in the flesh, inviting us to respond to his supernatural power with life-changing faith.

QUESTIONS:

What was Jesus' first miracle in Matthew Chapter 8?

What does the healing of the centurion's servant demonstrate about faith?

How does Jesus demonstrate his power over nature?

Why does Jesus raise the synagogue leader's daughter from the dead?

What is the significance of Jesus healing a woman with a bleeding issue?

How does Jesus conclude his teachings in these chapters?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on the significance of Jesus healing people from all walks of life, including those marginalized by society. What does this say about who can approach Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Think about a challenge or problem in your life that seems overwhelming. How can the miracles of Jesus in these chapters encourage you to trust in his power to help you?

MATTHEW 10

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, examine Matthew chapter 10, where Jesus prepares his disciples for their mission to spread the Gospel. The theme of the day is "A Mission Almost Impossible." Jesus names his 12 apostles and grants them authority to perform miracles as they proclaim the kingdom of heaven. He warns them of the persecution they will face and emphasizes the importance of steadfast faith and loyalty. Jesus underscores the radical commitment required to follow him, including prioritizing him above all earthly relationships. The chapter reveals the cost of discipleship and the urgency of the mission, as well as the promise of God's support and the ultimate reward for faithfulness.

QUESTIONS:

Who does Jesus name as his apostles in Matthew 10?

What authority does Jesus give to his apostles?

What does Jesus say about the reception his disciples will receive on their mission?

How does Jesus describe the commitment required to follow him?

What does Jesus say about the fear of persecution?

What is the ultimate reward for those who faithfully carry out their mission?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on the idea that following Jesus may lead to division and hardship, even within families. How does this challenge you to consider your own commitment to Christ?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever faced opposition or misunderstanding because of your faith? How can the teachings of Jesus in Matthew 10 help you to respond to such situations?

MATTHEW 11 – 12

In today's Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, tackle Matthew chapters 11 and 12, under the theme "Conflict and Confrontation." Jesus, who performs miracles and shares the message of the kingdom, receives mixed reactions. While some are drawn to his teachings and healing, others, including religious leaders, fiercely oppose him. John the Baptist, experiencing hardship and doubt in prison, seeks reassurance from Jesus, who confirms his messianic role. Despite performing numerous miracles, Jesus faces accusations and skepticism. He warns that unbelief leads to judgment and teaches about the dangers of empty spiritual renewal. These chapters illustrate the inevitable friction that arises when the transformative message of the Gospel challenges established norms and beliefs.

QUESTIONS:

Why does John the Baptist send disciples to ask Jesus if he is the expected Messiah?

What does Jesus say to affirm his identity to John the Baptist?

How does Jesus respond to accusations of breaking the Sabbath?

What warning does Jesus give about unbelief and judgment?

What is the unforgivable sin that Jesus mentions in Matthew 12?

What does Jesus teach about true family in the kingdom of God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever had to stand up for what you believe in, even when it was unpopular? How can Jesus' experiences in Matthew 11 and 12 encourage you to remain steadfast in your faith?

MATTHEW 13

In today's episode of Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, explore Matthew Chapter 13, which is filled with Jesus' parables. The theme is "An Illustrated Kingdom," in which Jesus uses parables to convey deep spiritual truths about the kingdom of heaven. These parables include the Sower, the Weeds, the Mustard Seed, the Yeast, the Hidden Treasure, the Pearl of Great Price, and the Fisherman's Net. Through these stories, Jesus reveals the nature of God's kingdom, the mixed responses to the gospel, and the ultimate separation of good and evil. Parables serve as a teaching tool to engage those genuinely seeking truth and to illustrate the growth, value, and judgment associated with the kingdom of heaven.

QUESTIONS:

What is a parable, and why did Jesus use them?

In the Parable of the Sower, what do the different types of soil represent?

What is the message of the Parable of the Weeds?

How do the Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast describe the kingdom of heaven?

What do the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Price teach about the value of the kingdom?

What does the Parable of the Fisherman's Net illustrate?

REFLECTION:

Think about the various responses to Jesus' message in the Parable of the Sower. Why do you think some people are receptive to the Gospel while others are not?

MATTHEW 14

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, delve into Matthew Chapter 14, focusing on the theme "Seeing Yet Unbelieving." Despite Jesus performing incredible miracles, such as feeding the 5,000 and walking on water, many witnesses remain skeptical of his true identity. The chapter also recounts the tragic beheading of John the Baptist by Herod, illustrating the stark contrast between human frailty and Jesus' divine power. Jesus' disciples, amid witnessing his miracles, struggle with their faith and understanding of who he truly is. This chapter teaches us that miraculous signs can be right in front of us, but without faith, their significance may be missed.

QUESTIONS:

What doubts does John the Baptist express while in prison?

How does Jesus respond to John's doubts about his messianic role?

Why do Jesus' hometown people take offense at him?

What miracles does Jesus perform in Matthew 14?

What lesson can be learned from Peter walking on water?

How do the people of Gennesaret respond to Jesus' healing power?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think people can witness extraordinary events and still not believe? What does it take for someone to truly have faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever doubted your beliefs or struggled with faith during difficult times? How can Jesus' response to John the Baptist's doubts and the disciples' experiences with miracles guide you in your own journey of faith?

MATTHEW 15 – 16

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, examine Matthew Chapters 15 and 16 under the theme "From Galilee to the World." In these chapters, Jesus continues to perform miracles and teach, but he faces increasing opposition from religious leaders. Despite this, his influence expands beyond Galilee as he heals the daughter of a Canaanite woman, demonstrating his compassion and power even to the Gentiles. Jesus also confronts the Pharisees and Sadducees for their hypocrisy and adherence to human traditions over God's commandments. Additionally, Peter acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, which leads to Jesus' famous declaration about building his church upon this rock. These chapters highlight the growing realization of Jesus' identity and mission, despite the disbelief and challenges he encounters.

QUESTIONS:

Why do the Pharisees and scribes confront Jesus in Matthew 15?

How does Jesus respond to their concerns about tradition?

What is the significance of the Canaanite woman's faith?

What does Jesus say about what truly defiles a person?

In Matthew 16, how does Peter identify Jesus, and what is Jesus' response?

What does Jesus teach about the cost of discipleship?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to look beyond outward religious practices and traditions to understand what truly matters to God?

MATTHEW 17

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, explore Matthew Chapter 17 with the theme "A Mission from Another World." This chapter showcases the Transfiguration, a pivotal event in which Jesus reveals his divine glory to Peter, James, and John. The appearance of Moses and Elijah signifies the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets in Jesus. The chapter also addresses Jesus' teachings on faith, particularly the faith needed to perform miracles, and his authority over spiritual forces. Jesus continues to emphasize the necessity of humility and reliance on God in the face of earthly challenges, including demonic possession and daily provisions. Despite the disciples' struggles with understanding, the Transfiguration serves as a powerful affirmation of Jesus' identity and mission, which is indeed from another world.

QUESTIONS:

What is the Transfiguration, and why is it significant?

Who appeared with Jesus during the Transfiguration?

How did the disciples react to the voice from heaven at the Transfiguration?

What lesson do we learn from the boy with the demon?

What did Jesus say about John the Baptist's role in prophecy?

How does Jesus illustrate the power of faith?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal his glory at the Transfiguration to only a few disciples, and what does this event teach us about God's revelation to humanity?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever been in a situation in which you needed to have faith like a mustard seed? How can Jesus' teachings on faith in Matthew 17 encourage you in your own life?

MATTHEW 18

On Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, delve into Matthew Chapter 18, in which Jesus teaches about "Strength in Humility." Jesus uses a child to illustrate that greatness in the kingdom of heaven is marked by humility and child-like faith. He stresses the importance of reconciliation, warning against causing others to stumble and emphasizing the need for forgiveness. The parable of the unforgiving servant underscores the dire consequences of harboring unforgiveness. This chapter presents a kingdom where the weak are strong, the humble are exalted, and forgiveness is essential. It challenges believers to embrace a posture of humility and to extend grace to others as generously as God has to them.

QUESTIONS:

What question do the disciples ask Jesus, and how does he respond?

Why does Jesus warn against causing others to stumble?

What process does Jesus outline for addressing sin within the community?

What is the significance of the parable of the unforgiving servant?

How does Jesus describe the kingdom of heaven in Matthew 18?

What does Jesus teach about the nature of forgiveness?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Can you think of someone you need to forgive? How can Jesus' teaching on forgiveness in Matthew 18 guide you in taking steps toward reconciliation?

MATTHEW 19 – 20

In Mission 66, Esther and our teacher, John Mathews, explore Matthew chapters 19 and 20 under the theme "The Cost of Non-Discipleship." These chapters address the serious issue of wealth and its potential to become a barrier to following Jesus. The story of the rich young ruler illustrates the struggle between earthly riches and eternal life. Jesus emphasizes the need for humility and warns of the difficulty for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of heaven. Additionally, He teaches about the value of self-denial and service, highlighting that true greatness in his kingdom is marked by serving others. The parable of the workers in the vineyard serves as a reminder that God's grace is given according to His sovereign will, not human merit or labor.

QUESTIONS:

What question does the rich young ruler ask Jesus, and what is Jesus' response?

Why does Jesus mention the commandments in response to the rich young ruler?

What does Jesus say about the difficulty of a rich person entering the kingdom of heaven?

How does Jesus illustrate the last being first and the first being last?

What does Jesus predict about his own future in these chapters?

How does the parable of the workers in the vineyard relate to the kingdom of heaven?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Evaluate your own relationship with material possessions. Are there ways in which wealth or the desire for wealth might be interfering with your spiritual priorities or relationship with God?

MATTHEW 22

In Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews, explores Matthew 22, focusing on the theme “Trick Questions and Perfect Answers.” Jesus tells the parable of the wedding banquet, explaining that many who seem undeserving will accept God’s invitation to his kingdom, while some expected guests will be excluded because of their pride and rejection of his grace. Jesus adeptly handles trick questions from various groups trying to catch him in his words. He teaches that our responsibilities to God and the state are distinct and emphasizes love as the greatest commandment. Jesus also clarifies that in the resurrection, earthly institutions such as marriage do not apply, and affirms that God is the God of the living. The chapter concludes with Jesus silencing his opponents by highlighting his divine nature as both the son and Lord of David.

QUESTIONS:

What is the parable of the wedding banquet about?

How does Jesus respond to the Pharisees' trick question about paying taxes?

What group did not believe in the resurrection, and how did Jesus correct their understanding?

What are the two greatest commandments, according to Jesus?

Why won't there be marriage in the resurrection?

Who are the "builders" that rejected the cornerstone according to Jesus?

REFLECTION:

What does it mean to you to give to God what belongs to God?

MATTHEW 23

In Mission 66, Our Teacher, John Mathews, delves into Matthew 23 and discusses the theme "Harmful to Your Spiritual Health." Jesus confronts the hypocrisy of the scribes, Pharisees, and religious leaders of his time. He criticizes them for not practicing what they preach, creating burdens for others they wouldn't carry themselves, and seeking honour and recognition rather than serving humbly. Jesus pronounces seven "woes" on them for their actions that lead people astray, emphasizing the importance of sincerity and inward purity over outward appearances. The chapter warns against the dangers of false religion and the spiritual blindness that comes with it, reminding listeners that genuine faith is not about self-promotion or financial gain but about a true commitment to God's Word.

QUESTIONS:

What is the main issue Jesus addresses in Matthew 23?

What are "phylacteries" and why did the Pharisees enlarge them?

What are the two most important commandments, according to Jesus?

Why does Jesus criticize the Pharisees for their focus on tithing small herbs?

What metaphor does Jesus use to describe the Pharisees' focus on outward appearance?

What does Jesus mean by "You will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'"?

REFLECTION:

How do you think hypocrisy in religious practices affects people's perception of faith?

MATTHEW 24

In Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews, examines Matthew 24, in which Jesus discusses the signs of the end times. In what is known as the "Olivet Discourse," Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple and provides a series of events that will signal the approach of the end of the age. He warns of false Christs, wars, famines, earthquakes, and persecution of believers. Jesus emphasizes the need for readiness, as the exact time of his return is known only to God the Father. He compares the suddenness of his coming to the days of Noah, where people were caught unprepared by the flood. The key takeaway is to live in constant readiness for Jesus' return, continuing with daily responsibilities but with a watchful eye for the fulfillment of his prophecies.

QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus predict would happen to the temple?

Why did Jesus say many would be led astray in the end times?

What should be the response when people claim to see Christ in secret places?

What natural phenomena did Jesus mention as signs of the end?

What does Jesus mean by "the abomination of desolation"?

Who alone knows the exact time of Jesus' return?

Reflection:

Why do you think Jesus chose not to reveal the exact time of his return?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you balance living your daily life with being prepared for Jesus' return?

MATTHEW 25

On Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews, continues with Jesus' "Olivet Discourse" from Matthew 25, focusing on the theme "Extra! Extra! J-day is Here!" emphasizing the importance of being prepared for Judgment Day (J-day). Jesus shares parables illustrating readiness and accountability, such as the Ten Virgins and the Talents. These stories teach that genuine faith is shown through preparedness and the use of God-given resources for his kingdom. Jesus warns of a final judgment in which true believers are separated from pretenders, highlighting acts of service as evidence of true faith. The chapter urges individuals to live in anticipation of Jesus' return, using their talents wisely and caring for others as if serving Christ himself.

QUESTIONS:

What is the parable of the Ten Virgins about?

What do the oil lamps symbolize in the parable?

What is the lesson of the parable of the Talents?

How does Jesus describe his return?

What will happen on Judgment Day, according to Matthew 25?

Can doing good works alone save a person?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to live as if Jesus could return at any moment?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Are you using your abilities and resources in a way that serves God and others? How can you improve?

MATTHEW 26

On Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews discusses Matthew 26 under the theme "Betrayal and Passion." This chapter covers the events leading to Jesus' crucifixion, highlighting the Last Supper, during which Jesus predicts Judas' betrayal and Peter's denial. Jesus affirms the necessity of his death, symbolized through the Passover as the sacrificial lamb. The religious leaders plot to kill Jesus, fearing public uproar during the Passover feast. Jesus is anointed by a woman, signifying preparation for his burial. Judas agrees to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Jesus institutes the Lord's Supper, teaching about his body and blood shed for forgiveness. In Gethsemane, Jesus faces agony and accepts God's will. After Judas' betrayal, Jesus is arrested, mocked, and condemned by Jewish leaders. Peter's denial fulfills Jesus' prediction. The chapter underscores Jesus' path to sacrifice and the disciples' struggle to understand his true mission.

QUESTIONS:

What is the significance of the Passover in relation to Jesus' crucifixion?

How does Jesus symbolize his death at the Last Supper?

Why did Judas betray Jesus?

How did Jesus react to Peter's claim that he would never fall away?

What did Jesus pray for in the Garden of Gethsemane?

How did Peter fulfill Jesus' prediction about him?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think it's important to understand the significance of Jesus' death on the cross?

MATTHEW 27

On Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews, covers Matthew 27 with the theme “God Murdered by Man.” This chapter recounts the final events leading to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Beginning with Judas Iscariot's remorse and subsequent suicide, the narrative moves to Jesus' trial before Pilate, where despite knowing Jesus is innocent, Pilate succumbs to the crowd's demand for crucifixion. Jesus is mocked, beaten, and led to Golgotha, where he is crucified between two thieves. As Jesus dies, miraculous signs occur: Darkness covers the land, the temple veil tears, and the earth quakes. His death is marked by the confession of a Roman centurion who recognizes Jesus as the Son of God. The chapter concludes with Jesus' burial by Joseph of Arimathea and the sealing of the tomb, setting the stage for the resurrection.

QUESTIONS:

What led Judas to return the 30 pieces of silver?

How did Pilate attempt to avoid sentencing Jesus to death?

What prophecy did Jesus' silence before Pilate fulfill?

What does the tearing of the temple veil symbolize?

Who recognized Jesus as the Son of God after his death?

What precautions did the authorities take regarding Jesus' tomb?

REFLECTION:

How does the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion challenge our understanding of justice and innocence?

MATTHEW 28

On Mission 66, our teacher, John Mathews concludes the Gospel of Matthew with chapter 28, joyfully exploring the theme "Christ is Risen, Halleluiah!" This chapter describes the resurrection of Jesus Christ, beginning with Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visiting the tomb and finding it empty. An angel informs them that Jesus has risen, as he promised. The Roman guards, paralyzed with fear, are bribed by the chief priests to spread the lie that Jesus' disciples stole his body. The risen Jesus appears to the women and later to his disciples, giving them the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations. The resurrection confirms Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God, and serves as the cornerstone of the Christian faith.

QUESTIONS:

Who were the first people to discover Jesus' resurrection?

What did the angel announce to the women at the tomb?

Why is the resurrection of Jesus significant to Christians?

What lie did the chief priests instruct the Roman guards to spread?

What command does Jesus give his disciples after his resurrection?

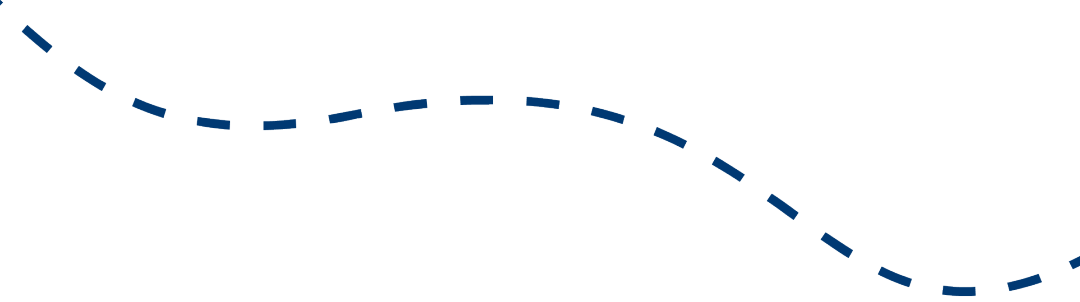
How did the disciples react when they saw the risen Jesus?

REFLECTION:

Why is the resurrection a foundational event for the Christian faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you share the message of Jesus' resurrection in your own life and community?



MARK

*Answers to the questions in this study guide
may be found beginning on page 97.*

MARK 1

In Mark Chapter 1, the theme for the day focuses on the authority and power of Jesus Christ over evil and demonic forces. As "The Exorcist," Jesus demonstrates his dominion over impure spirits, showing that he is Lord and Master over all forms of evil. The chapter also highlights Jesus' role as a servant and his interactions with both Jews and Gentiles. Our teacher, John Mathews, explains the differences between the gospels, particularly emphasizing Mark's unique perspective, which is more action-oriented and written for a non-Jewish audience, omitting genealogies and birth narratives unnecessary for its intended readers. Jesus' ministry begins with calling his disciples, teaching with authority, performing exorcisms, and healing illnesses, thus revealing his spiritual power and compassion. The chapter concludes with the narrative of Jesus seeking solitude for prayer and healing a leper, reinforcing the importance of seeking God and the secretive nature of his early ministry.

QUESTIONS:

What is the main theme of Mark Chapter 1?

Who is behind the writing of the Gospel of Mark?

Why did Mark omit Jesus' genealogy and birth narrative?

What does "impure spirits" refer to in this context?

How does Jesus demonstrate his power over the spiritual and physical realms in Mark 1?

Why is Jesus often found in deserts or lonely places?

REFLECTION:

Consider why it is important to recognize the authority Jesus has over evil.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you find time in your day to be alone with God, just as Jesus sought solitude for prayer?



MARK 2 – 3

In Mark Chapters 2 and 3, the theme is "Holy Controversy!" Jesus, undeterred by the disapproval of others, confronts religious hypocrisy and societal norms by engaging with sinners, challenging religious practices, and healing on the Sabbath. He demonstrates his authority to forgive sins through miraculous healings, inviting tax collectors like Levi (Matthew) to follow him. Jesus also tackles the issue of fasting, explaining that his presence is a time for joy, not mourning. Further, he emphasizes the need for a new approach to religion, comparing the old legalism to old wineskins that cannot hold new wine. The controversies continue as Jesus heals on the Sabbath and appoints his apostles, emphasizing the importance of action in faith and confronting false piety.

QUESTIONS:

What was Jesus' approach to controversies, according to Mark Chapters 2 and 3?

Who did Jesus choose to follow him, and what was controversial about it?

Why did Jesus talk about new cloth and new wine in relation to old practices?

What did Jesus say about fasting?

How did Jesus address the issue of healing on the Sabbath?

Who are considered Jesus' true family?

REFLECTION:

Think about why Jesus was willing to confront false practices and beliefs even when it caused controversy.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you stand up for what is true and right, even if it's not the popular thing to do?



MARK 4

In Mark Chapter 4, the theme is "This Seed Speaks Indeed," focusing on the parable of the sower and the power of God's Word. Jesus uses parables to teach about the kingdom of God, explaining that the Word of God is like a seed that grows differently depending on the soil it lands on. The four types of soil represent different responses to God's Word, from immediate rejection to enduring faith that produces a bountiful harvest. The parable of the lamp underlines the importance of not hiding the truth, and the parable of the mustard seed illustrates the potential for significant growth from small beginnings. The chapter concludes with Jesus calming a storm, showcasing his authority over nature and prompting us to reflect on our response to his Word.

QUESTIONS:

What is a parable, and why did Jesus use them?

What do the different types of soil in the parable of the sower represent?

Why did Jesus only explain the parables to his disciples and not to everyone?

What does the parable of the mustard seed teach us about the kingdom of God?

How does the parable of the lamp relate to the way we should handle the Word of God?

What does the story of Jesus calming the storm reveal about him?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to be like good soil when it comes to hearing God's Word?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you cultivate your heart to be receptive to God's word, ensuring it takes root and grows in your life?



MARK 5

Today's theme in Mark Chapter 5 is "Demons, Diseases, and Despair," where we see Jesus' power over the most frightening aspects of the human condition. The chapter begins with Jesus calming a storm, showcasing his control over nature. On the other side of the sea, he encounters a man tormented by a legion of demons, which Jesus casts out, restoring the man to sanity. A woman with a long-term illness touches Jesus' garment and is healed through her faith. Lastly, Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead, demonstrating his dominion over life and death. Throughout these events, Jesus reveals that he is more than a teacher or prophet; he is the Son of God with authority over all creation, offering hope to those facing spiritual, physical, or emotional turmoil.

QUESTIONS:

What miracle did Jesus perform at the beginning of Mark Chapter 5?

Who was the man Jesus encountered after calming the storm?

What did the woman with the discharge of blood do to be healed?

How did Jesus respond to the news of Jairus' daughter's death?

What were the reactions of the people when Jesus healed the demon-possessed man?

What can we learn from the faith of Jairus and of the woman with the blood issue?

REFLECTION:

Consider the different ways Jesus responded to those in need and what that tells us about his character.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you show faith in Jesus during the difficult situations you encounter in life?



MARK 6

In Mark Chapter 6, the theme is "Understanding a Misunderstanding," highlighting how Jesus was often misunderstood by those around him. He faced skepticism in his hometown and was taken for granted by those familiar with him. Despite this, he sent his disciples out to preach repentance and gave them authority over evil spirits. They healed many, relying on God's provision. Herod misunderstood Jesus as John the Baptist resurrected, leading to the recounting of John's execution. Later, Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 people, yet even his disciples failed to grasp the significance of his miracles. When Jesus walked on water, they were astonished and did not understand because their hearts were hardened. Jesus' true identity was often obscured by misunderstandings, but he continued to demonstrate his power as God's Son.

QUESTIONS:

Why was Jesus not accepted by the people of his hometown?

What did Jesus instruct his disciples to do when he sent them out?

Who did King Herod think Jesus was?

What miracle did Jesus perform with the loaves and fish?

What was the disciples' reaction when they saw Jesus walking on water?

How did Jesus' miracles clarify who he really was?

REFLECTION:

Consider the ways in which you may have misunderstood who Jesus is and what his teachings mean in your life.

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What steps can you take to deepen your understanding of Jesus and his mission?



MARK 7

Today, our teacher John Mathews takes us through the theme of "Living Faith or Dead Religion?" in Mark Chapter 7. We discuss how Jesus addressed the hollow practices of the Pharisees, who prioritized tradition over genuine heart transformation. Jesus emphasized the importance of internal purity over external rituals and highlighted the faith of a non-Jewish woman who humbly sought healing for her daughter. This chapter contrasts dead religious practices with the dynamic faith that leads to miracles.

QUESTIONS:

What criticism did Jesus have for the Pharisees in Mark 7?

What does "Corban" mean, and how was it misused by the religious leaders?

How did Jesus explain what truly defiles a person?

What was Jesus' response to the Syrophenician woman's plea?

Why did Jesus heal the deaf man in such a unique way?

How does Jesus' teaching in Mark 7 show the difference between living faith and dead religion?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think Jesus emphasized the condition of the heart over following traditional practices?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you ensure that your faith is alive and focused on a genuine relationship with God rather than just following religious routines?



MARK 8

In Mark Chapter 8, our teacher, John Mathews, explores the theme "The Sign of the Cross." Jesus demonstrates his compassion and miraculous provision by feeding 4,000 people. He warns against the Pharisees' hypocrisy and teaches the importance of spiritual insight over physical needs. The chapter concludes with Jesus' profound challenge to his followers to take up their cross, signifying a commitment to suffer for him if necessary. This call to discipleship is a central focus, distinguishing genuine faith from superficial belief.

QUESTIONS:

What miracle did Jesus perform at the beginning of Mark chapter 8?

What was Jesus' response when the Pharisees demanded a sign from heaven?

What did Jesus mean by "the yeast of the Pharisees"?

How was the blind man at Bethsaida healed by Jesus?

What confession did Peter make about Jesus' identity?

What does it mean to "take up your cross," according to Jesus?

REFLECTION:

How do you think understanding the "sign of the cross" can change the way we live our daily lives?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What are some ways you can show that you're carrying your cross and truly following Jesus?



MARK 9

Our teacher, John Mathews, brings us into Mark Chapter 9, where we explore "Power and Glory." This chapter showcases the Transfiguration, when Jesus reveals his true divine nature to Peter, James, and John. The disciples witness Jesus shining with the glory of God and talking with Moses and Elijah. Despite Jesus' demonstration of ultimate power, the chapter also touches on humility and service, teaching that true greatness comes from being a servant to all. Additionally, Jesus emphasizes faith and prayer, especially in the case of a boy with an unclean spirit, and stresses the importance of leading a life without causing sin.

QUESTIONS:

What extraordinary event did the disciples witness in Mark Chapter 9?

Who appeared with Jesus during the Transfiguration?

What did Jesus say was necessary to cast out the unclean spirit from the boy?

How did Jesus describe true greatness in the kingdom of God?

What warning does Jesus give about causing children to sin?

What does Jesus use to illustrate the severity of sin and the importance of avoiding it?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think Jesus used a child to teach about greatness in the kingdom of God?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you practice being a servant to others in your daily life, just as Jesus taught?



MARK 10

Our teacher, John Mathews, guides us through Mark Chapter 10 with the theme "Counting the Cost." In this chapter, Jesus addresses the cost of discipleship, emphasizing commitment and sacrifice. He discusses the sanctity of marriage, highlights the importance of receiving the kingdom of God like a child, and challenges a wealthy young man to give up his possessions. Jesus reinforces that serving others is paramount and that true greatness comes from being a servant, just as he came to serve. The chapter concludes with the healing of blind Bartimaeus, illustrating faith and the willingness to follow Jesus without reservation.

QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus teach about marriage and divorce in Mark Chapter 10?

How did Jesus respond to the rich young man who asked about eternal life?

What does Jesus say about entering the kingdom of God?

How did Jesus define true greatness?

Who was healed at the end of Mark Chapter 10?

What does Jesus tell us about wealth and entering the kingdom of God?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to have the attitude of a child when it comes to faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What can you do to show a servant's heart in your daily interactions with others?



MARK 11 – 12

Our teacher, John Mathews, brings us into Mark Chapters 11 and 12 with the theme "Direct Confrontation." We observe Jesus entering Jerusalem triumphantly, only to directly confront the corruption and hypocrisy within the temple. He curses a barren fig tree, a symbol of the coming judgment on Israel, and cleanses the temple, challenging the religious leaders. These chapters reveal Jesus' willingness to confront wrongdoing and his authority as the promised Messiah. Through parables and teachings, he emphasizes the importance of sincerity, humility, and genuine faith.

QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus do when he entered the temple in Jerusalem?

What did the cursed fig tree symbolize?

How did Jesus respond to the religious leaders questioning his authority?

What parable did Jesus tell in Chapter 12, and who was it directed at?

How did Jesus answer the question about paying taxes to Caesar?

What does Jesus say is the most important commandment?

REFLECTION:

Why is it significant that Jesus directly confronted the issues in the temple instead of staying silent?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you stand up for what is right in your school or community, even if it's difficult?



MARK 13

Our teacher, John Mathews, tackles Mark Chapter 13 with the theme "Apocalypse," focusing on eschatology, the study of the end times, and the return of Christ. Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple and speaks about the signs of the end times, including false prophets, wars, natural disasters, and persecution. He emphasizes the need for vigilance and readiness for his return, assuring his disciples that no one knows the day or hour. The chapter ends with an exhortation to "Stay awake," stressing the importance of being prepared for the unexpected moment of Christ's second coming.

QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus say about the temple in Jerusalem?

What signs did Jesus say would precede the end times?

What did Jesus say about those who claim to be the Messiah?

How did Jesus describe his return?

What parable did Jesus use to explain the need for watchfulness?

What assurance does Jesus give about his words?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think it's important for Jesus to warn us about being led astray by false prophets and false Messiahs?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you apply the lesson of staying alert and prepared in your own life, especially when facing challenges?



MARK 14

Our teacher, John Mathews, delves into Mark Chapter 14 with the theme "Take This Cup from Me." In this chapter, Jesus faces betrayal by Judas, the Last Supper with his disciples, and his agonizing prayer at Gethsemane. He confronts the reality of his impending crucifixion and asks God to remove the cup of suffering yet submits to God's will. The chapter highlights the loyalty and betrayal Jesus experiences and foreshadows his ultimate sacrifice for humanity.

QUESTIONS:

How did the religious leaders plan to arrest Jesus?

What did the woman do for Jesus at Simon the leper's house?

What significant event happened during the Last Supper?

What was Jesus' emotional state in the Garden of Gethsemane?

How did Jesus respond when Judas betrayed him?

What did Peter do while Jesus was on trial?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to know about Jesus' humanity and his experience of suffering?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What can you do to remain faithful and supportive to your friends during their tough times, unlike the disciples who fell asleep?



MARK 15 – 16

Our teacher, John Mathews, concludes our study with Mark Chapters 15 and 16, exploring the theme "From a Cross to a Crown." Jesus undergoes trial, crucifixion, and burial, enduring the ultimate sacrifice for humanity's sins. Despite the despair of his crucifixion and the seeming triumph of darkness, the story turns to hope with the resurrection. Jesus' victory over death is revealed, and his followers are commissioned to spread the Gospel to the world, marking the transition from suffering on a cross to reigning with a crown.

QUESTIONS:

Who did Jesus appear before after being arrested?

What did Pilate offer the people and whom did they choose to release?

How was Jesus treated before his crucifixion?

What significant event happened when Jesus died?

Who found Jesus' tomb empty?

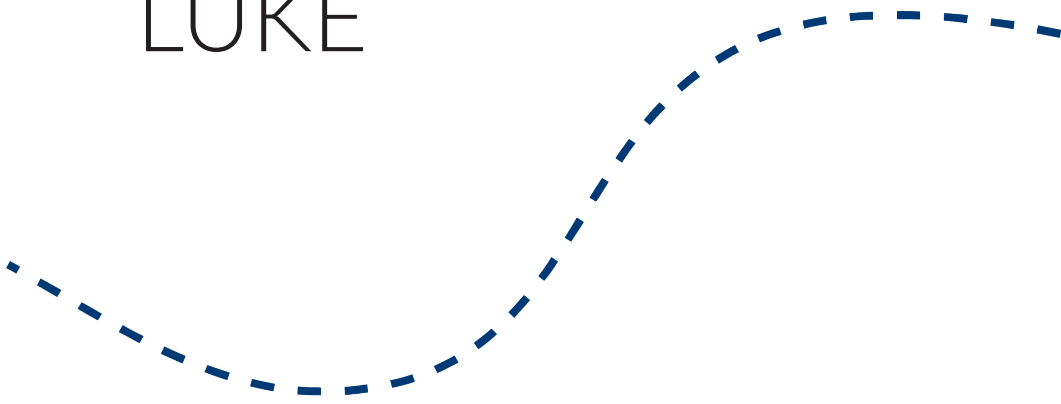
What was Jesus' message to his disciples after his resurrection?

REFLECTION:

Why is the resurrection of Jesus such a pivotal event in Christianity?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you share the message of Jesus' love and sacrifice with those around you?

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LUKE

*Answers to the questions in this study guide
may be found beginning on page 103.*

LUKE 1

Today's study from Luke 1 introduces the miraculous events leading to the birth of Jesus Christ. Our teacher, John Mathews, emphasizes the importance of recognizing our need for a saviour to fully appreciate the birth of Jesus. Luke, a meticulous historian and physician, provides a detailed account of the events, interviewing eyewitnesses to ensure accuracy. He writes to Theophilus, and by extension all lovers of God, to affirm the truth about Jesus. The chapter recounts the angelic announcements to Zechariah about the birth of John the Baptist, who will prepare the way for the Messiah, and to Mary about the birth of Jesus. Both births are miraculous: Elizabeth conceives John in old age, and Mary conceives Jesus as a virgin. Mary's reaction to the angel's message is one of humble acceptance, and her song, the Magnificat, praises God's mercy and faithfulness. The chapter concludes with the birth of John the Baptist and Zechariah's prophecy about his son's role in God's plan of salvation.

QUESTIONS:

Who was Luke, and why is his account of Jesus' life considered reliable?

What is the significance of the name "Theophilus" in Luke's Gospel?

How does the birth of John the Baptist fulfill Old Testament prophecy?

Why was Mary chosen to be the mother of Jesus, according to Luke 1?

What does Mary's song, the Magnificat, express about her understanding of God?

What role does John the Baptist play in the story of Jesus' coming, as described in Luke 1?

REFLECTION:

How might recognizing our own need for a saviour change the way we think about Jesus' birth and life?

LUKE 2

In Luke 2, we explore the theme "Child of Wonder" as we witness the humble birth of Jesus, who is introduced as the Savior of the world. Caesar Augustus' decree for a census brings Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem, fulfilling prophecy. Jesus is born in a stable and laid in a manger. Shepherds in the field are greeted by angels announcing Jesus' birth, and they visit the newborn, sharing the news. Simeon, a devout man in the temple, acknowledges Jesus as the Messiah, and Anna, a prophetess, gives thanks for the child. The chapter also briefly touches on Jesus' childhood, where at 12 he impresses scholars in the temple with his understanding. Despite the confusions and challenges, Jesus grows in wisdom and favour with both God and people.

QUESTIONS:

What event led to Jesus being born in Bethlehem?

How did the shepherds learn about Jesus' birth?

Who was Simeon, and what was his prophecy about Jesus?

What does the story of Jesus at the temple at age 12 reveal about him?

What were the rituals that Jesus underwent according to Jewish law?

Who was Anna, and what was her reaction to seeing Jesus?

REFLECTION:

Consider the significance of Jesus' humble birth and the heavenly announcement. How does this contrast with what the world often values?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you make room in your heart and life for Jesus, especially during times when you might feel too busy or distracted?

LUKE 3 – 4

In Luke Chapters 3 and 4, we learn about the dual nature of Jesus as both divine and human. The chapters begin with John the Baptist preaching repentance and preparing the way for Jesus, emphasizing the need for genuine spiritual transformation rather than reliance on heritage or empty rituals. Jesus' baptism is a significant event in which he identifies with humanity and begins his ministry. God's voice from heaven confirms Jesus' divine sonship. Luke includes a genealogy tracing Jesus' lineage back to Adam, highlighting his humanity. The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness illustrates his human vulnerability to temptation, yet his divine nature prevails as he resists Satan's enticements. The themes explored include the humanity and divinity of Jesus, repentance, and the power of resisting temptation.

QUESTIONS:

Why was John the Baptist calling people to repentance?

What did John the Baptist say to those who relied on their lineage to Abraham for salvation?

What were some of the specific instructions John the Baptist gave to different groups of people?

Why was it significant that Jesus was baptized?

What does the genealogy in Luke Chapter 3 signify?

How did Jesus respond to the temptations in the wilderness?

REFLECTION:

Think about the times you have faced temptation. How can Jesus' example of resisting temptation in the wilderness help you deal with your own struggles?

LUKE 4 – 5

Our teacher, John Mathews, discusses the theme "The Jesus I Never Knew" in Luke Chapters 4 and 5, highlighting the various responses to Jesus during his ministry. Despite Jesus' miracles and authoritative teaching, many people in his hometown rejected him, unable to accept his role as the Messiah foretold by Isaiah. Jesus' miracles, such as casting out demons, healing the sick, and forgiving sins, demonstrate both his compassion and divine authority. Furthermore, the calling of his disciples illustrates the complete commitment required to follow him. Through these passages, we see the contrast between people's limited understanding of Jesus and his true identity as the Son of God, the Savior.

QUESTIONS:

What message did Jesus proclaim in the synagogue at Nazareth?

Why did the people in the synagogue reject Jesus?

What authority did Jesus demonstrate in Capernaum?

How did Jesus respond to the man covered in leprosy?

What lesson does the calling of Simon Peter teach us?

What does the parable of the new and old wineskins represent?

REFLECTION:

Have you ever had an experience where you realized you were wrong about someone? How did that change your perception and relationship with that person?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What are some ways you can deepen your understanding of who Jesus is, beyond what you've heard from others or assumed yourself?

LUKE 6

Our teacher, John Mathews, discusses how Jesus demonstrates he is the "Lord of the Sabbath" in Luke Chapter 6. Jesus challenges the Pharisees' strict Sabbath rules, emphasizing that the Sabbath was made to benefit people, not to burden them. He also appoints ordinary men as his apostles, highlighting that God's kingdom is not about status but about the heart. Jesus delivers teachings that turn worldly values upside down, such as loving enemies and giving without expecting anything in return. The chapter ends with the message that hearing Jesus' words isn't enough; we must also put them into practice.

QUESTIONS:

What did Jesus and his disciples do that the Pharisees considered breaking the Sabbath?

How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees when they questioned his actions on the Sabbath?

What miracle did Jesus perform on another Sabbath, and what was the reaction?

Who did Jesus appoint as apostles?

What does Jesus say about loving enemies and doing good to those who hate us?

What does Jesus mean by the parable of the wise and foolish builders?

REFLECTION:

Have you ever seen someone do something you thought was wrong, only to realize later that you misunderstood the situation? How did that affect your willingness to judge others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

In what ways can you practice being less judgmental and more forgiving toward others, especially those who may have different beliefs or lifestyles than you?

LUKE 7

Our teacher, John Mathews, discusses the theme "Prejudice and Discrimination" in Luke Chapter 7, where Jesus interacts with various individuals who were typically marginalized in society. The chapter begins with a Roman centurion displaying remarkable faith, leading to Jesus healing his servant from afar. Jesus also raises a widow's son from the dead, showcasing his compassion and power over death. John the Baptist, facing doubts while in prison, sends messengers to Jesus, who affirms his messianic role through miracles and teachings. Lastly, a woman considered a sinner anoints Jesus' feet, demonstrating her deep repentance and love, and Jesus forgives her sins, illustrating that faith and humility are what matter to God, not social status or past mistakes.

QUESTIONS:

Who was the centurion, and what did he ask of Jesus?

How did Jesus respond to the centurion's request?

What miracle did Jesus perform in the town of Nain?

What message did Jesus send back to John the Baptist?

Who anointed Jesus' feet, and what was Jesus' message to her?

What does Jesus' interaction with the centurion and the anointing woman teach us about prejudice and discrimination?

REFLECTION:

Think about a time when you felt judged by others. How did it make you feel, and how did you wish they had treated you instead?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you show kindness and acceptance to someone who might feel left out or judged because of their background or circumstances?

LUKE 8

Our teacher, John Mathews, highlights the power of Jesus' words in Luke Chapter 8. Jesus teaches the parable of the sower, emphasizing the importance of a receptive heart for God's Word to take root and bear fruit. He stresses that those who truly belong to his family are those who hear and act on God's Word. As Jesus travels, he demonstrates his authority over nature by calming a storm, over evil by casting out demons, and even over death, as seen in the healing of a woman with an issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter. These events illustrate that faith, combined with Jesus' words, can lead to miraculous outcomes.

QUESTIONS:

Who were the women mentioned at the beginning of Luke Chapter 8?

What is the meaning of the parable of the sower?

How does Jesus describe the importance of God's Word using the metaphor of a lampstand?

What miracle occurs during a storm on the lake?

Who is healed by touching Jesus' garment, and what does Jesus say to her?

What happens to Jairus' daughter, and how does Jesus respond?

REFLECTION:

Can you think of a time when you were worried or afraid, and someone's words helped you feel calm and reassured?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you make sure that your heart is like good soil, ready to receive and act on God's Word?

LUKE 9

In Luke chapter 9, our teacher, John Mathews, guides us through the multifaceted nature of Jesus Christ -- his divinity, his humanity, and his mission. We witness Jesus empowering his disciples to preach and perform miracles, feeding 5,000 with just five loaves and two fish, and revealing his divine glory in the Transfiguration. Jesus' identity is confirmed as the Messiah, foretold by prophets, who would suffer, die, and rise again for humanity's redemption. Despite the clear demonstrations of his divine power and the affirmation from God himself, many still fail to comprehend who Jesus truly is.

QUESTIONS:

What power did Jesus give to his disciples?

What miracle did Jesus perform with five loaves and two fish?

How did Peter describe Jesus when asked by him?

What does the Transfiguration reveal about Jesus?

Why did Jesus rebuke James and John in the Samaritan village?

What was Jesus' message about discipleship at the end of the chapter?

REFLECTION

Consider how the various events in Luke Chapter 9 -- such as the feeding of the 5,000, the Transfiguration, and Jesus' teachings on discipleship -- show different aspects of who Jesus is. What do these events tell us about his character and mission?

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Think about what it means to truly follow Jesus in your daily life. How can you apply his teachings on discipleship and prioritize the kingdom of God in your own actions and decisions?

LUKE 10

Today's theme on Mission 66, presented by our host, John Mathews, is "An Urgent Mission, With Surprising Results." Jesus sends out 72 disciples to spread his message, emphasizing the urgency of their mission and the importance of prayer. He warns of rejection but assures them of divine authority. The chapter features the parable of the Good Samaritan, teaching us to embody compassion and mercy, and the story of Martha and Mary, highlighting the need to prioritize fellowship with Jesus over daily tasks.

QUESTIONS:

What were the disciples instructed to do on their mission?

How should disciples respond if a town rejects them?

What happens to the towns that reject Jesus and his disciples?

What did the returning disciples report to Jesus?

What is the main lesson from the parable of the Good Samaritan?

What does Jesus say is "the good portion" that Mary has chosen?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on the idea of being a neighbor. What does the parable of the Good Samaritan teach us about who our neighbor is and how we should treat them?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you show compassion to those around you, even if they are different from you or have different beliefs?

LUKE 11

The theme for the day centers on the contrast between joyless religious practice and the vibrant faith Jesus offers. The chapter highlights the importance of prayer, persistence in faith, and the dangers of a superficial religious life. Jesus taught the Lord's Prayer as a model for approaching God with reverence, seeking his will, and acknowledging daily dependence on him for provision and forgiveness. He emphasized persistent prayer, illustrating that God is willing and able to give good gifts, unlike the Pharisees' legalistic and burdensome religion. The chapter also warns against spiritual complacency, encouraging a full commitment to Christ and a life reflective of God's light and wisdom.

QUESTIONS:

What is the Lord's Prayer, and what does it represent?

Why should we be persistent in prayer?

Who is Beelzebul, according to the conversation?

What does Jesus say about the importance of inner purity?

What is the significance of the sign of Jonah mentioned by Jesus?

How does Jesus describe those who are not with him?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think some people might prefer rigid religious rules over a relationship with God based on faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you incorporate the Lord's Prayer into your daily life in a way that reflects a sincere faith rather than just a religious routine?

LUKE 12

In Luke Chapter 12, Jesus presents critical teachings to guide his followers through life's unknown path, emphasizing readiness and spiritual vigilance. The chapter focuses on the dangers of hypocrisy, the misplaced fear of man, the peril of greed, the futility of worry, and the importance of acknowledging Christ before others. Jesus stresses that true riches are not material but are accumulated in heaven through acts of service and generosity. He assures that God values us more than we can imagine and will provide for our needs if we seek his kingdom first. The chapter concludes with a call to be alert and prepared for Christ's return, avoiding complacency or mistreatment of others. Ultimately, our lives should reflect a balance between responsible living and absolute trust in God's provision.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus warn against in Luke 12:1-3?

How does Luke 12:4-7 encourage believers facing persecution?

What is the consequence of acknowledging or denying Christ according to Luke 12:8-9?

What does the parable of the rich fool in Luke 12:16-21 teach us about possessions?

What does Jesus teach about worry and God's provision in Luke 12:22-31?

What is the final signpost mentioned, and how should we respond to it?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think Jesus places such importance on being prepared for his return?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you start laying up treasures in heaven in your daily life, and what might be a step you can take to trust God more with your needs?

LUKE 13 – 14

In Luke chapters 13 and 14, Jesus discusses themes of repentance, the kingdom of God, and the cost of discipleship. He addresses the common misconception that those who suffer are greater sinners, emphasizing that all need to repent. Jesus tells a parable about a barren fig tree, symbolizing God's patience and expectation for us to bear spiritual fruit. He heals on the Sabbath, challenging the legalistic mindset of the religious leaders. The kingdom of God is described as something that starts small, like a mustard seed or yeast, but grows significantly. Jesus warns about the narrow door to salvation and the reality that not all will enter. He also speaks about the sacrifice required to follow him, using the metaphor of salt to illustrate the influence and preservation Christians should provide in the world.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus imply about those who suffer tragedies in Luke 13:1-5?

What lesson does the parable of the barren fig tree teach in Luke 13:6-9?

How does Jesus confront the religious leaders in Luke 13:10-17?

What does the mustard seed and yeast represent in Luke 13:18-21?

What does Jesus mean by the "narrow door" in Luke 13:24-30?

What does it mean to "count the cost" of discipleship in Luke 14:25-35?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important to understand the true cost of following Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What's one change you can make in your life to better reflect Jesus' teachings on discipleship?

LUKE 15

Today on Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, dive into Luke 15, where Jesus tells three parables highlighting the theme "Lost and Found." The chapter illustrates the joy of recovering what's precious and lost -- whether it's a sheep, a coin, or a wayward son. The parable of the Prodigal Son is emphasized, raising questions about who the true prodigal is: the reckless younger son or the self-righteous older brother. Both sons are flawed in different ways, reflecting our own tendencies to stray from or misunderstand God's grace. The father's unconditional love and the joyful celebration over the repentant sinner teach us about God's welcoming heart toward those who return to him.

QUESTIONS:

What are the three parables mentioned in Luke 15?

Who were attracted to Jesus' teachings, according to the chapter?

What do the Pharisees and scribes do when Jesus welcomes sinners?

How does the younger son end up after squandering his inheritance?

How does the father react when the prodigal son returns?

What is the older brother's reaction to the celebration for his younger sibling?

REFLECTION:

Consider how the father in the parable shows love and grace. How does this reflect God's attitude toward us when we repent?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever felt like the prodigal son or the older brother? Reflect on a time when you may have strayed or felt self-righteous and how you were welcomed back or learned to celebrate others' return to God.

LUKE 16

In Luke 16, discussed on Mission 66 by Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, Jesus addresses the complex relationship between earthly pursuits and spiritual priorities. The chapter begins with the parable of the dishonest manager, illustrating shrewdness in worldly matters, and transitions to discussing the proper use of wealth in serving God. The stark contrast between the eternal fates of the rich man and Lazarus demonstrates the consequences of one's actions and attitudes toward wealth and compassion in this life. Jesus emphasizes the impossibility of serving both God and money, urging a commitment to God's kingdom over temporal gains.

QUESTIONS:

What parable starts off Luke 16, and what is its main character known for?

How does Jesus describe the way worldly-minded men conduct business compared to the children of light?

What does Jesus say about being faithful with wealth?

Can you serve both God and money?

What happens to the rich man and Lazarus after they die?

How does the rich man view his past life and his brothers' futures?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think Jesus focused on the use of wealth and serving God in this chapter?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Consider your own priorities. Are there areas in your life where you're more focused on material wealth than on spiritual growth?

LUKE 17

On Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, explore Luke 17, where Jesus discusses the nature of faith and the kingdom of God. Faith, Jesus teaches, is like a muscle that grows with use and is manifested through actions, not just feelings or agreement with doctrines. The chapter warns against leading others into sin and emphasizes the necessity of forgiveness. Jesus also speaks about the final days, comparing them to the times of Noah and Lot -- people will be going about their daily lives, unaware of the impending judgment. The kingdom of God is both a present spiritual reality and a future physical reign, visible through the eyes of faith.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus say about causing others to sin?

How many times should we forgive someone who repents?

What can faith the size of a mustard seed do?

Why should lepers show themselves to the priests after being healed?

What will the second coming of Jesus be like?

What did Jesus mean when he said, "Where the corpse is, there the vultures will gather"?

REFLECTION:

Think about what it means to have faith as small as a mustard seed. How can such small faith have a big impact?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Is there someone you need to forgive, or do you need to seek forgiveness from someone? How can you apply Jesus' teachings on forgiveness to your life?

LUKE 18

In Luke 18, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, explore the parables and teachings of Jesus that underscore the need for humility, persistence in prayer, and complete devotion to the kingdom of God. Jesus contrasts the self-righteous Pharisee with the penitent tax collector, showing that God honours a humble heart. He also emphasizes the importance of approaching the kingdom of God with the innocence and openness of a child. Furthermore, Jesus challenges a wealthy ruler to prioritize the kingdom over his riches, illustrating the difficulty for those attached to wealth to fully commit to God's ways. The chapter closes with the healing of a blind man, underlining the transformative power of faith and following Jesus.

QUESTIONS:

What should we learn from the parable of the persistent widow?

In the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, who went home justified?

According to Jesus, how should we receive the kingdom of God?

What did Jesus tell the rich ruler to do to inherit eternal life?

How hard is it for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God?

What does Jesus' healing of the blind man signify?

REFLECTION:

Consider the impact of humility in your relationship with God. Why do you think Jesus values a humble heart?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Is there something you value more than your relationship with God? What can you do to ensure God is your number one priority?

LUKE 19

Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, discuss Luke 19 on Mission 66, focusing on the concept of "Long-term Investment" in the kingdom of God. The chapter recounts the story of Zacchaeus, a wealthy tax collector whose encounter with Jesus leads to repentance and restitution. Jesus teaches the parable of the minas, emphasizing the responsibility to wisely invest what God has given us. He also prophesies the destruction of Jerusalem and cleanses the temple, underscoring the consequences of rejecting His message. The chapter concludes with Jesus' lament over Jerusalem and a reminder of the ultimate judgment for those who do not heed his call.

QUESTIONS:

What does Zacchaeus do after meeting Jesus?

What is the lesson of the parable of the minas?

How did Jesus respond to the Pharisees who criticized the joy of his disciples?

Why did Jesus weep over Jerusalem?

What did Jesus do when he entered the temple?

What does Jesus expect from us in terms of using our gifts?

REFLECTION:

Why do you think it was important for Zacchaeus to show his repentance through actions?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Think about the talents and gifts you have. How can you use them to invest in the kingdom of God?

LUKE 20

Luke 20, explored by Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, on Mission 66, highlights Jesus' teachings during his final days in Jerusalem. The chapter begins with religious leaders questioning Jesus' authority, leading to a parable about tenants who reject the vineyard owner's son, symbolizing Israel's rejection of God's messengers and Christ Himself. Jesus also skillfully navigates a trap about paying taxes, underscoring the need to honour earthly rulers while prioritizing our duty to God. Furthermore, he affirms the resurrection in response to the Sadducees' challenge, emphasizing eternal life. Lastly, Jesus condemns the hypocrisy of the scribes, warning of greater judgment for those who are pretentious in their faith.

QUESTIONS:

Why do the religious leaders question Jesus' authority?

What is the meaning of the parable of the wicked tenants?

How does Jesus respond to the question about paying taxes to Caesar?

What does Jesus teach about the resurrection?

Why does Jesus criticize the scribes?

How does Jesus illustrate that there is no remedy for unbelief?

REFLECTION:

How does the parable of the wicked tenants illustrate the consequences of rejecting God's message?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Consider your own response to authority. Are there ways you need to show more respect or obedience to those in charge, whether it's at school, home, or elsewhere?

LUKE 21

In Luke 21, explored on Mission 66 by Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, Jesus foretells the destruction of the temple and gives a vivid account of the signs that will precede his second coming. He warns of false prophets, wars, natural disasters, and persecution, urging his followers to remain steadfast. Jesus encourages vigilance and perseverance, assuring that endurance will lead to salvation. He also emphasizes the certainty of his words and the transient nature of earthly life. The chapter concludes with an exhortation to remain alert and prayerful as the end times approach.

QUESTIONS:

What significant event does Jesus predict in Luke 21?

What signs does Jesus say will happen before the end?

How should we respond when we face persecution for our faith?

What does Jesus say about the future of Jerusalem?

How are we to live in light of the end times?

What parable does Jesus use to illustrate the need to be watchful?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important for us to be alert and prepared for the end times, according to Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you practice being more alert and prayerful in your daily life to be ready for Jesus' return?

LUKE 22 – 23

On Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, guide us through Luke Chapters 22 and 23, discussing the theme "Death Sentence for the Lord of Life." These chapters cover the heart-wrenching moments leading up to Jesus' crucifixion. The narrative includes Jesus' final Passover meal, his agonizing prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, betrayal by Judas, Peter's denial, Jesus' trials before the Sanhedrin, Pilate, and Herod, and his ultimate crucifixion. Throughout these events, Jesus' selfless love and the fulfillment of his mission to provide salvation for humanity are vividly portrayed.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus ask the disciples to pray for in the Garden of Gethsemane?

How does Jesus respond to Peter's denial?

What does Pilate conclude about Jesus after examining Him?

Who helps carry Jesus' cross, and what does this symbolize?

What miraculous event occurs at the moment of Jesus' death?

Who takes responsibility for Jesus' burial?

REFLECTION:

Why is it significant that Jesus asked for the Father's will to be done, rather than to be spared from suffering?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose between standing up for your beliefs or going along with the crowd? How did you respond, and what would you do differently now?

LUKE 24

On Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, delve into Luke 24, where we witness the transformative event of Jesus' resurrection, marking the theme "Life Born From Death." The chapter recounts the visit of the women to Jesus' tomb, where they find it empty and are greeted by angels who announce His resurrection. The risen Jesus appears to two disciples on the road to Emmaus and later to the apostles, demonstrating His physical presence and opening their understanding of the Scriptures. The chapter culminates with Jesus' ascension into heaven, leaving His disciples with a message of hope and a call to spread the good news to all nations.

QUESTIONS:

Who first discovers the empty tomb of Jesus?

What do the angels tell the women at the tomb?

How does Jesus reveal Himself to the disciples on the road to Emmaus?

What proof does Jesus offer to show that He is not a spirit?

What does Jesus say about the necessity of His suffering and resurrection?

Where does Jesus ascend to heaven, and how do the disciples respond?

REFLECTION:

Consider the significance of Jesus appearing to His disciples after His resurrection. What does this tell us about the power of Jesus and His teachings?

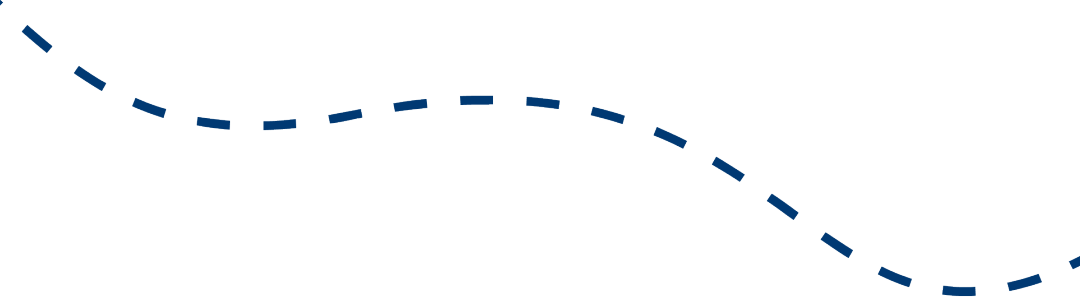
PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Can you think of a time when you doubted something important? How can the story of Jesus' resurrection encourage you to have faith even when you're uncertain?



JOHN

*Answers to the questions in this study guide
may be found beginning on page 112.*



JOHN 1

On Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, embark on the study of the Gospel of John, beginning with Chapter 1. This chapter presents Jesus Christ as the pre-existent Word, the Creator, the source of life, and the Light of the world. John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus and his divine identity is highlighted. The chapter unfolds the calling of the first disciples who recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. John's Gospel emphasizes that Jesus is God incarnate, the one who reveals the Father to humanity, offering the right to become children of God to those who believe in him.

QUESTIONS:

How is Jesus described in the beginning of John 1?

What was John the Baptist's role in relation to Jesus?

Who are the first disciples mentioned in John 1?

What do we learn about Jesus from his interaction with Nathanael?

How does John the Baptist identify Jesus to others?

What does it mean to be born of God according to John 1?

REFLECTION:

Why is it important that Jesus is both fully God and fully man according to the Gospel of John?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you follow the example of the first disciples in recognizing who Jesus is and sharing that with others?

JOHN 2

In John Chapter 2, we explore two main events: the transformation of water into wine at the wedding at Cana and Jesus cleansing the temple. At the wedding, Jesus performs his first miracle, turning water into wine, symbolizing the joy and newness of the New Covenant. The miracle demonstrates Jesus' divine authority and foreshadows the change from Old Covenant rituals to the New Covenant of grace. Following this, Jesus' actions in the temple reveal his zeal for his Father's house and his authority over religious practices. He drives out the merchants and money changers, challenging the status quo and pointing to his own body as the true temple that will be raised in three days. These events collectively speak to the theme of transformation and renewal that Jesus brings.

QUESTIONS:

Where did the wedding Jesus attended take place?

Why was running out of wine at the wedding a significant issue?

What was the significance of Jesus' response to his mother, "My hour has not yet come"?

How much water did Jesus turn into wine?

What did Jesus do when he visited the temple in Jerusalem?

What did Jesus mean when he said, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up"?

REFLECTION:

Consider how Jesus approaches tradition and authority. What can we learn from his actions at the wedding and in the temple about change and the importance of intention in our practices?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Think about a time when you faced a challenging situation. How can you apply the lesson of trusting God's timing and seeking his guidance before acting?

JOHN 3

John Chapter 3 delves into the profound conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, in which Jesus explains the concept of being "born again" as a spiritual rebirth, not as reincarnation. This chapter highlights the distinction between physical birth and spiritual rebirth. Spiritual rebirth involves a transformative experience through faith in Jesus Christ, which leads to eternal life. It is about being cleansed and renewed by the Spirit. John the Baptist's humility and recognition of Jesus' supremacy further illustrate the chapter's themes of spiritual transformation and the necessity of decreasing oneself so that Christ may increase. This chapter challenges readers to consider the nature of salvation and the role of faith in achieving eternal life.

QUESTIONS:

Who was Nicodemus and why did he visit Jesus at night?

What does being "born again" mean, according to Jesus?

How does Jesus describe the process of being born of the Spirit?

What does John 3:16 say about God's love and the gift of eternal life?

How does John the Baptist describe his relationship with Jesus?

What does Jesus say must happen to the Son of Man, and why?

REFLECTION:

Think about the concept of being "born again." What does it mean to you, and how does this idea change your understanding of life and faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever felt like you needed a fresh start or a new beginning? How can Jesus' teaching about being "born again" inspire you to make positive changes in your life?

JOHN 4

John Chapter 4 presents the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, highlighting themes of overcoming social barriers, the living water of eternal life, and the universal need for spiritual fulfillment. Jesus, aware of the woman's past and current life, offers her "living water," symbolizing the eternal life that comes from belief in him. This chapter illustrates that Jesus' message is for everyone, regardless of their background, and emphasizes the importance of worshipping God in spirit and truth. The woman's transformation from an outcast to a messenger of Christ to her community demonstrates the power of Jesus' love and message. The chapter also touches on the roles of sowing and reaping in the spiritual harvest, emphasizing that all believers have a part to play in spreading the Gospel.

QUESTIONS:

Why did Jesus pass through Samaria?

What is the "living water" that Jesus offered the Samaritan woman?

What did Jesus reveal about the Samaritan woman's personal life?

How did Jesus define true worship?

What was the reaction of the Samaritans to the woman's testimony about Jesus?

What other miracle did Jesus perform in this chapter?

REFLECTION:

How does Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman challenge our own perceptions and prejudices about others?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever felt like an outsider or judged by others? How can Jesus' example of reaching out to the Samaritan woman inspire you to extend kindness and acceptance to those who are different from you?

JOHN 5

In John Chapter 5, we explore Jesus' healing of a man at the Pool of Bethesda and his subsequent discourse on his divine authority and relationship with God the Father. This chapter begins with Jesus performing a miracle on the Sabbath, healing a man who had been invalid for 38 years, which incites controversy among the Jewish leaders. Jesus' response to the Pharisees' criticism reveals deep theological truths about his identity: He is the Son of God, working in unison with his Father. Jesus further claims the authority to give life and to judge, emphasizing that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. The chapter concludes with Jesus explaining that his works, along with the testimony of John the Baptist, the Scriptures, and God himself, confirm his divine mission.

QUESTIONS:

Where did Jesus heal the invalid man?

What was Jesus' question to the invalid man at the pool, and why is it significant?

What was the Pharisees' reaction to the healing on the Sabbath?

How does Jesus describe his relationship with the Father?

What authority has the Father given to the Son?

Who does Jesus say has borne witness about him?

REFLECTION:

Consider how Jesus' actions and words challenge traditional views and religious legalism. What can we learn from his example about living a life of faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever been so focused on following rules that you missed an opportunity to show compassion or to understand a deeper truth? What can you do to balance respecting guidelines with being open to God's work?

JOHN 6

John Chapter 6 recounts two of Jesus' miraculous signs: the feeding of the 5,000 and his walking on water, both demonstrating his divine authority. The chapter goes on to detail Jesus' profound teaching about being the Bread of Life, emphasizing the spiritual sustenance he provides, which is essential for eternal life. Jesus clarifies that belief in him is the work that God desires and that he alone can satisfy the deepest hungers of the human soul. Despite the miraculous signs, many find Jesus' teachings difficult to accept, leading to a turning point where some of his followers leave, unable to commit to his challenging message. The chapter concludes with Peter's confession of faith, recognizing Jesus as the Holy One of God, contrasting the belief of the faithful with the unbelief of others.

QUESTIONS:

What two miracles did Jesus perform in John Chapter 6?

What does Jesus say about the work of God that people must do?

Why did Jesus say he was the "Bread of Life"?

What was the reaction of the crowd to Jesus' teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood?

How did Jesus respond when many disciples turned back and no longer followed him?

Who does Peter confess Jesus to be at the end of the chapter?

REFLECTION:

Think about what it means to seek Jesus for who he is rather than for the benefits he can provide. How does this affect your approach to faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever been hungry for something more meaningful in your life? How can Jesus, as the Bread of Life, fulfill that hunger and guide you to a more purposeful existence?

JOHN 7

John Chapter 7 features Jesus' participation in the Feast of Booths, highlighting the contrast between human expectations and divine timing. Jesus navigates through the scepticism of his brothers and the hostility of the Jewish leaders while affirming his obedience to the Father's will. At the feast, he teaches with authority, revealing his divine knowledge and the source of his teaching. Jesus declares himself the source of living water, promising the Holy Spirit to those who believe in him. The chapter showcases the division among the people about Jesus' identity, with some recognizing him as the Christ and others doubting. Jesus confronts the legalism of the Pharisees and invites all who thirst spiritually to come to him for fulfillment. The chapter concludes with a hint of belief from Nicodemus, who defends Jesus' right to a fair hearing.

QUESTIONS:

Why did Jesus say he wasn't going to the Feast of Booths publicly?

What is the significance of the Feast of Booths?

How did Jesus respond to the people's doubt about his teaching?

What did Jesus offer to those who were spiritually thirsty?

What division arose among the people about Jesus' identity?

How did Nicodemus stand up for Jesus among the Pharisees?

REFLECTION:

Consider the importance of seeking the truth from God, like Jesus did, instead of following human traditions and opinions. How can this guide your own decisions and actions?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever felt pressured to conform to others' expectations or to act on their timeline? How can you apply Jesus' example of following God's timing to your life?

JOHN 8

John Chapter 8 delves into the confrontation between Jesus and the Pharisees, illustrating the theme "Truth Sets Us Free." The chapter begins with the story of a woman caught in adultery, where Jesus challenges those without sin to cast the first stone, ultimately forgiving the woman and admonishing her to sin no more. Throughout the chapter, Jesus emphasizes his divine origin and mission, declaring himself the light of the world and asserting His unity with God the Father. He confronts the Pharisees' spiritual blindness and their bondage to sin, contrasting their lineage to Abraham with their lack of genuine faith. The chapter culminates with Jesus' bold proclamation of his eternal existence as he uses the divine name "I AM," inciting the Pharisees to attempt to stone him, but his time had not yet come.

QUESTIONS:

What event opens John Chapter 8, and how does Jesus respond to the situation?

What does Jesus declare about himself in this chapter?

How do the Pharisees challenge Jesus, and what is his reply?

What does Jesus mean when he says, "The truth will set you free"?

How does Jesus differentiate between the children of Abraham and the children of the devil?

Why did the Pharisees want to stone Jesus at the end of the chapter?

REFLECTION:

Consider the power of truth in your own life. How does understanding and living by the truth impact your freedom?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever faced a situation where standing up for the truth was difficult? How can Jesus' example in this chapter inspire you to uphold truth in your own life?

JOHN 9

John Chapter 9 tells the story of Jesus healing a man born blind, addressing the theme "Why Was I Born Like This?" The chapter opens with Jesus' disciples questioning whether the man's blindness was caused by sin, either his own or his parents'. Jesus clarifies that the man's blindness serves to demonstrate God's work. He then heals the man by making mud with saliva, placing it on his eyes, and instructing him to wash in the Pool of Siloam. The man's neighbors and the Pharisees are skeptical and interrogate him and his parents. Despite their disbelief, the man insists on his miraculous healing. The Pharisees, divided in their opinions, ultimately expel the healed man from the synagogue. Jesus finds the man afterward, and he professes faith in Jesus. The chapter concludes with Jesus teaching about spiritual blindness, indicating that those who are physically blind might see the truth, while those who think they see might be truly blind.

QUESTIONS:

Who does Jesus heal in John Chapter 9, and how does he do it?

What explanation does Jesus give for the man's blindness?

How do the Pharisees respond to the man's healing?

What does Jesus say about spiritual blindness?

How does the man respond to the Pharisees' skepticism about his healing?

What significant statement does Jesus make about his identity in this chapter?

REFLECTION:

Think about the times you've faced challenges or felt different. How can understanding that God works through our lives for his purposes change your perspective?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever had to stand firm in your beliefs when others doubted you? How can the healed man's courage inspire you in your own walk of faith?

JOHN 10

John Chapter 10 offers a profound metaphor of Jesus as the Good Shepherd who provides safety and salvation for his sheep. The chapter begins with Jesus contrasting himself with thieves and robbers, who harm the sheep, by asserting his role as the legitimate and caring shepherd. He explains that he is both the door that leads to salvation and the shepherd who lays down his life for the flock. This concept is juxtaposed with the hired hand, who abandons the sheep in danger. Jesus emphasizes that his sheep recognize his voice and follow him, and they are granted eternal life, with the assurance that no one can snatch them out of his hand. The chapter also addresses the division among the Jews regarding Jesus' identity and ends with many believing in him across the Jordan, where John the Baptist first baptized.

QUESTIONS:

How does Jesus describe himself in relation to the sheep?

What is the significance of Jesus being the door of the sheep?

Why does Jesus refer to himself as the Good Shepherd?

What promise does Jesus give about the eternal security of his followers?

How do the Pharisees react to Jesus' teaching in this chapter?

Where does Jesus go at the end of the chapter, and what is the people's response?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on the idea of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. How does this image affect your understanding of his care and protection?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever felt lost or in need of guidance? How can you trust Jesus, the Good Shepherd, to lead and protect you in your life?

JOHN 11

John Chapter 11 narrates the remarkable event of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, demonstrating his power over life and death. The chapter opens with Jesus receiving news of Lazarus' illness but deliberately waiting two more days before going to Bethany, revealing that God's timing often surpasses human understanding. Upon arrival, Jesus finds Lazarus has been in the tomb for four days. He comforts Martha and Mary, affirming that he is the resurrection and the life. Despite Martha's hesitation, Jesus calls Lazarus out of the tomb, showcasing a monumental miracle that astonishes many and leads them to believe in him. However, the event also heightens the Pharisees' resolve to eliminate Jesus, fearing the impact of his growing influence. This pivotal miracle sets the stage for the final events of Jesus' earthly ministry and echoes the promise of eternal life for believers.

QUESTIONS:

What significant miracle does Jesus perform in John Chapter 11?

How did Jesus respond to the initial news of Lazarus' illness?

What does Jesus tell Martha about the resurrection?

What was the reaction of the people to Lazarus' resurrection?

Why did the Pharisees decide to plot against Jesus after Lazarus' resurrection?

What does Jesus' miracle reveal about his identity and mission?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on the idea that Jesus has power over life and death. How does this understanding influence your view of challenges and the inevitability of death?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever experienced a situation that seemed hopeless? How can the story of Lazarus' resurrection encourage you to trust in Jesus' power and timing in your own life?

JOHN 12

Today's theme on Mission 66, led by Esther Sisulu and guided by our host, John Mathews, delves into "Who was Jesus?" as depicted in the Gospel of John, Chapter 12. The chapter reveals the misconceptions about Jesus' purpose, highlighting that he was not a political revolutionary, but the Messiah sent by God to die for sinners. John illustrates Jesus' divinity through miraculous signs, like raising Lazarus, and emphasizes the importance of believing in Jesus for eternal life. The chapter contrasts the devotion of Mary, who anointed Jesus, with the skepticism and betrayal of Judas. As Jesus approaches the end of his ministry, he emphasizes the transient nature of life on earth compared to eternity and prepares for his crucifixion, a sacrifice that will draw all people to himself and defeat the power of evil.

QUESTIONS:

What common mistake did people of Jesus' time make regarding his mission?

How did Mary of Bethany show her devotion to Jesus?

What was Judas Iscariot's reaction to Mary's act, and why?

What does Jesus mean when he says the poor will always be with you?

How does Jesus describe his impending death?

What does it mean to believe in Jesus for salvation?

REFLECTION:

Consider how you view Jesus in your own life. Is he merely a historical figure, or do you see him as your personal savior?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What is one way you can show devotion to Jesus in your daily life, similar to how Mary of Bethany showed her love and faith?

JOHN 13

Today on Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, delve into the Gospel of John, Chapter 13, which presents "A New Remedy" for spiritual sickness. As Jesus prepares for his crucifixion, He demonstrates an extraordinary act of humility by washing his disciples' feet, illustrating the profound nature of servanthood. The scene at the Last Supper shows Jesus' knowledge of Judas' impending betrayal and his commandment to love one another. Jesus' actions symbolize the cleansing from sin and the need for continual spiritual renewal. The chapter emphasizes the importance of humility, service, and love among believers as key to spiritual health and growth.

QUESTIONS:

Why was Peter initially resistant to Jesus washing his feet?

What does Jesus washing the disciples' feet symbolize?

Who betrayed Jesus, as predicted in John 13?

What is the "new commandment" Jesus gives?

How does Jesus' humility challenge our modern ideas of leadership?

Why is love considered a remedy for spiritual sickness?

REFLECTION:

Think about the last time you served someone else without expecting anything in return. How did it make you feel?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What is one way you can serve someone this week as an act of humility, following Jesus' example?

JOHN 14

On Mission 66 today, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, take us through John Chapter 14 with the theme "The Comforter Has Come!" As Jesus prepares his disciples for his departure, he offers comfort and the promise of the Holy Spirit. He assures them that in his Father's house are many rooms, and he goes to prepare a place for them. Jesus declares that he is the way, the truth, and the life, and that no one comes to the Father except through him. He emphasizes the unity between him and the Father, promising that those who believe will do greater works. The chapter underscores the coming of the Holy Spirit as a Helper who will be with believers forever, teaching and reminding them of Jesus' teachings. Jesus leaves his disciples with peace and encourages them not to be troubled or afraid.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus tell his disciples about the Father's house?

Who does Jesus say he is in relation to the Father?

What does Jesus promise those who believe in him will do?

Who is the "Helper" Jesus talks about?

What does Jesus leave with his disciples?

How does Jesus say we can show our love for him?

REFLECTION:

When you face tough times, how do you find peace and comfort?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What is one thing you can do this week to demonstrate your love for Jesus by following his commandments?

JOHN 15

On today's Mission 66, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, focus on John Chapter 15, discussing the theme "Abide in the Vine." Jesus teaches his disciples about the importance of remaining in him to bear fruit. He likens himself to a vine and his followers to branches, emphasizing that fruitfulness stems from a close relationship with him. Jesus explains that branches that don't produce fruit are cut off, and fruitful ones are pruned to grow even more. The passage underlines the necessity of abiding in Jesus' love and keeping his commandments. Jesus also prepares his disciples for the world's hatred, as it hated him first, and reassures them with the promise of the Holy Spirit's support. The chapter encourages believers to continue in their faith, despite challenges, and assures them of their chosen status by God.

QUESTIONS:

What metaphor does Jesus use to describe his relationship with his followers?

What happens to branches that don't bear fruit?

How can we "abide" in Jesus?

What is the greatest commandment Jesus gives in this chapter?

Why does the world hate the disciples, according to Jesus?

Who is the "Helper" Jesus promises to send?

REFLECTION:

How do you stay connected to Jesus in your daily life?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

What is one way you can show love to others this week, as Jesus commands us to love one another?

JOHN 16

In John Chapter 16, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, delve into the crucial role of the Holy Spirit. Jesus prepares his disciples for the hardships they will face, emphasizing that the Holy Spirit will guide them through persecution, tribulation, and everyday challenges. Christ's departure is necessary for the Comforter to come and empower believers. The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and is essential for true conversion and spiritual growth. Despite the world's opposition, the Spirit provides peace and the assurance of God's power over evil. The themes include the power of the Holy Spirit, persecution, comfort, conviction, and the interconnected roles within the Trinity.

QUESTIONS:

What is the main role of the Holy Spirit, according to John Chapter 16?

Why did Jesus say it was to the disciples' advantage that he goes away?

What three things will the Holy Spirit convict the world of?

How does the Holy Spirit help believers in times of trouble?

What was Jesus' assurance to the disciples regarding asking the Father in his name?

How does the Trinity work together, according to John Chapter 16?

REFLECTION:

How does the presence of the Holy Spirit change the way believers face challenges in life compared to those who do not have the Spirit?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

In what ways can you become more aware of the Holy Spirit's guidance and comfort in your daily life?

JOHN 17

In John Chapter 17, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, explore Jesus' prayer before his crucifixion. In what is known as the high priestly prayer, Jesus not only prays for the strength to endure his suffering but also for the sanctification and unity of his followers. He emphasizes the importance of being set apart for God's work and remaining protected from evil influences. Jesus prays for all believers to be one, mirroring the unity of the Father and the Son, to show the world God's love. The themes of glory, eternal life, sanctification, protection from evil, unity among believers, and the power of prayer are discussed.

QUESTIONS:

What does Jesus ask the Father for in his prayer regarding himself?

What is Jesus' definition of eternal life in his high priestly prayer?

What is the significance of Jesus praying not for the world, but for those given to him by the Father?

What does Jesus mean when he asks to sanctify his disciples in the truth?

What is Jesus' prayer for all future believers?

How does Jesus' prayer address unity among Christians?

REFLECTION:

What does Jesus' prayer teach us about the role and importance of unity among Christians?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Consider how you can live out Jesus' prayer for unity in your interactions with other Christians, even those who may practice their faith differently from you.

JOHN 18 – 19

Today on Mission 66, John Mathews explores the trial and crucifixion of Jesus Christ as detailed in John Chapters 18 and 19. Jesus, the Son of God, faced an unjust trial and was crucified despite being innocent. He was treated as a dangerous criminal and experienced a mock trial with no legal basis. The religious leaders of the time, the Pharisees, intended to have Jesus executed as an enemy of the state by falsely accusing him of seeking kingship. The trial displayed several injustices, including physical abuse during the trial, a lack of formal charges, and unreliable witnesses. Pilate, the Roman governor, recognized Jesus' innocence but ultimately yielded to the crowd's demands to crucify him, a punishment reserved for the most heinous criminals. This account serves as a profound example of the ultimate sacrifice and the miscarriage of justice. It offers comfort to those who have been treated unfairly by authorities, with Jesus' own suffering serving as an understanding and solidarity in their plight.

QUESTIONS:

Why was Jesus arrested, and what charges were brought against him?

How did Peter react when he was identified as a disciple of Jesus?

What was Pilate's initial verdict after questioning Jesus?

How did the religious leaders convince Pilate to crucify Jesus?

What did Jesus say before he died on the cross?

Who took care of Jesus' burial after his crucifixion?

REFLECTION:

Think about the times when you've witnessed or experienced injustice. How does the story of Jesus' trial and crucifixion influence your perspective on dealing with unfair situations?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

Have you ever been falsely accused or misunderstood? How can you apply the lessons from Jesus' experiences to your own life when facing such challenges?

JOHN 20

In John Chapter 20, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, delve into the pivotal event of Christianity: the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Mary Magdalene discovers the empty tomb and Jesus appears to her, the disciples, and especially to Thomas, who doubts until he sees Jesus himself. These eyewitness accounts and the disciples' transformative experiences provide compelling evidence of the truth of the resurrection. The chapter emphasizes the joy and amazement of Jesus' followers and reinforces the central message of the Gospel: belief in Jesus' death and resurrection brings eternal life.

QUESTIONS:

Who was the first to discover the empty tomb, and what did she do?

Why did the disciples not immediately understand what had happened when they saw the empty tomb?

What evidence convinced the disciples that Jesus had risen?

How did Jesus prove his resurrection to Thomas?

What is the significance of Jesus' resurrection, according to John Matthews?

What does Jesus mean when he tells his disciples, "As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you"?

REFLECTION:

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean for your own life and faith?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you, like the disciples, be a witness to the hope and life found in the resurrection of Jesus Christ?

JOHN 21

In John Chapter 21, Esther Sisulu and our host, John Mathews, focus on the restoration of Peter after his denial of Jesus. This chapter recounts Jesus appearing to his disciples by the Sea of Tiberias, where they return to fishing but catch nothing until Jesus instructs them. After a miraculous catch, Jesus has breakfast with them and asks Peter three times if he loves him, mirroring Peter's earlier denials. Each time Peter affirms his love, Jesus commissions him to take care of his followers. The theme of the day is "celebrating the recovery," highlighting Jesus' forgiveness and the re-establishment of Peter despite his previous failures.

QUESTIONS:

Who went fishing in John Chapter 21, and what happened?

How did the disciples realize that the man on the shore was Jesus?

What did Jesus do for his disciples on the shore?

Why did Jesus ask Peter three times if he loved him?

What command does Jesus give Peter after each affirmation of love?

What does Jesus tell Peter about his future?

REFLECTION:

Reflect on a time when you felt like you let Jesus down. How does Peter's restoration encourage you in your own relationship with Jesus?

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

How can you demonstrate love for Jesus in your daily actions, especially after moments of personal failure or doubt?

MATTHEW 1 | ANSWERS

The Gospel of Matthew is traditionally believed to have been written by Matthew, an apostle and tax collector.

The genealogy includes imperfect individuals to show that God's grace and plan of salvation work through all types of people, regardless of their past.

"Jesus Christ" means "Jesus the Savior" and "the Messiah," indicating that he is the anointed one sent to save his people from their sins.

Jesus is the legal son of Joseph, a descendant of David and Abraham, fulfilling the prophecies concerning the Messiah.

The virgin birth is important because it means Jesus was born without inheriting the sin of Adam, which is passed through the male lineage, and it fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14.

The Bible presents Mary not as someone of special merit, but as a recipient of God's grace and favor, chosen to bear the Messiah.

MATTHEW 2 | ANSWERS

The Magi were wise men, possibly from Persia, who studied the stars and were led by a miraculous star to find Jesus.

Herod felt threatened by Jesus' birth because he was a power-hungry ruler and saw the prophesied Messiah as a rival to his throne.

The star appeared in the sky and moved to guide the Magi to the exact location where Jesus was born.

The gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh symbolize Jesus' roles as a king, priest, and prophet.

The return from Egypt fulfills the prophecy from Hosea 11: "Out of Egypt I called my son," highlighting Jesus' role in God's redemptive plan.

"Nazarene" refers to Jesus being from Nazareth, a term that was not complimentary due to the town's poor reputation.

MATTHEW 3 | ANSWERS

John the Baptist was a prophet who prepared the way for Jesus, calling for repentance and baptizing people.

He called for repentance because the kingdom of heaven was near, and it was necessary for people to turn back to God.

John's clothing of camel's hair and diet of locusts and wild honey signified his separation from societal norms and dedication to God.

Jesus' baptism was an act to fulfill all righteousness and set an example for us, despite having no sins of his own to repent for.

It refers to the transformative power of God that Jesus would bring, contrasting with John's water baptism for repentance.

The heavens opened, the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and a voice from heaven declared Jesus as God's beloved Son.

MATTHEW 4 | ANSWERS

The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness.

Jesus uses Scripture to resist the devil's temptations.

The devil tempted Jesus to turn stones into bread to satisfy his hunger.

Jesus responds by saying, "It is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Jesus begins his ministry in the region of Galilee.

The first disciples Jesus called were Simon Peter and his brother Andrew, and then James and John, the sons of Zebedee.

MATTHEW 5 | ANSWERS

The Beatitudes are a list of blessings for those who exhibit certain godly qualities; they can be found at the beginning of Matthew Chapter 5.

Being "poor in spirit" refers to recognizing one's spiritual poverty and dependence on God's grace.

Jesus teaches that even being angry with someone is akin to murder in God's eyes.

Jesus instructs to love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, highlighting God's impartial kindness to all.

Jesus teaches that looking at someone with lustful intent is equivalent to committing adultery in the heart.

Jesus' followers are "salt of the earth" and "light of the world," meaning they are to preserve goodness and illuminate truth in a corrupt and darkened world.

MATTHEW 6 | ANSWERS

Jesus says to avoid practicing righteousness before others to be seen by them, as this will result in losing the reward from the Father in heaven.

Giving to the needy should be done in secret, for God, and not for public praise.

Jesus advises praying in private, focusing on a personal relationship with God, and avoiding vain repetitions.

The Lord's Prayer emphasizes honoring God's name, seeking his will, relying on him for daily provisions, and the necessity of forgiveness.

Jesus tells his followers not to worry about daily needs because God knows what they need and will provide, just as he does for the birds and flowers.

Jesus means that we should prioritize living according to God's will and pursuing a righteous life, trusting that our material needs will be met as a result.

MATTHEW 7 | ANSWERS

Jesus teaches that we should not judge others hypocritically and that we will be judged with the same measure we use on others.

Our giving should be done in secret, aiming to please God rather than seeking recognition from others.

The Golden Rule is to do to others as you would have them do to you.

Jesus warns that false prophets may appear righteous but are inwardly corrupt; we can recognize them by whether their actions produce good or bad fruit.

Jesus states that not everyone who calls him "Lord" will enter the kingdom

of heaven, only those who actually do the will of his Father.

Jesus compares those who hear and act on his words to a wise man who builds his house on the rock, which withstands storms, unlike the foolish man who builds on sand.

MATTHEW 8 AND 9 | ANSWERS

Jesus' first miracle in Matthew Chapter 8 was healing a leper.

The healing of the centurion's servant demonstrates that faith, even from an outsider, is recognized and rewarded by Jesus.

Jesus demonstrates his power over nature by calming a storm on the Sea of Galilee.

Jesus raises the synagogue leader's daughter from the dead to show his authority over life and death.

The healing of the woman with a bleeding issue signifies that faith in Jesus' power can lead to healing, regardless of the duration or severity of the issue.

Jesus concludes his teachings by showing compassion for the crowds and urging his disciples to pray for more workers to help with the spiritual harvest.

MATTHEW 10 | ANSWERS

Jesus names Simon Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot as his apostles.

Jesus gives his apostles the authority to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, and cast out demons.

Jesus tells his disciples that they will face both welcome and persecution, and that those who reject their message will face judgment.

Jesus describes discipleship as requiring a higher loyalty to him than to one's own family, and as taking up one's cross to follow him.

Jesus tells his disciples not to fear those who can kill the body but not the soul, and instead to fear God who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

The ultimate reward for faithful disciples is acknowledgment before the Father in heaven and the receipt of God's everlasting kingdom.

MATTHEW 11 AND 12 | ANSWERS

John the Baptist, facing doubt and hardship in prison, seeks confirmation from Jesus about his messianic role.

Jesus affirms his identity by listing the miracles he has performed, such as healing the blind and raising the dead, fulfilling messianic prophecies.

Jesus responds by highlighting the importance of mercy over sacrifice and asserts his authority as the Lord of the Sabbath.

Jesus warns that unbelief in the face of clear evidence of his power will lead to a harsher judgment than that of notorious sinners like the inhabitants of Sodom.

The unforgivable sin is attributing the work of the Holy Spirit to demonic powers, representing a hardened heart that continually resists God's truth.

Jesus teaches that true family in the kingdom of God consists of those who do the will of His Father in heaven.

MATTHEW 13 | ANSWERS

A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Jesus used them to communicate complex truths in a relatable way and to reveal those genuinely interested in his teachings.

The different types of soil represent people's hearts and their receptiveness to the gospel: The path is unresponsive, rocky soil is superficial, thorns represent life's worries, and good soil is open and fruitful.

The Parable of the Weeds teaches that good and evil coexist in the world, but there will be a final judgment in which they are separated.

The kingdom of heaven starts small, like a mustard seed or yeast, but grows to have a significant impact.

The kingdom of heaven is of such great value that it is worth giving up everything else to obtain it.

The Parable of the Fisherman's Net shows that at the end of the age, there

will be a separation of the righteous from the wicked.

MATTHEW 14 | ANSWERS

John the Baptist, imprisoned and facing adversity, questions whether Jesus is indeed the expected Messiah.

Jesus reassures John by citing the fulfillment of messianic prophecies through his miracles, affirming his identity.

The people of Nazareth take offense at Jesus because they see him as just a carpenter's son, familiar and ordinary, despite his teachings and miracles.

Jesus performs the miracles of feeding the 5,000 and walking on water, showcasing his command over nature and provision.

Peter's attempt to walk on water teaches us about the importance of keeping our focus on Jesus and trusting him, even amid life's storms.

The people of Gennesaret respond with faith, seeking healing by merely touching Jesus' garment, illustrating their belief in his power.

MATTHEW 15 AND 16 | ANSWERS

The Pharisees and scribes question Jesus about his disciples breaking the tradition of washing hands before eating.

Jesus criticizes them for valuing human traditions above God's commandments and for their hypocrisy.

The Canaanite woman's faith is significant because it shows that even outsiders recognize Jesus' divine authority and receive his mercy.

Jesus teaches that it is not external things like eating with unwashed hands but the evil that comes from within a person's heart that truly defiles them.

Peter identifies Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God, and Jesus blesses Peter, stating that on this rock he will build His church.

Jesus teaches that true discipleship involves self-denial, taking up one's cross, and following him, even if it comes with personal sacrifice.

MATTHEW 17 | ANSWERS

The Transfiguration is an event where Jesus' appearance changes to show His divine glory, signifying that He is the Son of God and the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus, representing the Law and the Prophets.

The disciples fell on their faces, terrified, but Jesus comforted them and told them not to fear.

The lesson is that faith is crucial for overcoming challenges, including casting out demons, and that prayer and fasting can be powerful in spiritual battles.

Jesus explains that John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Jesus illustrates that even faith as small as a mustard seed can move mountains, emphasizing the limitless potential of faith in God.

MATTHEW 18 | ANSWERS

The disciples ask who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, and Jesus responds that one must become like a child to enter the kingdom and be considered great.

Jesus warns that causing others to stumble is a grave offense with severe consequences, and it's better to remove any cause of sin than to be responsible for leading others into sin.

Jesus advises addressing sin privately first, then with witnesses, and if necessary, involving the church community. If there's no repentance, the person should be treated as an outsider.

The parable highlights the necessity of forgiving others as God has forgiven us and the serious consequences of failing to do so.

The kingdom of heaven values humility, care for the weak, and the pursuit of the lost, emphasizing God's love for each individual.

MATTHEW 19 AND 20 | ANSWERS

The rich young ruler asks how to obtain eternal life; Jesus responds by telling him to keep the commandments and ultimately to sell his possessions and follow him.

Jesus mentions the commandments to challenge the young ruler's understanding of righteousness and to expose his heart's true attachment to wealth.

Jesus states that it is difficult for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven, likening it to a camel going through the eye of a needle.

Jesus uses the parable of the workers in the vineyard to show that God's grace is not based on human effort or time, but on his own generosity.

Jesus predicts that he will be betrayed, condemned, mocked, flogged, crucified, and raised on the third day.

The parable shows that the kingdom of heaven operates on principles different from worldly ones, where God's grace and rewards are not earned but given according to his sovereign choice.

MATTHEW 21 | ANSWERS

The prophecy from Zechariah 9:9 is fulfilled.

Jesus cleanses the temple because it has become a place of exploitation, and he quotes Isaiah to emphasize that the temple should be a house of prayer.

The cursing of the fig tree symbolizes the judgment on Israel for not recognizing their Messiah.

The "builders" are the people of Israel and their leaders who rejected Jesus, the cornerstone.

"Hosanna" means "save," and it signifies the people's desire for a messianic king to save them from Roman rule.

The cornerstone is the foundational stone of a building, symbolizing Jesus as the essential foundation of faith and the church.

MATTHEW 22 | ANSWERS

The parable of the wedding banquet is a metaphor for God's kingdom, in which those who might seem least deserving are welcomed while some expected guests are excluded because of pride and rejection of grace.

Jesus says to give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God, indicating a balance between civic duty and spiritual devotion.

The Sadducees did not believe in the resurrection, and Jesus taught them about eternal life and the nature of God as the God of the living.

The two greatest commandments are to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself.

There won't be marriage in the resurrection because earthly relationships will be transformed into a different kind of eternal union with God.

The “builders” are the people and religious leaders of Israel who rejected Jesus, the cornerstone.

MATTHEW 23 | ANSWERS

Jesus addresses the hypocrisy of the religious leaders and their failure to live out the teachings they impose on others.

Phylacteries were small boxes containing scripture that the Pharisees wore to show their devotion. They enlarged them to appear more pious.

The two most important commandments are to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and to love your neighbour as yourself.

Jesus criticizes them for focusing on minor details like tithing herbs while neglecting more significant matters like justice and mercy.

Jesus compares them to whitewashed tombs, which look clean on the outside but are filled with decay inside.

Jesus is referring to His second coming when Israel will recognize him as the Messiah.

MATTHEW 24 | ANSWERS

Jesus predicted that not one stone of the temple would be left upon another.

Many will be led astray because false prophets and false Christs will perform miraculous signs.

People should not believe those who claim to see Christ in secret places because his coming will be visible to all, like lightning across the sky.

Jesus mentioned earthquakes, famines, and darkened celestial bodies as signs.

“The abomination of desolation” refers to an idolatrous act or figure that desecrates the holy place, as predicted by the prophet Daniel.

Only God the Father knows the exact time of Jesus’ return.

MATTHEW 25 | ANSWERS

The parable of the Ten Virgins emphasizes the need to be prepared for Jesus’ return.

The oil lamps represent being spiritually prepared with faith and the Holy Spirit.

The parable of the Talents teaches that we should use our God-given abilities to further his kingdom and be accountable for our actions.

Jesus describes his return as unexpected and visible to all, like lightning that flashes across the sky.

On Judgment Day, Jesus will separate true believers from pretenders, rewarding acts of kindness done in his name and condemning those who failed to serve him through serving others.

No, good works alone cannot save a person; salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ and is evidenced by one’s actions.

MATTHEW 26 | ANSWERS

The Passover signifies Jesus as the sacrificial lamb whose death spares believers from eternal death.

Jesus uses bread and wine to represent his body and blood, signifying his sacrifice for sin.

Judas may have betrayed Jesus out of disappointment and greed, misunderstanding Jesus’ mission.

Jesus told Peter that he would deny him three times before the rooster crowed.

Jesus prayed for the cup of suffering to pass but ultimately submitted to God's will.

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times, fulfilling Jesus' prediction, and then wept bitterly over his betrayal.

MATTHEW 27 | ANSWERS

Judas returned the silver because he felt remorse for betraying innocent blood.

Pilate attempted to release Jesus by offering the crowd a choice between him and Barabbas during a Passover pardon tradition.

Jesus' silence before Pilate fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that the Messiah would be led like a lamb to the slaughter without protest.

The tearing of the temple veil symbolizes the removal of the barrier between God and humanity due to Jesus' sacrifice.

A Roman centurion recognized Jesus as the Son of God after witnessing the events surrounding his death.

The authorities sealed the tomb and posted guards to prevent the disciples from stealing Jesus' body and claiming he had risen.

MATTHEW 28 | ANSWERS

Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were the first to discover Jesus' resurrection.

The angel announced to the women, "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said."

The resurrection of Jesus is significant because it proves his divine authority and the truth of his teachings, offering hope of eternal life.

The chief priests instructed the guards to say, "His disciples came by night and stole him away while we were asleep."

Jesus commands his disciples to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey his commands.

The disciples worshiped Jesus but some doubted, illustrating the complexity of faith and belief even among his closest followers.

MARK 1 | ANSWERS

The main theme is the authority of Jesus over evil and demonic forces.

The Apostle Peter guided John Mark in the writing of his gospel.

Mark omitted these details because they were not as relevant to his non-Jewish audience.

"Impure spirits" refers to evil or demonic beings that are separated from God and aligned with Satan.

Jesus demonstrates his power by exorcising demons and healing diseases, showing his divine authority.

Jesus used deserts or lonely places as retreats to commune with God and recharge spiritually.

MARK 2 AND 3 | ANSWERS

Jesus faced controversies head-on, addressing them boldly and directly when they involved matters of truth and God's glory.

Jesus chose Levi, a tax collector, which shocked many because tax collectors were viewed as traitors and sinners.

He used these metaphors to illustrate the need for a new, transformative approach to faith that the old legalistic system could not contain.

Jesus clarified that fasting should not be for show but should glorify God and that it was not appropriate while he, the bridegroom, was present.

Jesus challenged the religious leaders by healing a man on the Sabbath, emphasizing that doing good and saving lives is lawful on the Sabbath.

Those who do the will of God are considered Jesus' true family, beyond biological ties.

MARK 4 | ANSWERS

A parable is a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Jesus used them to convey truths about the kingdom of God in relatable terms.

The different types of soil represent people's responses to God's Word, ranging from indifference and superficial acceptance to the fruitful

application of his teachings.

Jesus explained the parables to his disciples because they were genuinely seeking truth, unlike others whose hearts were hardened.

The parable of the mustard seed teaches that the kingdom of God starts small but grows to provide shelter and refuge, much like a mustard plant grows from a small seed to a large tree.

The parable of the lamp encourages us to not hide the truth but share God's Word so it can be seen and benefit others.

Jesus calming the storm demonstrates his divine authority over the elements, revealing his identity as the Son of God.

MARK 5 | ANSWERS

Jesus calmed a storm on the Sea of Galilee, demonstrating his power over nature.

He met a man possessed by a legion of demons, whom Jesus delivered, restoring him to his right mind.

She believed that touching Jesus' garment would heal her, and her faith made her well.

Jesus told Jairus not to fear but to believe, and he continued to Jairus' house to raise his daughter.

The people were afraid and asked Jesus to leave their region after witnessing the healing.

Both Jairus and the woman demonstrated faith in Jesus' ability to heal and restore, showing that faith is crucial in receiving God's work in our lives.

MARK 6 | ANSWERS

Jesus was not accepted because the people were familiar with him and failed to recognize his divine authority.

Jesus instructed his disciples to preach repentance and gave them authority to cast out demons and heal the sick.

King Herod thought Jesus was John the Baptist raised from the dead.

Jesus miraculously fed 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish.

The disciples were terrified, thinking they saw a ghost, but Jesus calmed their fears.

Jesus' miracles demonstrated his authority over nature, evil spirits, and even death, revealing him as the Son of God.

MARK 7 | ANSWERS

Jesus criticized the Pharisees for honoring God with their lips while their hearts were far from him, teaching human commandments as doctrines.

“Corban” refers to an offering, which was misused to avoid helping one’s parents by dedicating money to the temple instead.

Jesus explained that it’s not what enters from outside that defiles a person, but what comes out of the heart -- evil thoughts and actions.

Jesus commended the Syrophenician woman’s faith, saying her daughter was healed because of her humble yet persistent plea.

Jesus healed the deaf man by touching him, demonstrating that faith can be expressed through physical actions, like reaching out and touching.

Jesus contrasts dead religion, which is focused on tradition and outward rituals, with living faith, which brings healing and transformation.

MARK 8 | ANSWERS

Jesus fed 4,000 people with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish.

Jesus told them no sign would be given to this generation.

It refers to the harmful influence of the Pharisees’ false teachings and hypocrisy.

Jesus healed him in two stages: first partially, then completely, restoring his sight.

Peter declared that Jesus is the Christ.

It means being committed to Jesus, even if it leads to suffering or persecution.

MARK 9 | ANSWERS

The disciples witnessed the Transfiguration of Jesus, when his clothes became intensely white, and he shone with the glory of God.

Elijah and Moses appeared with Jesus during the Transfiguration.

Jesus indicated that prayer was necessary to cast out the unclean spirit.

Jesus described true greatness as being "last of all and servant of all."

Jesus warns that causing children to sin is a grave offense -- better to have a millstone hung around one's neck and be thrown into the sea.

Jesus uses the metaphor of cutting off a hand or foot or tearing out an eye to illustrate the seriousness of sin and the lengths one should go to avoid it.

MARK 10 | ANSWERS

Jesus taught that marriage is a sacred union made by God and the couple should not be separated by man.

Jesus told the young man to sell all his possessions, give to the poor, and follow him.

Jesus says that whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it.

Jesus explained that to be great, one must be a servant to all.

Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus.

Jesus says it is very difficult for the wealthy to enter the kingdom of God, like a camel going through the eye of a needle.

MARK 11-12 | ANSWERS

Jesus cleansed the temple, driving out those who were buying and selling and overturning the tables of the money changers.

The cursed fig tree represented God's judgment on Israel for their spiritual barrenness and rejection of Jesus.

Jesus answered their question with a question about John the Baptist's authority, which they could not answer.

Jesus told the Parable of the Tenants, which was directed at the religious leaders who were rejecting him.

Jesus said, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”

Jesus said the most important commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself.

MARK 13 | ANSWERS

Jesus said that not one stone of the temple would be left upon another; it would be thrown down.

Jesus mentioned false christs, wars, earthquakes, famines, and persecution as signs of the end times.

Jesus warned not to believe those who claim to be the Messiah, as many will come to lead people astray.

Jesus described his return as coming in clouds with great power and glory.

Jesus used the parable of the fig tree to explain that just as one knows summer is near when the tree puts out leaves, so one will know that he is near when they see the signs he described.

Jesus assures that heaven and earth will pass away, but his words will not pass away.

MARK 14 | ANSWERS

The religious leaders sought to arrest Jesus by stealth to avoid causing an uproar among the people.

The woman anointed Jesus with very expensive ointment, preparing him for burial.

Jesus inaugurated the first Holy Communion, breaking bread and sharing wine as symbols of his body and blood.

Jesus was deeply distressed and troubled, feeling the weight of what was to come.

Jesus acknowledged the betrayal, allowing it to unfold as part of God's plan.

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before the rooster crowed twice.

MARK 15-16 | ANSWERS

Jesus appeared before Pilate, the Roman governor.

Pilate offered to release either Jesus or Barabbas, and the people chose Barabbas.

Jesus was mocked and beaten, and a crown of thorns was placed on his head.

When Jesus died, the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.

Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome found the tomb empty.

Jesus instructed his disciples to go into the world and proclaim the Gospel, promising salvation to those who believe and are baptized.

LUKE 1 | ANSWERS

Luke was an eminent physician, journalist, and historian who carefully researched his Gospel, interviewing eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word.

"Theophilus" means "lover of God" in Greek, indicating that Luke's message is for anyone seeking truth about Jesus, not just a single individual.

John the Baptist's birth fulfills the prophecy of Malachi, coming in "the spirit and power of Elijah" to prepare the way for the Messiah.

Mary was chosen because of her humility and favour with God, as a virgin betrothed to Joseph of the house of David.

Mary's song celebrates God's mercy, might, and faithfulness, acknowledging her need for a saviour and God's exaltation of the humble.

John the Baptist is the forerunner of Jesus, preparing the people for the Messiah's coming and giving knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of sins.

LUKE 2 | ANSWERS

A census decreed by Caesar Augustus required Joseph and Mary to travel to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

Angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields, announcing the good news of Jesus' birth.

Simeon was a devout man promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah. He prophesied that Jesus would reveal the hearts of many and be a light to the Gentiles.

The story shows Jesus' wisdom and understanding even as a child, as he engages with temple teachers and refers to the temple as his Father's house.

Jesus was circumcised on the eighth day, and later presented at the temple as the firstborn to be consecrated to the Lord, following Jewish law.

Anna was a prophetess who thanked God for Jesus, recognizing his role in the redemption of God's people.

LUKE 3 – 4 | ANSWERS

John called for repentance from dead religion and ritual, urging people to seek God genuinely.

He warned them that being Abraham's descendants didn't guarantee God's favor; true repentance was necessary.

John instructed those with extra clothing or food to share with the needy, tax collectors to be honest, and soldiers not to abuse their power.

Jesus' baptism was an act of humility, identifying with humanity and symbolizing the start of his ministry of purification from sin.

The genealogy emphasizes Jesus' connection to humanity, tracing his lineage back to Adam, the first human.

Jesus refuted each temptation by quoting Scripture, demonstrating his reliance on God's Word and his divine authority.

LUKE 4 – 5 | ANSWERS

Jesus proclaimed the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy, declaring he was anointed to proclaim good news to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

They rejected Jesus because they couldn't reconcile his claims with their knowledge of him as the son of Joseph, and they were angered by his implication that God's blessings could extend beyond Israel.

Jesus demonstrated his authority by teaching with power and casting out demons.

Jesus expressed his willingness to heal and cleansed the man of his leprosy.

The calling of Simon Peter teaches us that when we obey Jesus and offer what we have, he can work miracles and call us to greater purposes.

The parable represents the transition from the old covenant under the Law to the new covenant of Grace established by Jesus.

LUKE 6 | ANSWERS

They plucked and ate some heads of grain, which the Pharisees equated to harvesting on the Sabbath.

Jesus reminded them of David eating the bread of the Presence and

declared that “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, but the Pharisees were filled with fury and began to discuss what they might do to him.

Jesus appointed regular people, including fishermen and a tax collector, as his apostles.

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and be merciful, just as God is merciful.

Jesus compares those who hear and act on his words to a man who builds his house on a strong foundation, unlike those who hear but do not act, who are like a house without a foundation.

LUKE 6 | ANSWERS

They plucked and ate some heads of grain, which the Pharisees equated to harvesting on the Sabbath.

Jesus reminded them of David eating the bread of the Presence and declared that “The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath.”

Jesus healed a man with a withered hand, but the Pharisees were filled with fury and began to discuss what they might do to him.

Jesus appointed regular people, including fishermen and a tax collector, as his apostles.

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, and be merciful, just as God is merciful.

Jesus compares those who hear and act on his words to a man who builds his house on a strong foundation, unlike those who hear but do not act, who are like a house without a foundation.

LUKE 7 | ANSWERS

The centurion was a Roman officer who asked Jesus to heal his highly valued servant.

Jesus marveled at the centurion's faith and healed the servant without even visiting the house.

Jesus raised a widow's only son from the dead, demonstrating his compassion and power.

Jesus told the messengers to report the miracles he was performing, affirming that he was the expected Messiah.

A woman who was considered a sinner anointed Jesus' feet with tears and perfume. Jesus forgave her sins and commended her faith.

The interactions show that Jesus values faith and humility over social status, and he opposes prejudice and discrimination.

LUKE 8 | ANSWERS

Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Susanna, and many others who provided for Jesus out of their means.

The parable illustrates that the Word of God must be received by a heart prepared to accept it to produce spiritual fruit.

Jesus indicates that God's Word should be shared openly, not hidden, and that those receptive to truth will receive more.

Jesus calms a storm on the lake, showcasing his power over nature and questioning his disciples' faith.

A woman with a discharge of blood is healed by touching Jesus' garment, and Jesus tells her that her faith has made her well.

Jairus' daughter is brought back to life after being pronounced dead, demonstrating Jesus' power over death.

LUKE 9 | ANSWERS:

The power to heal diseases and cast out demons.

He multiplied them to feed 5,000 men.

"The Christ of God."

Jesus' divine nature and his role in God's salvation plan.

They wanted to call down fire from heaven on the non-believers, which was not the way of Christ.

To follow Jesus means prioritizing the kingdom of God and not looking back on your old life.

LUKE 10 | ANSWERS

Heal the sick and say, "The kingdom of God has come near to you."

Shake the dust off their feet in protest and move on.

It will be more bearable for Sodom on judgment day than for those towns.

They had authority over demons in Jesus' name.

True neighbors show mercy and compassion, regardless of differences.

Listening and learning from Jesus.

LUKE 11 | ANSWERS

The Lord's Prayer is a model for prayer given by Jesus, emphasizing God's holiness, the coming of His kingdom, daily provision, forgiveness, and deliverance from temptation.

We should be persistent in prayer to maintain humble dependency on God and because it demonstrates our faith and seriousness in our requests.

Beelzebul is a name associated with Satan, used here to insult Jesus by claiming he casts out demons by Satan's power.

Jesus criticizes the Pharisees for their external religious practices while neglecting justice, love of God, and inner purity.

The sign of Jonah refers to Jesus himself as a sign to the generation, just as Jonah was to Nineveh, calling for repentance and acknowledging something greater than Jonah is present.

Jesus says that whoever is not with him is against him, emphasizing the need to be actively part of his mission rather than neutral or opposed.

LUKE 12 | ANSWERS

Jesus warns against the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

It encourages them by reminding them of their value to God and that they should not fear those who can only kill the body but rather fear God.

Those who acknowledge Christ will be acknowledged by him, but those who deny him will be denied before the angels of God.

It teaches that life does not consist of accumulating possessions and that one should be rich toward God instead of hoarding wealth.

Jesus teaches not to be anxious about life's necessities because God knows our needs and will provide as he does for the birds and the flowers.

The final signpost is to be ready for Christ's return, and we should respond by staying vigilant and prepared.

LUKE 13-14 | ANSWERS

Jesus implies that suffering is not a measure of one's sinfulness and that all people need to repent.

The parable teaches that God expects us to bear spiritual fruit and that there are consequences for not doing so.

Jesus confronts their hypocrisy and prioritizes compassion over legalistic Sabbath observance.

The mustard seed and yeast represent the kingdom of God's growth from small beginnings to a significant impact.

Jesus is saying that entering the kingdom of God requires effort, and not everyone will choose the path that leads there.

To "count the cost" means to understand and be willing to make the necessary sacrifices to follow Jesus genuinely.

LUKE 15 | ANSWERS

The parable of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the Prodigal Son.

Tax collectors and sinners.

They grumble and show disdain for sinners.

He becomes destitute and longs to eat what pigs are eating.

He runs to him, embraces him, and throws a feast to celebrate his return.

He is angry and refuses to join the celebration.

LUKE 16 | ANSWERS

The parable of the dishonest manager, who is known for his shrewdness.

Worldly-minded men are more shrewd in their generation than the children of light.

Being faithful in small things leads to being entrusted with greater things.

No, you cannot serve both God and money.

Lazarus is comforted at Abraham's side, while the rich man is in torment.

The rich man regrets his actions and wants to warn his brothers to change their ways to avoid his fate.

LUKE 17 | ANSWERS

It would be better for them to have a millstone hung around their neck and be thrown into the sea.

We should forgive someone as many times as they repent, even seven times in one day.

It could tell a mulberry tree to be uprooted and planted in the sea.

To be officially declared clean according to Old Testament Law.

It will be unmistakable, like lightning that lights up the sky from one side to the other.

It's an illustration that when the signs of the times are seen, the judgment of God will be evident.

LUKE 18 | ANSWERS

The importance of consistently praying and not giving up.

The tax collector, who humbly asked for mercy.

Like a child, with openness and trust.

Sell everything, give to the poor, and follow Jesus.

Very difficult, like a camel going through the eye of a needle.

Faith in Jesus can lead to miraculous changes in our lives.

LUKE 19 | ANSWERS

Zacchaeus promises to give half his goods to the poor and restore fourfold to anyone he has defrauded.

We are to actively use what God has given us to produce positive outcomes for his kingdom.

Jesus said that if his disciples were silent, the stones would cry out in praise.

Jesus wept because the people of Jerusalem did not recognize the time of God's coming to them.

He drove out those who were selling in the temple, declaring it a house of prayer.

Jesus expects us to use our gifts to help build his kingdom.

LUKE 20 | ANSWERS

They are challenging Jesus' right to teach and perform miracles.

It represents the rejection of God's prophets and ultimately his Son, Jesus.

Jesus says to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.

He explains that in the resurrection, people will be like angels and are children of God.

Jesus warns against their show of piety and their exploitation of the vulnerable.

Jesus' parables and encounters show that those who refuse to believe are blinded to the truth and its consequences.

LUKE 21 | ANSWERS

Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple.

There will be false prophets, wars, earthquakes, famines, pestilences, and persecution.

We should not be terrified and should see it as an opportunity to testify.

Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies, leading to great distress and its downfall.

We should stay awake, pray for strength, and not be weighed down by life's worries.

Jesus uses the parable of the fig tree, indicating when its leaves come out, summer is near; similarly, when these signs happen, the kingdom of God is near.

LUKE 22-23 | ANSWERS

To pray that they would not fall into temptation.

Jesus turns and looks at Peter, who then remembers Jesus' prediction and weeps bitterly.

Pilate finds no guilt in Jesus deserving death.

Simon of Cyrene helps carry the cross, symbolizing the spread of the gospel beyond the Jewish community.

Darkness covers the land, and the temple curtain is torn in two.

Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Jewish council who did not consent to Jesus' death, asks Pilate for Jesus' body and buries it.

LUKE 24 | ANSWERS

The women who followed Jesus, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Mary the mother of James.

They tell the women that Jesus is not among the dead but has risen.

Jesus reveals Himself through the breaking of bread and the explanation of the Scriptures.

Jesus shows them His hands and feet and eats in their presence.

Jesus explains that the Scriptures foretold that the Messiah would suffer and rise from the dead on the third day.

Jesus ascends to heaven from Bethany, and the disciples respond with worship and great joy.

JOHN 1 | ANSWERS

Jesus is described as the Word who was with God and was God, through whom all things were made.

John the Baptist came as a witness to testify about the Light so that all might believe through him.

The first disciples mentioned are Andrew, Simon Peter, Philip, and Nathanael.

Jesus demonstrates his omniscience by revealing he saw Nathanael before Philip called him and acknowledges Nathanael's genuine faith.

John the Baptist identifies Jesus as the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world."

To be born of God means to become a child of God not by natural descent or human will, but by God's will through faith in Jesus.

JOHN 2 | ANSWERS

The wedding took place at Cana in Galilee.

Running out of wine was a significant issue because a wedding feast could last a week, and running out of provisions was a major social faux pas.

Jesus' response indicated that he was working according to a divine timetable for revealing his mission and identity.

Jesus turned approximately 150 gallons of water into wine.

Jesus drove out the merchants and money changers, asserting that they were desecrating the sacred space.

Jesus was referring to his body as the temple, predicting his death and resurrection in three days.

JOHN 3 | ANSWERS

Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a ruler of the Jews who visited Jesus at night, likely to avoid social repercussions and because he was sincerely seeking the truth about Jesus.

According to Jesus, being “born again” means experiencing a spiritual rebirth that allows one to see the kingdom of God.

Jesus explains that being born of the Spirit is essential for entering the kingdom of God. But it is a mysterious process, like the wind, which cannot be controlled or fully understood.

John 3:16 states that God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John the Baptist explains that he rejoices at Jesus’ increasing popularity and must decrease while Jesus increases, indicating his role as the forerunner to Jesus.

Jesus refers to the Son of Man needing to be “lifted up,” symbolizing his crucifixion, so that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

JOHN 4 | ANSWERS

Jesus passed through Samaria on his way from Judea to Galilee.

The “living water” symbolizes the eternal life and spiritual satisfaction that comes from believing in Jesus.

Jesus revealed that she had been married five times and was living with a man who was not her husband.

Jesus said true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, indicating that worship is not about location but about the heart.

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony and their own encounter with him.

Jesus healed an official's son who was ill, demonstrating his power and compassion.

JOHN 5 | ANSWERS

Jesus healed the invalid man at the Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem.

Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to be healed?" This question highlights the importance of expressing our desire for healing and being ready to act on Jesus' commands.

The Pharisees criticized Jesus for healing on the Sabbath, accusing him of breaking the law.

Jesus describes his relationship with the Father as one of perfect unity and obedience; whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise.

The Father has given the Son authority to give life and to judge, so that all may honour the Son as they honour the Father.

Jesus says that John the Baptist, the works Jesus performs, the Father, and the Scriptures all bear witness about him.

JOHN 6 | ANSWERS

Jesus fed the five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish, and he walked on water.

Jesus says that the work of God is to believe in the one He has sent.

Jesus declared himself the "Bread of Life" to illustrate that he provides spiritual nourishment and eternal life.

Many in the crowd grumbled and said it was a hard teaching, and some disciples turned away from following him.

Jesus asked the Twelve if they wanted to leave as well, leading to Peter's confession of faith.

Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Holy One of God."

JOHN 7 | ANSWERS

Jesus did not go to the feast publicly because he was operating on divine

timing, not human expectation.

The Feast of Booths was a time to remember God's provision during Israel's wilderness journey and to celebrate with joy.

Jesus asserted that his teaching came from God, and if anyone chose to do God's will, they would recognize that his teaching was divine.

Jesus offered "living water," symbolizing the Holy Spirit, to those who believed in him.

Some people believed Jesus was the prophesied Prophet or the Christ, while others doubted because they knew of his earthly origins.

Nicodemus suggested that Jesus should not be judged without first being heard, implying that the law requires a fair hearing before condemnation.

JOHN 8 | ANSWERS

The chapter begins with the Pharisees bringing a woman caught in adultery before Jesus, who challenges those without sin to throw the first stone, and none do.

Jesus declares himself the light of the world, offering guidance and life to his followers.

The Pharisees ask for a sign and question Jesus' authority; Jesus replies that his testimony is valid because it comes from the Father.

Jesus means that knowing and embracing the truth about him and his teachings will liberate people from the bondage of sin.

Jesus explains that while the Pharisees claim Abraham as their father, their actions align more with the devil because they reject Jesus' words.

The Pharisees want to stone Jesus because he claims to pre-exist Abraham, equating Himself with God, which they consider blasphemy.

JOHN 9 | ANSWERS

Jesus heals a man born blind by making mud with saliva, applying it to his eyes, and telling him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.

Jesus says the man's blindness is for the works of God to be displayed in him, not because of sin.

The Pharisees are divided and skeptical; they question the man and his parents and ultimately expel the man from the synagogue.

Jesus teaches that he came for judgment to help those who do not see to see, and to show that those who think they see may actually be blind.

The man boldly asserts his healing and proclaims that Jesus must be from God, leading to his expulsion by the Pharisees.

Jesus implies His divinity by stating, “Before Abraham was, I am,” echoing the name of God, which angers the Pharisees.

JOHN 10 | ANSWERS

Jesus describes himself as the shepherd who enters by the door and is recognized by his sheep, unlike thieves and robbers who harm them.

Jesus being the door means he is the way to salvation; those who enter through him will be saved.

Jesus calls himself the Good Shepherd because he knows his sheep, cares for them, and is willing to sacrifice his life for them.

Jesus promises that his sheep will never perish, and no one can snatch them out of his hand, indicating eternal security.

The Pharisees are divided; some dismiss him as demon-possessed, while others are impressed by his miracles.

Jesus goes across the Jordan to the place where John had been baptizing, and many people there believe in him.

JOHN 11 | ANSWERS

Jesus performs the miracle of raising Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the tomb for four days.

Jesus stayed where he was for two more days before going to Bethany, indicating that the illness would serve God's glory.

Jesus tells Martha that he is the resurrection and the life, and those who believe in him will live, even if they die.

Many people believed in Jesus, but some informed the Pharisees, leading to a plot to kill him.

The Pharisees plotted against Jesus because they feared that his influence would provoke Roman intervention and endanger their position and nation.

The miracle reveals that Jesus is the Son of God with authority over death, affirming his role as the giver of eternal life.

JOHN 12 | ANSWERS

People expected Jesus to overthrow Roman rule.

She anointed his feet with expensive perfume.

Judas criticized the act as wasteful, but he was a thief and didn't care for the poor.

It means that while caring for the poor is important, Jesus should come first in our lives.

He likens it to a grain of wheat that dies to produce many seeds, symbolizing his death and the resulting spread of the gospel.

It's not just believing that he existed but trusting in his sacrifice for our sins and his resurrection for our justification and eternal life.

JOHN 13 | ANSWERS

Peter thought Jesus was lowering himself too much by performing a servant's job.

It symbolizes the servant leadership of Jesus and the cleansing from sin.

Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus.

Jesus commands his disciples to love one another as he has loved them.

Jesus demonstrates that true leadership is about serving others, not wielding power over them.

Love covers a multitude of sins and promotes unity and healing within the community of believers.

JOHN 14 | ANSWERS

In the Father's house are many rooms, and Jesus goes to prepare a place for his disciples.

Jesus says that he is the way, the truth, and the life, and no one comes to the Father except through him.

Jesus promises that those who believe in him will do greater works than he has done.

The Helper is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in Jesus' name.

Jesus leaves his disciples with his peace.

We can show our love for Jesus by keeping his commandments.

JOHN 15 | ANSWERS

Jesus uses the metaphor of a vine and branches.

Branches that don't bear fruit are cut off and thrown into the fire.

We can abide in Jesus by keeping his commandments and remaining in his love.

The greatest commandment is to love one another as Jesus has loved us.

The world hates the disciples because they are not of the world, and it hated Jesus first.

The Helper is the Holy Spirit, who will bear witness about Jesus.

JOHN 16 | ANSWERS

The Holy Spirit's role is to comfort and guide believers into all truth, convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

Jesus said it was advantageous because the Holy Spirit, the Helper, would not come to them unless he departed.

The Holy Spirit will convict the world concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment.

The Holy Spirit teaches believers how to deal with problems and fight spiritual battles differently than the world does.

Jesus assured the disciples that whatever they ask of the Father in his name, he will give it to them.

The Trinity works together with all three persons being co-equal, each having different roles but deferring to one another in love.

JOHN 17 | ANSWERS

Jesus asks to be glorified by the Father so that he may glorify the Father through his mission.

Eternal life is knowing the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he sent.

It signifies that Jesus is interceding for his disciples, who have kept God's Word and believed in him.

To be sanctified in truth means to be made holy and set apart for God's purpose through adherence to his Word.

Jesus prays that all future believers may be one, as he and the Father are one, to show the world God's love.

He prays for the perfect unity among believers, so the world may know that Jesus was sent by God, and they are loved by him.

JOHN 18-19 | ANSWERS

Jesus was arrested after being betrayed by Judas. The charges brought against him were vague accusations of evil deeds and claims that he sought to be king, which the Pharisees hoped would be seen as treason by the Romans.

Peter denied knowing Jesus three times before a rooster crowed, fulfilling Jesus' prophecy about Peter's denial.

Pilate declared that he found no guilt in Jesus.

The religious leaders insisted that Jesus claimed to be the Son of God, which according to their law, was punishable by death. They manipulated the situation, suggesting that not crucifying Jesus would show disloyalty to Caesar.

Before dying, Jesus said, "It is finished," indicating the completion of his mission.

Joseph of Arimathea, a secret disciple of Jesus, and Nicodemus took care of Jesus' burial. They bound his body in linen with spices and laid him in a new tomb.

JOHN 20 | ANSWERS

Mary Magdalene was the first to discover the empty tomb and informed Simon Peter and John.

The disciples were bewildered and did not immediately understand the Scripture that Jesus must rise from the dead.

Jesus appeared among them, showed them his hands and side, and they were overjoyed.

Jesus invited Thomas to touch his wounds, which led Thomas to believe and confess Jesus as "My Lord and my God!"

The resurrection is the foundation of Christian faith, proving Jesus' divinity and the truth of his teachings.

Jesus is commissioning his disciples to continue his work, spreading the Gospel and the message of salvation.

JOHN 21 | ANSWERS

Simon Peter and other disciples went fishing, caught nothing overnight, but caught many fish after Jesus' instruction.

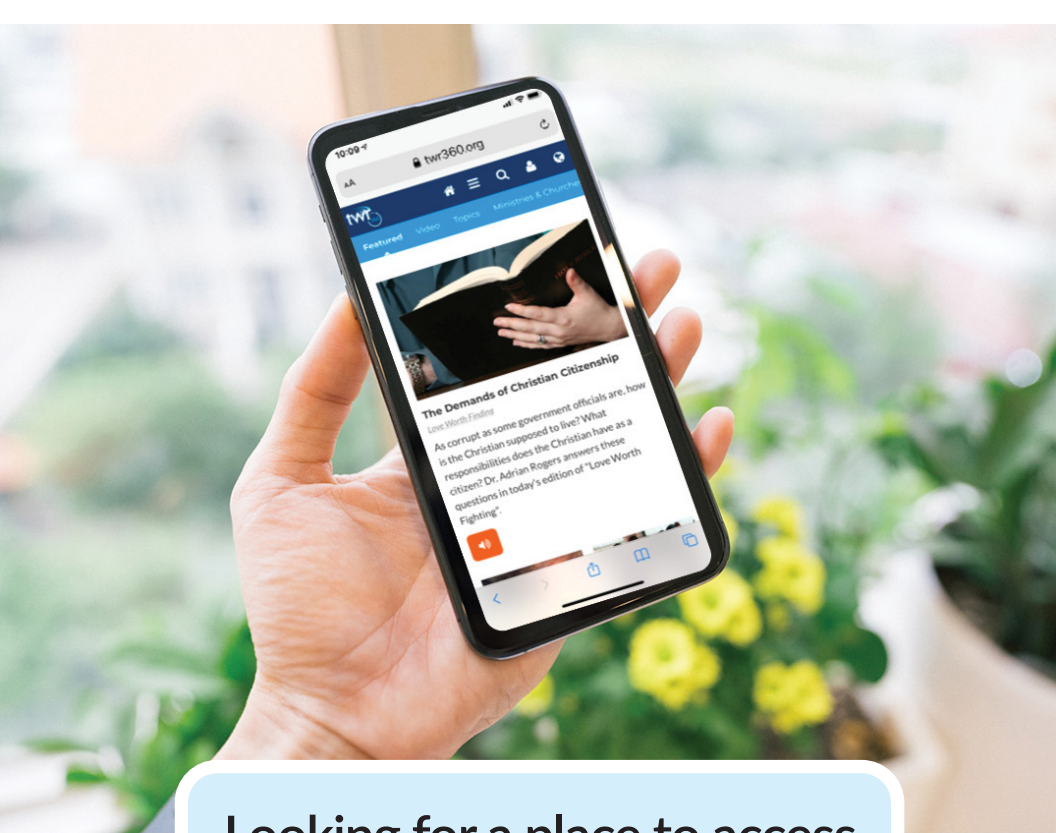
John recognized Jesus after the successful catch of fish, reminiscent of a previous miracle.

Jesus cooked breakfast for them, serving bread and fish.

Jesus asked Peter three times to mirror the three denials, offering Peter a chance to reaffirm his love and commitment.

Jesus tells Peter to "Feed my lambs," "Tend my sheep," and "Feed my sheep," indicating Peter's role in caring for believers.

Jesus indicates that Peter will face martyrdom, stretching out his hands and being led where he does not want to go.



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