



FOLLOWING JESUS THROUGH MATTHEW

SESSION 1 – Matthew 1:1-17

Introduction

1. Who in your family tree might you not include if you were to write a genealogy? Why is it significant that Matthew includes some unsavory characters in Jesus' genealogy?
2. How does it feel to know that God uses imperfect families to accomplish God's plan?

SESSION 2 – Matthew 1:18-25

An "Aha" Moment

1. When is a moment you've had where all of a sudden all the pieces fit together? When you had an Aha moment?
2. What does your name mean? Is it significant to you, why or why not?

SESSION 3 – Matthew 2

Magi, Murder, Migrant

1. What do you think that it means that Jesus was a refugee in Egypt?
2. This chapter holds a theme of power, the Magi, Herod, and Jesus. What do you think of when you think of power? How does this chapter challenge traditional views of power?

SESSION 4 – Matthew 3

Who are you?

1. When you identify yourself what words would you use?
2. What does it mean to you that you are God's child, God's beloved, and that God is pleased with you? What kind of emotions does that evoke?

SESSION 5 – Matthew 4

Tempted and Tested

1. What's your biggest temptation? What about it causes you to struggle?
2. When Jesus overcame temptation it showed that he can be trusted. How can you trust Jesus with your temptations?

SESSION 6 – Matthew 5:1-12

Why the church?

1. Be honest: Have you ever wondered "Why the church?"
2. How do we live out God's mission for the church - to turn the world's values upside down?

SESSION 7 – Matthew 5:13-28

What good is the church?

1. Sometimes the church seems an ineffective, bumbling tool for living our God's mission. Have you ever wondered: What good is the church?
2. What does it mean to be "salt" and "light"?

SESSION 8 – Matthew 6:1-18

What bugs me about Christians?

1. What things bug you about Christians sometimes?
2. What does it look like to practice your faith so that God can see you, not others?

SESSION 9 – Matthew 6:19-34

What to do with worry

1. What has you worrying these days?
2. What would it look like for you to resist worry and embrace gratitude?

SESSION 10 – Matthew 7

What's wrong with the church?

1. Where do you see "Christians behaving badly"?
2. What does it look like for followers of Jesus to have more concern for our own wrong-doing than the wrong-doing of others?



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SESSION 11 – Matthew 8:1-9:8

Jesus' Ministry in Action

1. What does Jesus' willingness to move toward those considered outcasts mean for us?
2. Where are you facing chaos, or storms right now, and how can you trust Jesus in the midst of them?

SESSION 12 – Matthew 9:9-34

Reconciling the Old and the New

1. When have you struggled to reconcile the old and the new?
2. How could the church prevent itself from a sanitized version of Christianity, and lean into the mess instead?

SESSION 13 – Matthew 9:35-10:42

How do we tell people about Jesus?

1. How do you understand the specific instructions Jesus gave to the disciples and thereby to us?
2. What gets in the way of telling people about Jesus?

SESSION 14 – Matthew 11

When Jesus isn't who or what we expect

1. How do you respond when something doesn't live up to your expectations?
2. How can you let Jesus carry whatever it is that's burdensome to you?

SESSION 15 – Matthew 12

Our Relationships to Rules

1. When have you seen religious rules bring order to chaos?
2. When have you seen religious rules threaten or hurt someone's humanity?

SESSION 16 – Matthew 13

What the kingdom of heaven is like

1. What's a story that has had a deep impact on you?
2. Where have you cast judgement instead of grace?

SESSION 17 – Matthew 14

What a little faith will do

1. When has your faith felt like it was very little?
2. What do you think it means when those outside of Jesus' circle have deep faith? Why is that significant?

SESSION 18 – Matthew 15-16

Piety over people

1. When have you put faith practice over people? Or where have you seen someone do it?
2. Why do you think the religious establishment felt threatened by Jesus after reading these chapters?

SESSION 19 – Matthew 17-18

Tax Season

1. Would you pay the temple tax? Would you be part of the establishment or part of the rebellion?
2. What does this story teach you about the depth of God's love?

SESSION 20 – Matthew 19

Getting the gains

1. Where do you tend to rely on your own strength rather than God's strength?
2. How are you like the rich young ruler?