

The Gospel

ACCORDING TO MATTHEW

Week 10: Matthew 26-28

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To maintain a healthy group, focus on four key components: Word, prayer, relationships, and outreach. This guide will help you study a biblical passage through observation, interpretation, and application. As you explore Matthew 26-28, keep in mind this week's big idea: **this greatest event in history fulfills all of God's covenant promises for humanity.**

CONNECT

Share about a story—book, movie, or real life—where the ending perfectly tied together everything that came before it. How did that final moment hit you?

INTRODUCTION

In Matthew's grand finale, Jesus celebrates a final Passover with His disciples, institutes the Lord's Supper as *the* meal of the new covenant, is betrayed, crucified at the exact hour the Passover lambs are slain, and rises victorious on the third day. Darkness falls, the earth quakes, the temple curtain tears, and a Roman centurion confesses, "Truly this was the Son of God!" Every Old Testament promise—Abraham, Passover, Jeremiah's new covenant, Isaiah's Suffering Servant, Jonah's sign—is fulfilled in this event. The greatest event in history has happened: Jesus, the Lamb of God, has taken the covenant curses for us, ratified the new covenant with His blood, and risen as the living guarantee that everyone who trusts Him is forgiven forever.

OBSERVATIONS & INTERPRETATION

Read: Matthew 26:26-28

- Jesus says, "This is my blood of the covenant, poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." How does this directly fulfill Jeremiah 31:31-34?
- Why is it significant that this happens during Passover, and that Jesus Himself becomes the Lamb?

Read: Matthew 27:45-54

- At the instant Jesus dies, the curtain tears, the earth quakes, and a Gentile centurion confesses faith. What does this show about the new covenant going global?
- Discuss why Jesus died, according to Matthew.

Read: Matthew 28:1-6

- The angel declares, "He is not here, for he has risen, as he said." How is the resurrection the final proof that every promise of God is "Yes" in Jesus?
- How does the empty tomb fulfill the sign of Jonah and Hosea 6:2?

APPLICATION

- The Passover Lamb has been slain so that judgment passes over you. Have you trusted Jesus for this?
- How will you let the reality of the new covenant change the way you live this week?
- The greatest story ever told is now yours to tell. Who is one person you can share this story with this week (not a sales pitch—just "Here's what Jesus did for me")?

PRAYER

Thank God that every promise found its "Yes" on the cross and in the empty tomb. Pray for anyone in the group who needs to trust Jesus for the first time, and for boldness to tell this story to the nations—starting with the people in our lives this week.