

CHRISTIAN  LIFE CENTER

MATTHEW

BIBLE READING JOURNAL



TAP INTO GOD'S TRUTH





TAP INTO GOD'S TRUTH

The Bible stands apart from any other literary work—it consists of an entire collection of books, each written by a diverse group of people, spanning centuries. What makes the Bible truly extraordinary is that its varied human writers found inspiration from a singular divine author—God himself. When referring to the scriptures, the apostle Paul uses the term “inspired by God,” which translates to “God-breathed” in Greek. That means the words of the Bible possess the potential to effect profound change and transformation in our lives. Paul goes on to help us understand that all of Scripture is “inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness.”

In our attempt to understand who God is, discern His purposes, and grasp His truths for our lives, neglecting the Bible is not an option. In a very real sense, the Bible serves as the “instruction manual” for life. The Creator of our existence has outlined standards, plans, and purposes for us within its pages. Without studying the contents of this “instruction manual”, we remain oblivious to His intentions and lack the guidance to live according to His design.

Unfortunately, many individuals don't give much effort in exploring the depths of the Bible. Sometimes, this stems from laziness or misplaced priorities, or just struggling to understand the text they are reading. Its true, the Bible can prove challenging to understand at times. And while its foundational teachings can be understood by children, numerous aspects within its pages demand additional effort and guidance.

If you want to get the most out of the Bible, you need to learn how to read and interpret it for yourself.

We hope this journal will help you do just that. This journal was created to help you get the most out of your biblical reading and study as you tap into the eternal truths God reveals to us throughout Scripture. And to help you create a plan and habit of reading the Bible on a regular basis.

KEYS FOR YOUR READING

Using the acronym **TAP**, we have created key sections in this journal to help you tap into God's truth.

Truth

In our exploration of the Bible, it's crucial to stay attuned to the main themes and essential teachings, while avoiding getting too sidetracked by secondary matters. It's like peering through a telescope to see the big picture before delving into the details with a microscope. The Bible isn't a riddle book or a coded message, so there's no need to search for intricate symbols and hidden meanings. Instead, focus on what it meant to the original readers and how those insights apply to your life today. In doing so, you unveil the timeless truths that God desires for us to grasp.

As you write in this section each day, write down the eternal truth(s) that the Holy Spirit is revealing to you from your reading.

Application

The ultimate goal of reading and studying the Bible is not to showcase theological expertise or engage in intellectual debates, but rather to apply its teachings to our everyday lives. Bible study is not about impressing others; it's about allowing God's Word to bring about a transformative impact. So, as you read the Bible, listen to the Holy Spirit attentively—and then respond with obedience. With that in mind, as we read the Scriptures, we should do it with humility and an open heart, prepared to be both challenged and changed by God's truths. An open-minded attitude is key. Let go of preconceptions, assumptions, and prior knowledge. Embrace the potential for fresh revelations each time you engage with the Bible. Its pages are a wellspring of inexhaustible truths.

As you write in this section, write down how you will obey God's eternal truth(s) and apply His word to your life.

Prayer

The Bible is a book filled with spiritual wisdom and diving into it requires a spiritual mindset. You engage in studying the Bible spiritually when your reading is partnered with prayer. This approach allows the Holy Spirit to shed light on the understanding and application of its truths in your life. So, let your reading and study be wrapped in prayer. This will let the Holy Spirit guide your exploration of the profound insights within the pages of the Bible.

And as you write in this section, write a prayer asking God to help you to live out the eternal truth you have read about.

Sabbath Days

The Sabbath is a weekly oasis in the hustle and bustle of life. It's a day set apart for rest, reflection, and connection—with both God and others. Imagine it as a divine reset button, reminding us to pause, recharge, and recalibrate our focus on what truly matters. In the rhythm of our fast-paced lives, the Sabbath acts as a steady heartbeat, offering a space for spiritual rejuvenation. It's not just a break from work but a sacred invitation to experience the richness of God's presence and delve into the truths embedded in His Word. Observing the Sabbath isn't a legalistic duty; it's a relational embrace, an intentional choice to honor God's design for our well-being and find a sanctuary of peace amidst life's demands. Embracing the Sabbath means recognizing that we're not just called to be doers but also to be dwellers in the rest God provides, ensuring our souls are nourished, inspired, and ready to obey Him in the week ahead.

On these days, reflect on the past week and write down what God has taught you and how thankful you are for it.





OVERVIEW

The Gospel of Matthew, though not explicitly naming its author, has been attributed to Matthew, one of Jesus' twelve disciples. Early church fathers affirmed Matthew's authorship and the earliest manuscripts bear his name. The Gospel of Matthew is the first book of the New Testament. Matthew's Gospel emphasizes Jesus as the promised Messiah and connects his life and teachings with the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

This Gospel focuses on presenting Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world, emphasizing themes such as faith, forgiveness, love, compassion, and the establishment of the kingdom of God. Overall, the Gospel of Matthew presents a comprehensive account of Jesus' life and teachings, emphasizing his role as the Messiah and inviting readers to follow him in faith and discipleship.

DAY 1

MATTHEW 1

Context

Matthew 1 is the first chapter of the Gospel of Matthew in the New Testament of the Bible. It begins with the genealogy of Jesus Christ, tracing his ancestry back to Abraham through his earthly father, Joseph. The chapter highlights the importance of Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies and God's promises to his people. It also emphasizes the divine nature of Jesus as the Son of God and the Savior of the world. Overall, Matthew 1 sets the stage for the birth and mission of Jesus Christ as the Messiah.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 2

MATTHEW 2

Context

Matthew 2 continues the story of the birth of Jesus, focusing on the visit of the Magi (wise men) who come from the East to worship the newborn King of the Jews. King Herod, feeling threatened by the news of a new king, seeks to kill Jesus. The Magi follow a star to find Jesus and offer him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. After being warned in a dream, the Magi return home by a different route to avoid Herod. Meanwhile, Joseph is also warned in a dream to flee to Egypt with Mary and Jesus to escape Herod's wrath. This event fulfills the prophecy that Jesus would be called out of Egypt. Herod, realizing he has been outwitted by the Magi, orders the massacre of all male infants in Bethlehem as a desperate attempt to eliminate Jesus. However, Jesus and his family safely return to Israel after Herod's death and settle in the town of Nazareth, fulfilling another prophecy. The chapter highlights Jesus as the promised Messiah and the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 3

MATTHEW 3

Context

Matthew 3 takes place in the region of Judea and the Jordan River, where John the Baptist is preaching and baptizing people as a sign of repentance in preparation for the arrival of the Messiah. The chapter serves as an introduction to the public ministry of Jesus by showing his baptism by John and the affirmation from God as his Son. John's preaching and Jesus' baptism were significant events that signaled the beginning of a new era of salvation and redemption for humanity.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 4

MATTHEW 4

Context

Immediately following the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in chapter 3, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil for forty days and nights. This testing mirrors the Israelites' 40 years of wandering in the desert and shows Jesus overcoming temptation and affirming his identity and mission as the Son of God. Upon completing his time in the wilderness, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, preaching the kingdom of heaven, healing the sick, and performing miracles to demonstrate his authority and power as the promised Messiah. He calls his first disciples, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John, who leave their livelihoods to follow him. This chapter sets the stage for the teaching and ministry of Jesus as he proclaims the message of repentance, the kingdom of heaven, and the fulfillment of God's promises through him.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 5

MATTHEW 5:1-26

Context

Matthew 5, often referred to as the Sermon on the Mount, is a key passage in the Gospel of Matthew that contains some of Jesus' most well-known teachings. In this chapter, Jesus delivers a sermon on a hillside, outlining the principles of the kingdom of God and the attitudes and behaviors expected of his followers. Jesus begins by pronouncing blessings upon the poor in spirit, the mourners, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, among others. He then teaches about the importance of being salt and light in the world, keeping the commandments, and avoiding anger.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 6

MATTHEW 5:27-48

Context

Jesus continues his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and addresses various topics related to personal conduct and relationships. Jesus speaks about the issues of adultery, lust, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and loving one's enemies. He also emphasizes the sanctity of marriage and discourages divorce except in cases of infidelity. Additionally, Jesus teaches about the importance of keeping one's word and speaking truthfully, cautioning against making oaths lightly. He also challenges his followers to show love and forgiveness even to their enemies, as this reflects the character of God. This passage explores how individuals should conduct themselves in their personal relationships and interactions with others, emphasizing the importance of integrity, faithfulness, and showing love and grace to all, even those who may wrong them.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 7

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 8

MATTHEW 6:1-18

Context

Matthew 6 continues the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus further teaches his disciples about righteousness, piety, and the kingdom of God. In these verses, Jesus focuses on the practices of giving to the needy, prayer, and fasting, emphasizing the importance of doing these acts with sincerity and humility rather than seeking attention or praise from others. He also provides the disciples with the Lord's Prayer as a model for prayer, highlighting the themes of God's kingdom, forgiveness, and provision.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 9

MATTHEW 6:19-34

Context

Continuing in chapter 6, Jesus speaks about storing treasures in heaven rather than on earth, warning against the love of money and material possessions. He encourages his followers to trust in God's provision and care for their needs, rather than being consumed by worry and anxiety. Matthew 6 concludes by addressing the disciples' concerns about worldly matters such as food, clothing, and daily needs, urging them to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. Jesus assures them that if they prioritize their relationship with God, all these things will be provided for them.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 10

MATTHEW 7:1-14

Context

In Matthew 7:1-14, Jesus continues his teachings in the Sermon on the Mount and instructs his followers not to be quick to judge others, as they will be held to the same standard. He emphasizes the importance of examining one's own faults before pointing out those of others. Jesus also speaks about the importance of seeking God's guidance and provision through prayer, highlighting the concept of asking, seeking, and knocking. In the latter part of this passage, Jesus talks about the narrow and wide gates, illustrating the idea that the path to eternal life is narrow and few will find it, while the path to destruction is wide and many will enter it.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 11

MATTHEW 7:15-29

Context

In Matthew 7:15-29, Jesus warns about false prophets and encourages his followers to discern true teachings from false ones. He uses the analogy of a tree and its fruit to explain that by their deeds and teachings, false prophets can be identified. Jesus emphasizes the importance of choosing to follow his words and building one's life on a solid foundation of faith and obedience. He concludes by comparing those who hear and act on his words to those who hear but do not act, highlighting the wisdom of living according to his teachings.

TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 12

MATTHEW 8:1-17

Context

Matthew 8 follows the conclusion of the Sermon on the Mount and provides a shift in focus to a series of miracles performed by Jesus. In this chapter, Jesus demonstrates his authority over illness, nature, and spiritual forces, revealing his power as the Son of God and the promised Messiah. The chapter begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy, a disease considered incurable and highly stigmatized in Jewish society. He then heals the centurion's servant from a distance, Peter's mother-in-law, and many others who were demon-possessed, showcasing his power and authority over sickness.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 13

MATTHEW 8:18-34

Context

The passage begins with Jesus addressing the cost of discipleship and the commitment required to follow him. He then calms a storm while crossing the Sea of Galilee with his disciples, demonstrating his power over nature. Upon reaching the other side of the lake, Jesus encounters two demon-possessed men who are causing havoc in the region. Jesus casts the demons out of the men and into a nearby herd of pigs, leading to the pigs jumping into the lake and drowning. When the local people heard what happened, they were afraid and asked Jesus to leave their region. Overall, this passage highlights Jesus' authority over nature, demons, and sickness, and demonstrates his willingness to bring healing and freedom to those who seek him. It also shows how some respond to Jesus with fear and rejection, while others are amazed at his power and follow him.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 14

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 15

MATTHEW 9:1-17

Context

Matthew 9 continues to illustrate the miraculous power and compassion of Jesus through a series of healings and interactions with various individuals. The chapter begins with Jesus healing a paralyzed man and forgiving his sins, demonstrating his authority to forgive sins and perform physical healings. Jesus then calls Matthew, a tax collector, to be his disciple, indicating his willingness to associate with sinners and outcasts. He also teaches about fasting, using parables to explain that new truths demand new practices.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 16

MATTHEW 9:18-38

Context

In this passage, Jesus heals a woman who had been suffering from a severe bleeding condition for twelve years, as well as Jairus' daughter who was gravely ill and appeared to have died. These healings show Jesus' power over sickness and death, reinforcing his identity as the Messiah with the ability to bring healing and restoration to those in need. He also heals two blind men and a man who is mute, further demonstrating his ability to bring physical and spiritual restoration. The chapter concludes with Jesus urging his disciples to pray to the Lord of the harvest, for "the harvest is abundant, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:37-38)



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 17

MATTHEW 10:1-25

Context

Matthew 10 consists of Jesus commissioning and sending out his twelve disciples to preach the message of the kingdom of God, perform miracles, and reach out to the lost sheep of Israel. In this chapter, Jesus warns the disciples of the challenges they will face, including persecution and rejection, but reassures them of God's provision and care for them. He encourages them to trust in the Holy Spirit for guidance and strength as they proclaim the message of salvation.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 18

MATTHEW 10:26-42

Context

Jesus continues instructing his disciples as he prepares them for their mission. He encourages them not to fear those who oppose them or threaten their lives, emphasizing that truth will ultimately be revealed, and God will protect them. Jesus then speaks about the importance of acknowledging him before others and the rewards that come with serving him faithfully. He explains that whoever receives his disciples will be blessed for showing hospitality and support, while those who reject them will face consequences. Overall, this passage focuses on the disciples' call to follow Jesus faithfully, trusting in God's protection and provision as they carry out their mission. Jesus emphasizes the importance of boldly proclaiming the Gospel, remaining steadfast in the face of opposition, and showing hospitality and love to those who serve God's kingdom.

TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 19

MATTHEW 11:1-19

Context

In Matthew 11:1-19, John the Baptist sends his disciples to Jesus to ask if he is the Messiah. Jesus responds by pointing to the miracles and the fulfillment of prophecy as evidence of his identity. He also speaks highly of John, affirming his role as a prophet and messenger who prepares the way for the Messiah. Jesus then addresses the people's response to both John and himself, criticizing their lack of faith and unrepentant hearts. He contrasts their disbelief with the wisdom of God's ways, highlighting the rejection of both himself and John by different groups within society. Overall, this passage emphasizes the importance of faith and repentance in recognizing and accepting Jesus as the Messiah. It also underscores the significance of John the Baptist's role in preparing the way for Christ and the need for the people to respond to God's offer of salvation with open hearts.

TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 20

MATTHEW 11:20-30

Context

In Matthew 11:20-30, Jesus rebukes the cities of Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for their lack of repentance despite witnessing his miracles and hearing his teachings. He warns them of the consequences of their unbelief and refusal to accept him as the Messiah. Jesus then praises God for revealing truth to those who are humble and sincere, contrasting the rejection of the wise and learned with the acceptance of those who come to him with childlike faith. He invites all who are weary and burdened to come to him for rest, promising that his yoke is easy, and his burden is light.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

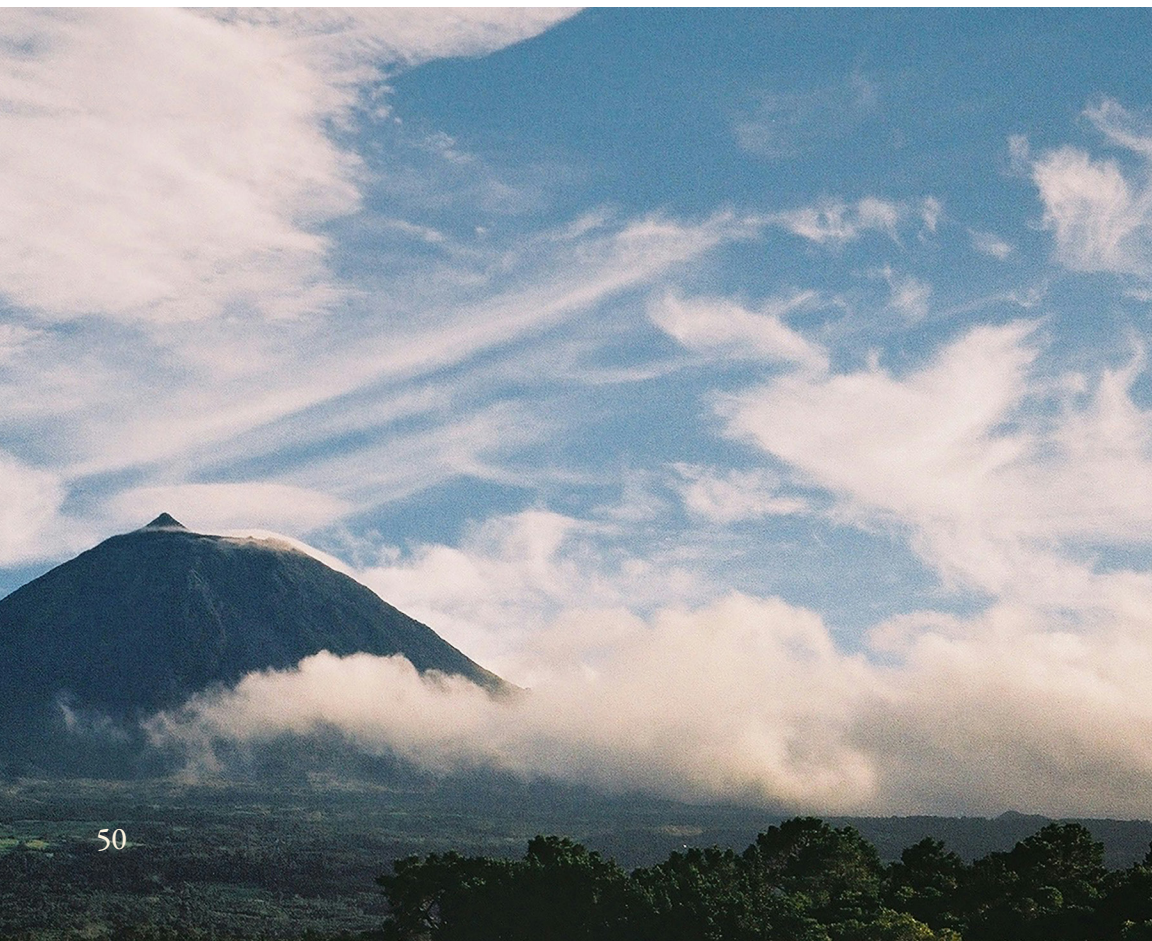
APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 21

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 22

MATTHEW 12:1-21

Context

In Matthew 12, Jesus encounters various challenges to his ministry, confronts religious leaders, and teaches about the significance of his mission. The chapter begins with Jesus' disciples being accused of breaking the Sabbath by picking grain, to which Jesus responds by asserting his authority over the Sabbath and affirming mercy over sacrifice. Jesus challenges the traditional views and practices of the religious leaders, highlights the importance of mercy, compassion, and faith, and reveals his authority as the Son of God.

TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 23

MATTHEW 12:22-37

Context

In Matthew 12:22-37, Jesus performs a miracle by healing a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of using the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, to perform the miracle. Jesus responds by explaining that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand and that it is by the Spirit of God that he casts out demons. Jesus warns the Pharisees about the seriousness of blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, stating that such blasphemy will not be forgiven. He emphasizes that a person's words reflect the condition of their heart and that on judgment day, every word will be taken into account. This passage underscores the importance of recognizing and acknowledging the power and authority of Jesus, as well as the significance of one's words and intentions in reflecting their spiritual condition. Jesus challenges his listeners to consider the source of their beliefs and actions, and to seek righteousness and truth in their hearts.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 24

MATTHEW 12:38-50

Context

In Matthew 12:38-50, some of the scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign to prove his authority. Jesus responds by telling them that the only sign he will give them is the sign of Jonah, referring to his death and resurrection. Jesus then teaches about the importance of recognizing and following his teachings. He compares those who do the will of his Father in heaven to his true family, emphasizing that spiritual loyalty to God is more important than familial ties. This passage emphasizes the importance of faith, obedience, and sincerity in following Jesus, and the need to align one's actions with the teachings of God rather than relying on outward displays or seeking signs. Jesus challenges his listeners to truly seek God's will and commit their lives to following Him wholeheartedly.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 25

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Context

In Matthew 13:1-23, Jesus teaches the Parable of the Sower. He explains that the sower represents someone who spreads the message of the kingdom of God. The seeds that fall on different types of soil represent the various responses of people to this message. This parable serves as a metaphor for the different ways people respond to the message of Jesus and emphasizes the importance of having a receptive heart to receive and act upon God's word. Jesus encourages his followers to hear, understand, and apply his teachings in their lives, to bear fruit for the kingdom of God.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

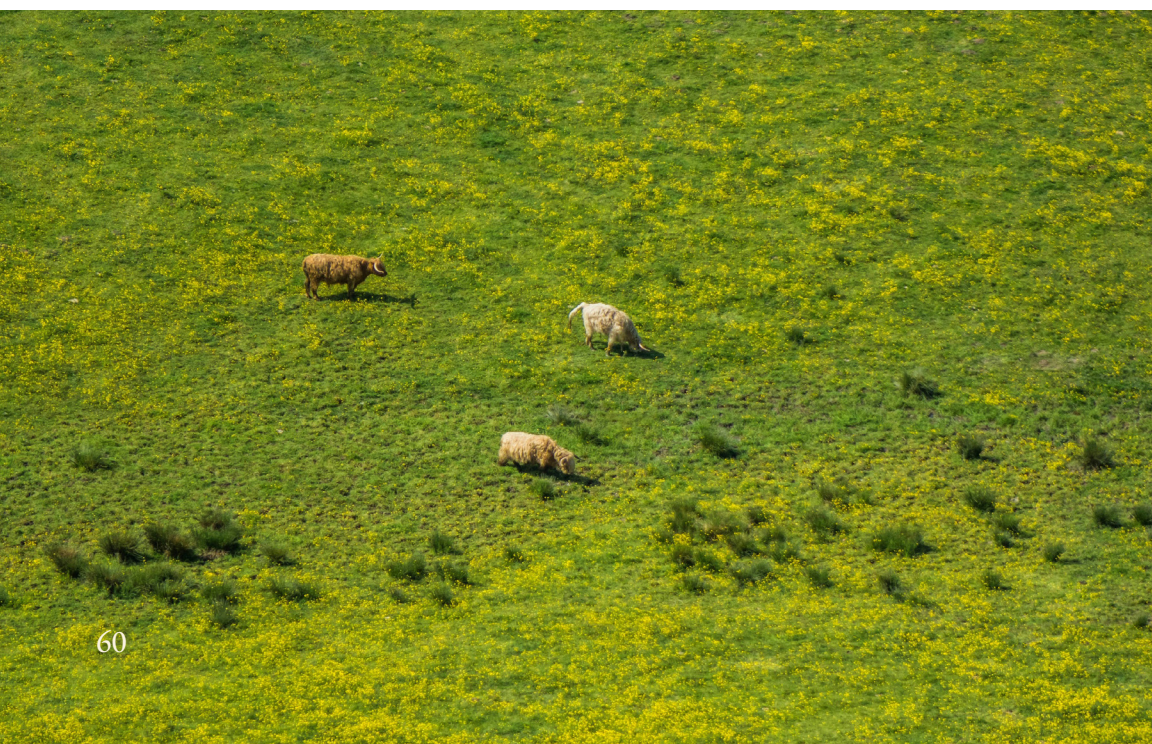
PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 26

MATTHEW 13:24-43

Context

In Matthew 13:24-43, Jesus tells the Parable of the Weeds, where he explains that the kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field, but an enemy comes and plants weeds among the wheat. The parable illustrates the coexistence of believers and unbelievers in the world, symbolizing the presence of good and evil. Jesus later explains the meaning of the parable, highlighting that the Son of Man will send his angels to separate the righteous from the wicked at the end of the age. This passage teaches about the ultimate separation of believers and unbelievers and emphasizes the final judgment when God will establish his kingdom and reward the righteous. Jesus encourages his followers to remain faithful and trust in God's ultimate justice and sovereignty over all things.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 27

MATTHEW 13:44-58

Context

In Matthew 13:44-58, Jesus shares three parables that illustrate the immeasurable value of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Parable of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl of Great Value both emphasize the joy and sacrifice involved when someone discovers the kingdom and values it above all else. The Parable of the Net describes the final judgment, where the righteous and the wicked will be separated. At the end of the chapter, Jesus returns to His hometown of Nazareth, where he is met with skepticism and rejection.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 28

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 29

MATTHEW 14:1-21

Context

Matthew 14 begins with the story of the execution of John the Baptist by Herod at the request of Herodias, Herod's wife. After hearing about John's death, Jesus withdraws to a solitary place, but crowds follow him. Jesus has compassion on them, teaches them, and then miraculously feeds the crowd of 5,000 with just five loaves of bread and two fish. This passage highlights Jesus's compassion for the people and his ability to perform miracles. The feeding of the 5,000 is a significant miracle that showcases Jesus's authority and divine nature, as well as his willingness to care for the physical and spiritual needs of those who seek him.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 30

MATTHEW 14:22-36

Context

Continuing in Matthew 14, Jesus sends his disciples away on a boat and goes up to a mountainside to pray. During the night, a storm arises and tosses the disciples' boat. Jesus walks on the water toward them, and Peter attempts to walk on water as well but begins to sink, prompting Jesus to rescue him. After calming the storm, Jesus and the disciples reach the other side of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus performs more miracles, healing many who are sick.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 31

MATTHEW 15:1-20

Context

In Matthew 15:1-20, Jesus addresses the Pharisees and teachers of the law who question him about his disciples' failure to follow certain traditions, such as hand washing before eating. Jesus responds by rebuking them for prioritizing human traditions over God's commandments and highlights the importance of honoring God with the heart rather than outward rituals. He teaches that what defiles a person is not external actions, like eating with unwashed hands, but the sinful thoughts and intentions that come from the heart. Jesus shifts the focus from outward rituals to inner purity, emphasizing that true defilement comes from within.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 32

MATTHEW 15:21-39

Context

In Matthew 15:21-39, Jesus travels to the region of Tyre and Sidon, where he encounters a woman described as a Canaanite. This woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus and pleads for him to heal her daughter. Despite her non-Jewish background, Jesus recognizes her faith and grants her request, highlighting the power of her faith. Following this encounter, Jesus continues his ministry in the region, healing many people and performing various miracles, including feeding a crowd of four thousand with seven loaves of bread and a few fish.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 33

MATTHEW 16:1-12

Context

In Matthew 16:1-12, the Pharisees and Sadducees ask Jesus for a sign from heaven to test him. Jesus responds by criticizing them for seeking signs but failing to recognize the signs of the times. He warns his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees, referring to their hypocrisy and unbelief. The disciples misunderstand Jesus's warning, thinking he is talking about bread, but Jesus clarifies that he was referring to the teachings and influence of the Pharisees and Sadducees. He encourages them to have faith and remember the miracles and teachings they have witnessed.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 34

MATTHEW 16:13-28

Context

Jesus asks his disciples who people say he is, leading to Peter's confession that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Jesus affirms Peter's confession and declares that Peter will be the foundation of the church, emphasizing the significance of faith in Jesus as the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Jesus then foretells his own suffering, death, and resurrection, which Peter initially rejects. Jesus rebukes Peter for his lack of understanding and states that anyone who wishes to follow him must deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow him. The chapter concludes with Jesus speaking about the cost of discipleship, the reward of eternal life, and the promise of his second coming in glory to judge the world.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 35

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 36

MATTHEW 17

Context

In Matthew 17, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up a high mountain, where he is transfigured before them, appearing in radiant glory alongside Moses and Elijah. A voice from heaven affirms Jesus as the beloved Son of God, urging the disciples to listen to him. This event gives the disciples a glimpse of Jesus' divine nature and foreshadows his eventual glorification. Upon descending from the mountain, Jesus heals a boy possessed by a demon whom the disciples were unable to heal. Jesus rebukes the disciples for their lack of faith and demonstrates his authority over evil spirits by casting out the demon and healing the boy. Jesus then foretells his impending betrayal, suffering, and resurrection to his disciples, preparing them for what is to come. He pays the temple tax with a coin retrieved from a fish's mouth, demonstrating his sovereignty and provision.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 37

MATTHEW 18:1-14

Context

Matthew 18 opens with Jesus teaching his disciples about humility, faith, and the importance of childlike trust in God's kingdom. He emphasizes the need for humility and warns against causing others to stumble in their faith. Jesus addresses the disciples' question about who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven by presenting a child as an example of humility and innocence. He explains that those who humble themselves like children will be the greatest in the kingdom. Jesus goes on to tell the parable of the lost sheep, illustrating God's love for the lost and the joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 38

MATTHEW 18:15-35

Context

Jesus begins by urging his followers to address and resolve conflicts in a spirit of reconciliation and forgiveness. He presents a process for dealing with sin within the community, emphasizing the importance of seeking restoration and reconciliation. Through The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant, Jesus teaches the importance of forgiveness and the need to extend grace to others.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 39

MATTHEW 19

Context

In Matthew 19, Jesus engages in discussions about marriage, divorce, and the kingdom of heaven. The chapter opens with Pharisees testing Jesus with questions about divorce, to which he responds by affirming the sanctity of marriage and emphasizing God's original intent for a lifelong union between a man and a woman. Jesus then blesses the children brought to him and teaches that the kingdom of heaven belongs to those who have childlike trust and faith. He challenges a rich young man to give up his possessions and follow him, highlighting the significance of letting go of worldly attachments to enter the kingdom of God. Jesus teaches about the challenges of wealth, asserting that it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. He reassures his disciples that with God, all things are possible. The chapter concludes with Jesus promising rewards for those who give up everything to follow him, and he foretells his impending suffering, death, and resurrection.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 40

MATTHEW 20:1-19

Context

In Matthew 20, Jesus tells a parable about workers in a vineyard to teach about the kingdom of heaven and the principle of God's grace. In the parable, workers are hired at different times throughout the day, but all receive the same payment at the end of the day, regardless of how long they worked. This illustrates God's generosity and grace, showing that all who come to him will receive the same reward of eternal life. This section also recounts the account of Jesus predicting his impending crucifixion and resurrection to his disciples for the third time, emphasizing the necessity of his sacrificial death for the redemption of humanity.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 41

MATTHEW 20:20-34

Context

Continuing in Matthew 20, the mother of James and John asks Jesus for places of honor for her sons in his kingdom, prompting Jesus to teach about servant leadership and the need for humility among his followers. He reminds them that greatness in the kingdom is achieved through servanthood and selfless sacrifice. The chapter concludes with a miracle of Jesus, in which he heals two men who are blind.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 42

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



Reflect and write about what God has taught you this past week.

DAY 43

MATTHEW 21:1-22

Context

In Matthew 21:1-22, the passage begins with Jesus entering Jerusalem riding on a donkey, fulfilling the prophecy of the Messiah coming in a humble and peaceful manner. Upon entering the temple, Jesus overturns the tables of the money changers and sellers, citing scripture that his house should be a house of prayer. Jesus then curses a fig tree that does not bear fruit, symbolizing judgment on those who profess faith but lack true righteousness. He teaches his disciples about the power of faith and prayer, emphasizing that with faith, they can move mountains and receive whatever they ask for in prayer.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 44

MATTHEW 21:23-46

Context

In Matthew 21:23-46, Jesus engages in a series of encounters and teachings in the temple after his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. The religious leaders question Jesus's authority, and in response, he tells them the parables of the Two Sons and the Wicked Tenants. In the parable of the Two Sons, Jesus illustrates the importance of genuine repentance and obedience to God. In the parable of the Wicked Tenants, Jesus describes how the tenants mistreat and eventually kill the landowner's servants and son, symbolizing the rejection of God's messengers and the coming judgment. Overall, this passage highlights Jesus's authority as the Son of God and his message about the importance of true repentance, obedience to God, and acceptance of Jesus as the cornerstone of faith. Jesus warns of the consequences of rejecting him and failing to bear spiritual fruit within God's kingdom.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 45

MATTHEW 22:1-22

Context

In Matthew 22:1-22, Jesus tells the Parable of the Wedding Feast, which illustrates how the kingdom of heaven is open to all who accept the invitation, regardless of their background. Later, the Pharisees and Herodians try to trap Jesus by questioning him about paying taxes to Caesar. Jesus responds in a way that highlights the concept of honoring both earthly authorities and God. Through these teachings, Jesus emphasizes the inclusivity of the kingdom of heaven, the importance of responding to God's invitation, and the necessity of giving proper respect and allegiance to both God and earthly rulers. Jesus highlights the significance of faithfulness to God and living out his kingdom values in all aspects of life.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 46

MATTHEW 22:23-46

Context

In Matthew 22:23-46, the Sadducees question Jesus about the resurrection and Jesus responds by explaining that in the resurrection, people will be like angels and will not marry. He also affirms the reality of the resurrection and the power of God. Then, the Pharisees ask Jesus about the greatest commandment in the Law. Jesus responds by affirming the importance of loving God with all of one's heart, soul, and mind, and also emphasizes loving one's neighbor as oneself. He states that all the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 47

MATTHEW 23

Context

In Matthew 23, Jesus delivers a series of denunciations against the religious leaders of his time, including the scribes and Pharisees. He confronts their hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and legalistic approach to religion, highlighting the gap between their outward piety and their inward attitudes. This chapter serves as a powerful critique of religious hypocrisy and false spirituality, urging believers to prioritize genuine faith, humility, and righteousness over outward displays of religiosity. Jesus' condemnation of the religious leaders and warning to his followers not to follow their example underscore the importance of sincerity and authenticity in one's relationship with God.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 48

MATTHEW 24:1-31

Context

In Matthew 24:1-31, Jesus speaks to his disciples about the future, specifically about the destruction of the temple and signs of the end times. He predicts that the temple will be destroyed and warns of false messiahs, wars, and natural disasters that will occur before his return. He describes the signs that will precede his coming and the importance of being watchful and ready for his return. This passage serves as a message of encouragement and warning from Jesus about the signs of the end times, the importance of staying faithful, and the hope of his eventual return to establish his kingdom. It emphasizes the need for readiness and perseverance in the face of coming trials and difficulties.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 49

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



DAY 50

MATTHEW 24:32-50

Context

In Matthew 24:32-50, Jesus continues to speak about the signs of his coming and the need for vigilance among his disciples. He uses the analogy of the fig tree to illustrate that, just as its buds signal the coming of summer, the signs of the times will indicate his imminent return. Jesus stresses the importance of being alert and prepared for his coming, comparing it to the unexpected arrival of a thief in the night. He urges his followers to live in a manner that honors God and serves others diligently.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 51

MATTHEW 25:1-30

Context

Matthew 25 continues Jesus' teachings about the end times and the importance of being prepared for his second coming. This section contains two key parables that convey the message of readiness, faithfulness, and accountability in light of Christ's return. The first parable is the Parable of the Ten Virgins, which highlights the importance of being prepared and watchful for the coming of the bridegroom, representing Jesus. The second parable is the Parable of the Talents, where a master entrusts his servants with talents (a form of currency) before going on a journey. The servants who invest and multiply their talents are commended and rewarded, while the one who buries his talent out of fear incurs the master's displeasure.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 52

MATTHEW 25:31-46

Context

Matthew 25:31-46 continues with a third parable, the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, which describes the final judgment where the righteous are separated from the unrighteous based on their deeds of kindness and compassion towards others, with Jesus identifying himself with the needy and marginalized.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 53

MATTHEW 26:1-29

Context

In Matthew 26:1-29, the events leading up to Jesus' arrest, trial, and crucifixion are described. The passage begins with the religious leaders plotting to arrest and kill Jesus, and Jesus sharing with his disciples that he will be betrayed and crucified. As Passover approaches, Jesus shares a meal with his disciples, which becomes known as the Last Supper. During the meal, he institutes the sacrament of communion, using bread and wine to symbolize his body and blood, instructing his followers to remember him through this practice. Jesus predicts that one of his disciples will betray him, and Judas Iscariot agrees to betray Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. This betrayal sets in motion the events leading to Jesus' arrest and crucifixion.

TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 54

MATTHEW 26:30-56

Context

In Matthew 26:30-56, following the Last Supper, Jesus and his disciples go to the Mount of Olives. Jesus tells the disciples that they will all fall away and predicts Peter's denial, but Peter declares that he will never disown Jesus. In the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prays to God, expressing his anguish and asking if it is possible for the cup of suffering to be taken from him. Judas arrives with a crowd to betray Jesus, and Jesus is arrested. Jesus is taken into custody, fulfilling the prophecy of the Scriptures. The disciples scatter, just as Jesus foretold. This passage demonstrates Jesus' obedience to God's plan, his willingness to suffer for the salvation of humanity, and his prediction of the disciples' eventual return to him after his resurrection.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 55

MATTHEW 26:57-75

Context

In Matthew 26:57-75, Jesus is brought before the high priest and the Sanhedrin for a mock trial. The high priest accuses Jesus of blasphemy, and the Sanhedrin condemns him to death. Peter, who had followed Jesus to see the outcome, is recognized as one of Jesus' disciples by a servant girl. Three times Peter denies any association with Jesus, fulfilling Jesus' earlier prediction that Peter would deny him three times before the rooster crowed. The passage ends with the rooster crowing, reminding Peter of his denial and prompting his deep remorse and weeping.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 56

Sabbath Day

Today marks a Rest Day. The focus is simple: rest in the presence of God. Whether it's an opportunity to catch up on the reading plan, journal reflections on your spiritual journey, or engage in concentrated prayer, the key is to spend meaningful time in God's presence. Take this day to reconnect, absorb the lessons learned, and prioritize a moment of restful communion with God.



Reflect and write about what God has taught you this past week.

DAY 57

MATTHEW 27:1-31

Context

In Matthew 27:1-31, after Jesus is condemned by the Sanhedrin, he is taken to Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, who finds no guilt in him. Despite this, at the insistence of the crowd and the religious leaders, Pilate condemns Jesus to be crucified. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus, becomes overwhelmed with guilt, returns the thirty pieces of silver to the religious leaders, and then hangs himself. Jesus is mockingly hailed as the “King of the Jews” by the Roman soldiers, who cruelly mistreat him, placing a crown of thorns on his head and mocking him. He is then led away to be crucified.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 58

MATTHEW 27:32-66

Context

In Matthew 27:32-66, Jesus is led to Golgotha, where he is to be crucified. Along the way, Simon of Cyrene is forced to carry Jesus' cross. Jesus is then crucified, along with two criminals. On the cross, Jesus is mocked and taunted by onlookers, soldiers, and one of the criminals, while the other criminal asks Jesus to remember him in his kingdom. Jesus promises the repentant criminal that he will be with him in paradise. There was darkness over the land for three hours from noon, and when Jesus breathed his last breath and died, there was an earthquake, and the curtain of the temple was torn in two – symbolizing the barrier between God and humanity being broken. After Jesus died, Joseph of Arimathea asked for Jesus' body so he could bury it in a new tomb. The tomb is sealed and guarded by Roman soldiers to prevent anyone from stealing the body.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.

DAY 59

MATTHEW 28

Context

Matthew 28 recounts the resurrection of Jesus Christ, one of the central events in the Christian faith. The chapter opens with the account of the two Marys visiting the tomb of Jesus and encountering an angel who announces that Jesus has risen from the dead. The women are instructed to inform the disciples and to go to Galilee, where they will see the risen Jesus. The chapter concludes with Jesus meeting his disciples in Galilee, commissioning them to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey all that he has commanded. Jesus assures them of his presence with them always, even to the end of the age.



TRUTH: What is the eternal truth that God is revealing to you?

APPLICATION: How will you apply this truth to your life?

PRAYER: Ask God to help you to live out this truth.







2699 W Commercial Blvd, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33309
(954) 731-5433 • info@clcftl.org • clcftl.org