



Sermon Discussion Questions: Matthew 1-2

Introduction to Matthew

- 1) What is one word to describe you as you prepare for this Christmas season and why?
- 2) What are you most looking forward to in our study of Matthew?
- 3) What are some facts about Matthew? Who was he, how was he called as a disciple? In other words, what is his story? (see Matthew 9:9-13 for help.)
- 4) What was Matthew's purpose(s) for writing his gospel account? What might his purpose reveal about his heart? How might that purpose and heart relate to you?
- 5) What are some questions you hope to have answered (or topics in which you hope to gain greater understanding) through our study of Matthew?
- 6) What is one area of your walk with God you hope to grow in this upcoming year? How might our study of Matthew help you? How might your group pray for you?

Matthew 1:1-17

- 1) Share about your family tree. What is an interesting fact? What are you most proud of and/or ashamed of?
- 2) Why do you think Matthew includes Jesus' family tree, particularly at the beginning of his gospel?
- 3) As you read through Jesus' family tree, what sticks out to you and why? (Make sure to discuss not only the significance of patriarchs and kings, but also the Gentile women.)

- 4) Matthew calls Jesus “son of David” and “son of Abraham” in verse 1. He also calls Jesus “the Christ” 3 times in this introductory passage. Why should these titles matter to Matthew’s Jewish audience? Why should this matter to us?
- 5) As you consider Jesus’ fulfillment of God’s promise to send a Messiah (and the many accompanying prophecies), how might that encourage your faith? How might God’s sovereign design over so many details give you hope for your life right now?

Matthew 1:18-25

- 1) Share about your birth story. Any significant or funny details?
- 2) Talk about Matthew’s account of Jesus’ birth. What do you notice? Why do you think it’s so different from Luke’s account?
- 3) Consider Joseph’s experience of the time leading up to Jesus’ birth. What do you observe about his faith and character? What do you most admire about him?
- 4) When Joseph was “considering these things,” God spoke to Joseph in a dream. What does this reveal about God’s character and purposes?
- 5) When was a time God clearly spoke to you? Share the circumstances and how you responded.
- 6) How are you longing for God to speak to you right now? Or maybe God has already spoken and you need to obey him? How might your group pray for you?

Matthew 2:1-6

- 1) Talk about a long journey you took. Where did you go? What was memorable?
- 2) Imagine the journey of the wise men (the distance, the challenges, the guidance of a star, the knowledge of Scriptures, etc.). What faith and sacrifice might that have required?
- 3) We too are on a journey of faith. How have you seen God guide you thus far? What challenges do you currently face?
- 4) The wise men arrived in Jerusalem with a desire to see and worship the king. How would you describe your heart of worship right now? How might you grow in your desire to see and worship Him?
- 5) Micah 5:2 reveals God’s promise to send Jesus to shepherd His people. How would you like for Jesus to shepherd you? Spend some time praying for one another as a group.

Matthew 2:7-15

- 1) Share a time you sought to worship the Lord but also experienced opposition.
- 2) What was King Herod’s response to the wise men seeking to worship the king of the Jews? What does this reveal about his heart?
- 3) When your personal “empire” is threatened, how do you tend to respond? How might you better entrust yourself to King Jesus?

- 4) What do the wise men teach us about worshiping Jesus? How might you follow their example (their attitude, sacrifice, perseverance, generosity, etc.)?
- 5) From the very beginning of Jesus' time on earth, He and His followers experienced great opposition. In what ways are you currently being opposed? How can your group pray for you to be strong in the Lord and follow after Him?

Matthew 2:16-23

- 1) Some have described Western society as increasingly supporting a "culture of death" rather than a "culture of life." Would you agree or disagree and why?
- 2) As you hear of King Herod's actions against the young children of Bethlehem, how does that impact you (personally, emotionally, spiritually, etc.)?
- 3) How might we as Christians biblically think about such awful atrocities? How might lament (like verse 18) be a part of our response?
- 4) In the midst of horrific circumstances in Bethlehem, we also see God's (and the parents') rescue of a baby. Talk about the circumstances and the sacrifices required. How might that encourage you? inspire you?
- 5) Through our One Child Initiative, we seek to come alongside those who foster, adopt, and serve vulnerable children (including the unborn). Spend some time praying as a group for this initiative, including how you might personally get involved. Visit www.fouroakskillern.com/onechild for more info.