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READING THROUGH THE GOSPELS:

# Matthew

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CALVARY WOMEN

## A NOTE FROM CHRISTY SPADER, WOMEN'S MINISTRY DIRECTOR

Welcome to our Calvary Women Gospel Reading Plan!

As fall approaches, we're excited to invite all Calvary women to join us in something special: a 4-month journey through the Gospels designed just for you. Written by different Calvary women, in each monthly booklet, you'll find a roadmap through one of the Gospels, touching on key themes, memory verses, and thought-provoking challenges. Plus, we've got an awesome playlist of weekly audio devotionals by that month's author.

If you are anything like me, with the start of the fall, I have a new wave of spiritual ambition. I buy a book. I make a plan. I start strong, but as life happens, my grand faith goals link arms with guilt and shame when what I hoped to be true of my spiritual rhythms has suffered a steep decline.

While I want God's love to be the ultimate driving force behind my spiritual practices, I've learned that God, in his grace, provides other motivators to help me. I've seen that some extra support can make a world of difference. And that's where our faith community steps in. So, this fall, we're inviting every woman at Calvary to join us in exploring the Gospels together.

Our mission is simple: through this booklet we want women to **Know** the love of God, **Grow** in our love of God, and **Show** the love of God. When it comes to **Knowing the Love of God**, each week we'll dive into a theme to keep your eyes out for as you read the text, a spot where we see the character of God on display. To **Grow in the Love of God**, there's a reading plan waiting for you. Each month our approach will vary. We might read the Gospel chronologically, thematically, or simply chapter-by-chapter and every week you'll get to hear from some women at Calvary dive a bit deeper through short audio devotionals on our Calvary Women Spotify/Apple Music playlist. There's more too! It's not just about personal growth; it's about **Showing the Love of God** too. The booklet will wrap up with a simple action and prayer prompt to put those insights into practice.

No matter who you are, or your capacity to be involved in other Women's Ministry offerings, this booklet is for YOU. There is power in God's Word and there is power in reading it alongside a community of faith. We want to be women of the Word together. Let's make this reading plan not just a thing we do, but a way we live – connected, empowered, and radiating God's love.

So, open this booklet and let's dive into the Gospel of Matthew this month, together!

## MONTHLY MEMORY VERSE

*"You are the light of the World. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."*

Matthew 5:14-16

# INTRODUCTION TO MATTHEW

By Moriah Lemire

We will be reading through Matthew to start our study of the Gospels. I am excited that this will be our first gospel to read through because Matthew is so richly interwoven with all Scripture. If you think of Scripture as a large tapestry with many strands all woven together, zooming in, you see each book as depicting a different scene of God's will throughout time. And if you were to look at Matthew in this grand tapestry, you would see the bright and prominent threads that make up the Gospel of Matthew also run throughout the whole tapestry. These threads woven through Scripture include themes we will explore or look for while reading this September: Faithfulness, Justice and Judgement, Mercy, Obedience, and Love. And all these themes come in the form of Christ. Christ comes to us, shatters our expectations, and fulfills God's Word in his person. I want to encourage you as you read to spend time focusing on these different themes. Once you see them, I am confident they will be hard to forget. So this month, instead of reading chronologically, or chapter-by-chapter, we will read the Gospel thematically to better focus on those threads.

# WEEK 1: FAITHFULNESS

*Our mission is to **Know** the love of God,  
**Grow** in our love of God, and **Show** the love of God.*

## KNOW

God reveals himself throughout Scripture as faithful, accurate, and trustworthy. God's people, the Israelites, call him faithful. What is so striking about God's faithfulness is his people's lack of faith in him. Even those praised highly in God's Word, like Moses, David, Jacob, and Joseph, all fall woefully short of the faithfulness that God demonstrates to his people. Closing the book of Malachi and opening Matthew is a bleak end for God's people; they have been in all forms of captivity and war, and now they find themselves under the oppressive hand of Roman rule. But God is faithful in his promises to bring someone better than David, Moses, Joseph, Jacob, and even Adam. Rest in the following passages and consider how God faithfully brings Christ to us.

## WEEK 1 READING PLAN

September 3: Chapter 1

September 4: Chapter 2

September 5: Chapter 3

September 6: Chapter 4

September 7: Chapter 7

September 8: Chapter 15

September 9: Chapter 16

### GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Matthew Week 1 check out: [calvarymemorial.com/women](http://calvarymemorial.com/women) or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

### SHOW

Challenge: Consider what it would look like for you to take a step out in faith this week.

Pray: Ask the Lord to point out ways you may not fully trust him. Ask God to teach you how to extend or grow in faith.

## WEEK 2: JUSTICE AND JUDGEMENT

*Our mission is to **Know** the love of God,  
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### KNOW

God's justice and judgment remind me of a reset to how things should have been. I like to think about a bone out of place or broken. It must be fixed. The longer it is out of place, the more exaggerated the problem becomes. A doctor needs to come and set everything, and that process is painful. God is the excellent surgeon that resets what is broken or out of place. As the Creator, he knows how things are meant to be, and the World is not as it was meant to be. So, God sends Christ to us as a man who can understand our pain and experience the injustice in this world alongside us. Christ comes and brings justice and judgment with him. He looks at the way his people are being treated, his father's house, and those that are poor in many areas of life. Christ suffers our punishment on the cross and brings God's righteous judgment on himself serving as an example of righteousness in both his life and his death. Meditate on God's righteous justice and judgment through the passages this week.



## WEEK 2 READING PLAN\*

September 10: Chapter 5

September 11: Chapter 11

September 12: Chapter 13

September 13: Chapter 21

September 14: Chapter 22

September 15: Chapter 23

September 16: Chapter 25

### GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Matthew Week 2 check out: [calvarymemorial.com/women](http://calvarymemorial.com/women) or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

### SHOW

Challenge: Look for injustice around you, in small things like those being excluded or left out, or significant things, like systems that prevent people from receiving protection. Pray and consider what it looks like to intervene as Christ does.

Pray: Pray that the Lord would bring his righteousness to the world through you and others.

\*For further reference read Ezekiel 34

## WEEK 3: MERCY

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### KNOW

Mercy is beautiful and strange. It is a life we do not deserve, a punishment withheld, a provision we did not work for, and a staying of wrath that is merited. Littered throughout the Old Testament, God is sparing those who deserve judgment or extravagantly loving those who do not merit it. Mercy is Isaac being given to Sarah and Abraham, David keeping his kingdom after his egregious sin. It is God speaking to Job in his pain, and it is God sending his Son to die on our behalf. God's mercy runs throughout all Scripture as the banner on which his love flies. As you read these passages, see how Christ extends mercy to as undeserving people.

## WEEK 3 READING PLAN

September 17: Chapter 8

September 18: Chapter 9

September 19: Chapter 12

September 20: Chapter 14

September 21: Chapter 18

September 22: Chapter 26

September 23: Chapter 27

### GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Matthew Week 3 check out: [calvarymemorial.com/women](http://calvarymemorial.com/women) or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

### SHOW

Challenge: Extend mercy to those in your life that do not deserve it, your family, your leaders, your boss, and strangers around you.

Prayer: Pray for moments where you can extend mercy and love to those around you and be a lamp on a stand or a city on a hill.

## WEEK 4: OBEDIENCE

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### KNOW

Obedience is easier for some and harder for others. For Christ, it is the only way. We even have Christ boldly saying in John 14, “If you love me, keep my commandments...”. Loving God is as simple as keeping his commandments, it is much more complicated than just keeping them. Keeping God’s law was not something the Israelites could ever figure out. And we, as Christians, have gotten any better at it. God asks us for obedience because he loves us and wants to protect us. Obedience is God’s love language. Spend time considering the theme of obedience as seen through these passages this week.

## WEEK 4 READING PLAN

September 24: Chapter 10

September 25: Chapter 12

September 26: Chapter 17

September 27: Chapter 19

September 28: Chapter 20

September 29: Chapter 24

September 30: Chapter 28

### GROW

To listen to an audio devotional for Matthew Week 4 check out: [calvarymemorial.com/women](http://calvarymemorial.com/women) or search for the “Calvary Women” playlist by Calvary Memorial Church on Spotify or Apple Music.

### SHOW

Challenge: Identify one way this week you want to practice obedience to the Lord. Tell a friend to invite prayer and accountability.

Prayer: Pray for strength and conviction to obey what Christ is asking you to do.



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