Walk | Read | Pray | Join | Commit

Matthew's Gospel Connect Group Resources: **Jesus – A Life**

The focus of this session is two-fold. 1) Fill in any gaps where people may have missed any weeks over the last eight weeks; 2) collect and share any overall reflections you may have had concerning the entire gospel of Matthew.

Collect

Watch over the whole Bible Project two-part videos with your group:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Dv4-n6OYGI
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGCF3OPWN14
Before starting, ask the group to think of one thing that you learnt, one thing that challenged you, one thing that re-affirmed something you already knew. In twos and threes, share your reflections.

Challenge

It is easy to read a whole book of the bible, talk about concepts, theories and discuss the implications of Matthew's Gospel, without applying anything or giving the message time to sink in and change the way we live our lives.

Play some music and encourage people to write five **'I will'** statements based on the past 8 weeks exploring this gospel. For example, 'I will not worry' (based on Matthew 6:25) or, 'I will spend time with people who don't feel worthy of love' (based on Matthew 15:21-28).

Allow 20 minutes or so for this. Then in small groups, share what you've written for accountability and pray for one another. ***What areas do you feel will be especially difficult? How will you share your experiences of what happens next?***

Connect

Luke's gospel is described as the 'Gospel of Prayer', yet there is a wealth of material exploring prayer in the book of Matthew too. Divide your group into four and ask them to read the passages below. Once you've read them, explore the following questions: what challenge does this bring to my own prayer life? How have I seen God work through this kind of prayer? How can I explore this type of prayer?

Matthew 6:9-13 **Matthew 11: 25-30**
Matthew 26:26-30 **Matthew 26:36-46**

After, leave time to pray for one another especially for the areas we find most challenging around our personal prayer life.

Note: *At HTB we have a 24/7 prayer room, a space you can book as a connect group or individually to set aside time to pray. We also host Kingdom Come nights which are events designed to have times of extended sung worship and prayer in the Spirit to see what God wants to do with us as a community. Also, on Tuesdays at 7am we have a weekly prayer gathering during term time where we lift particular parts of HTB life to God in prayer. The Healing Rooms are space where we pray for those who are unwell either short-term or long-term and seek God's helloing for whatever situation you are in. For more details, visit www.htb.org/prayer*