

The Kingdom Is Like - A Study in Matthew

Devotional Guide

This devotional guide is tailor-made to help you foster your own relationship with Jesus and to grow towards greater devotion and greater delight in Him.

Each week has four days' worth of instructions for short times of Bible reading, reflection, and prayer. You'll find the passage for each day listed below and the steps for engaging with those passages on the next page.

We invite you to use this guide in structuring your own time with Jesus.

Maybe spending time like this with Jesus is something you've practiced for years. Maybe you've never done it before in your life.

We all start somewhere.

By following this guide, you'll be laying a foundation upon which your relationship with Jesus can grow across a lifetime, to greater devotion and greater delight in Him.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4
Week 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:1-23	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 3
Week 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:24-30; 36-43	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 6
Week 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:31-32	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 9
Week 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:33-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 10	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 11	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 12
Week 5	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 14	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 15	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 16
Week 6	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:45-46	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 17	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 18	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 19
Week 7	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 13:47-52	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 20	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 21	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 22
Week 8	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 18:21-35	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 23	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 24	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 25
Week 9	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 22:1-14	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 26	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 27	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. 28



THE SMCC METHOD OF JOURNALING

1. Observe (Bible reading)

Read the passage and spend time contemplating it.

Make observations. Jot down notes and questions. Find something from what you read that seems interesting or profound, and roll that thought over in your mind.

When we meditate on God's word, we invite the Holy Spirit to convince us of something that's true and important.

2. Apply (Something I will believe or do)

A conviction is a firmly held belief.

When we meditate on Scripture, we often learn things we didn't know before about God, ourselves, or our world. These new ideas become convictions when we make them personal.

We can do this by taking what we've learned and asking the question, "So what? How does this change the way I understand God, myself, or the world? Does it affect who I trust to be my authority, where my identity is found, or even the activities that fill my life?"

When we ask and answer these questions, we're applying what we've learned from the Bible and forming convictions upon the Bible's teachings.

3. Pray (Conversation with God)

The most important person we can connect with each day is God. Prayer is one way to do this.

A helpful practice for all of us is to write down a short prayer each day. Your prayer could include any or all of the following:

- something you appreciate about God (perhaps something you learned from the Bible).
- something you're thankful for.
- something you've learned about yourself.
- something that you want to ask God to do for you.

All in all, this practice might take 10-15 minutes. That's 10-15 minutes spent each day connecting with the God who created all things, including you. The God who loves and delights in you, and desires to spend time with you.

By forming this regular practice of spending time with Jesus, you're investing in your relationship with him and your joy.

