

40  
DAYS  
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MATTHEW



## How to use this book

This book contains 40 excerpts from Matthew's Gospel, with plenty of space to help you reflect on, engage with and apply what you have read. If you have a Bible, you might want to read the book of Matthew from beginning to end – there's a lot more than we could include here and it will give you a fuller picture of Jesus' life and teachings.

Before you start reading, **take time to be quiet** and ask God to speak to you. Ask the Holy Spirit to bring the words to life.

**Get into the Bible...** Read the passage. What's the main point? What is God showing me about himself or about my life? Use the suggestions or questions to prompt reflection.

We have deliberately given you the space to ask big questions and to grapple honestly with God in prayer. Grab a pen to jot down thoughts or to underline words or phrases that stand out to you. There is plenty of space to **respond** to what God has shown you through journaling or prayer suggestions. You'll also find a number of questions and comments to consider along the way.

As you start this book, you might want to pray that the Holy Spirit will bring Matthew's Gospel to life, and that through these words you will get to know Jesus in a fresh and life-changing way.

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: his mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.'

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us').

<sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Matthew 1:18–25



# Day 1

In the Bible, names carry huge significance. ‘Immanuel’, meaning ‘God with us’, is a theme that Matthew pursues throughout his account of Jesus’ life, concluding with his words, ‘Surely I am with you always...’ (Matthew 28:20).

How can we tell if ‘God is with us’ today?

In times when life is hard, what difference does knowing that God is with us make?

Sample

Which part of this passage particularly strikes you?

What does God want to say to you through this passage?

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## Day 1

Joseph is reassured by an angel that his son is spirit-conceived (v 20). We are asked to accept the truth of this mysterious story too, even as it contradicts everything we know about human reproduction.

Do you accept this truth? Why, or why not?

What do you want to say to God?

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Sample

Consider the idea of God becoming man; the Creator of the universe nestled in Mary's womb. Let it blow your mind.