

Christ Church, New Haven
Sunday Forum—September-October 2023
The Gospel According to St. Matthew

Schedule

September 17	Introduction to Matthew	October 15	Matthew 11-13
September 24	Matthew 1-4	October 22	Matthew 14-18
October 1	Matthew 5-7	October 29	Matthew 19-25
October 8	Matthew 8-10	November 12	Matthew 26-28

Tips for Reading

- Begin with prayer. Take a moment of silence and invite God to join you as you read. You might pray for illumination, or you might pray that God’s Word speak to what’s going on in your own life. Or you might use this prayer, written by Thomas Cranmer:
Blessed Lord, who has caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, pg. 236)
- Consider reading the chapters for the week straight through, as you might read a novel or a newspaper article. This will help you get a sense of the “big picture” in the text.
 - What do you notice about the narrative?
 - Who appears in the stories? What characteristics do they have?
 - Who speaks? And to whom?
 - Where does the narrative take place?
- Then, read more slowly. Perhaps read one chapter or section of a chapter each day.
 - What moves or inspires you? What words or phrases stand out?
 - What teachings, stories, or parables surprise or challenge you?
 - If your Bible has cross references to other passages, consider looking those up, particularly if you find a passage especially interesting (or confusing!).
 - Meditate on a portion of the chapter—perhaps one or two verses, or even a single word. Offer prayer to God about your thoughts and feelings on these words.
 - Particularly with passages containing narrative action (as opposed to lengthy teachings), imagine yourself into the story. With your eyes closed, imagine that you were present with Jesus during his time on earth. What sights, sounds, smells, or tastes can you imagine? What does it feel like to be with Jesus in this way? (This type of meditation can take significant time—anywhere from 15 to 45 minutes.)
- If you have time, review relevant chapters during the day before coming to Bible study. If you have made notes, review those as well.