

ISSUE NO.3
MATTHEW 8-9

The Bible Community

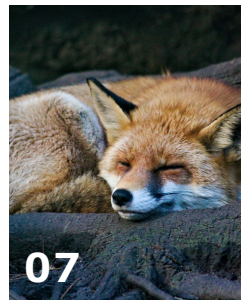
12 Bible studies on Matthew 8-9

Jesus Heals Leprosy | The Centurion's Faith | Jesus Heals Many | Follow Jesus | Jesus Calms the Storm |
Jesus Drives Out Demons | Jesus Forgives Sins | Healthy and Sick | New Wineskins | Reach Out to Jesus |
Son of David | The Harvest is Plentiful

Matthew 8-9

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THE BIBLE COMMUNITY



Introduction

IN MATTHEW CHAPTERS 8-9, JESUS HEALS MANY PEOPLE. THESE MIRACLES REVEAL NOT ONLY WHAT HE CAN DO BUT WHO HE IS.

Chapters eight and nine show how Jesus healed many people, including a man with leprosy, the servant of a Centurion, Peter's mother-in-law, a paralysed man, a dead girl, a bleeding woman and two blind men. They show how he delivered two violent men and a man who was mute from demons. Alongside that, Matthew includes conversations that tell us more about how to be a disciple of Jesus.

TOPICS COVERED

The twelve Bible studies in this series look at the following topics: Jesus Heals Leprosy; The Centurion's Faith; Jesus Heals Many; Follow Jesus; Jesus Calms the Storm; Jesus Drives Out Demons; Jesus Forgives Sins; Healthy and Sick; New Wineskins; Reach Out to Jesus; Son of David; The Harvest is Plentiful

BIBLE STUDY QUESTIONS

Each Bible study has four questions. The four questions follow a model based on the anagram READ.

1. Research

Look at the Bible text in more detail.

2. Explore

Look for themes throughout the Bible.

3. Apply

Look back at examples from your own life or those around you.

4. Do

Look forward to the future, and plan any changes you need to make.



Matthew 8:1-4

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

How do you think this man's life was transformed after Jesus healed him?

Read Leviticus 13:45-46. What would life have been like in Bible times for someone with a disease like leprosy?

Have you ever felt too unclean or ashamed to come into the presence of God?

Draw close to Jesus today and allow him to cleanse you and make you whole.



Matthew 8:5-13

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

Why did the Centurion's response amaze Jesus?

Can you think of any other times Jesus commended people for their faith?

Can you remember a challenging time when you needed to have faith in God?

Spend time asking God to increase your trust in him.



Matthew 8:14-17

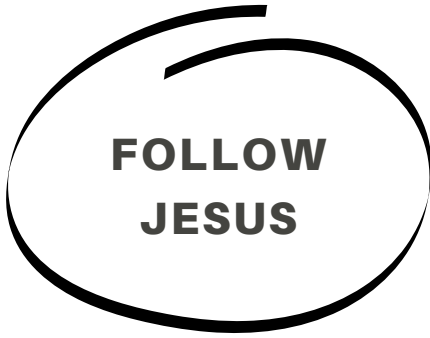
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

How do you think Peter's mother-in-law felt before, during and after Jesus healed her?

Read Isaiah 53. How is Jesus like the Suffering Servant? How does Matthew apply Isaiah 53:4 to Jesus' healing ministry?

Have you ever had an experience like Peter's mother-in-law?

Is anyone in your family sick or struggling with something? Bring them to Jesus in prayer.



**FOLLOW
JESUS**

Matthew 8:18-22

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What did Jesus mean when he said, “the Son of Man has no place to lay his head” and “let the dead bury their own dead”?

What other sacrifices did Jesus ask his followers to make? (See, for example — Matthew 4:18-20; Matthew 19:20-21; Mark 10:28-31; Luke 9:23-26)

Have you ever missed an opportunity to follow Jesus? What stopped you?

Where does God want to lead you today? Are you ready to follow him? Is he asking you to rearrange your priorities?



Matthew 8:23-27

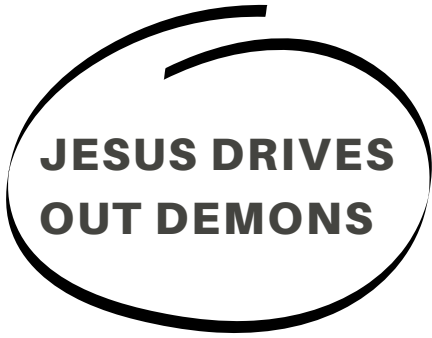
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

How do you think the disciples felt when the storm came up, but Jesus was still sleeping? After Jesus calmed the storm, how did they feel?

Can you think of any more instances in the Bible where God demonstrated his control over the water and weather?

Have you ever been through a tough time that caused you to panic? Have you ever felt like God was asleep?

Are you facing a crisis today? Ask God to step in and still the storm. Ask him to increase your faith and give you the same peace Jesus had.



Matthew 8:28-34

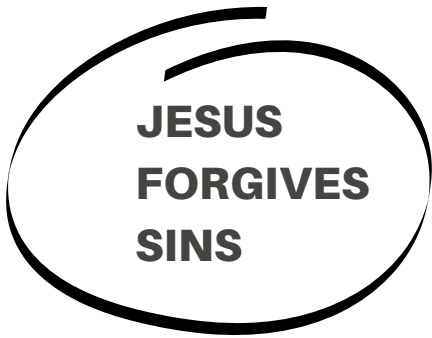
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What does this story tell us about Jesus? Why did the residents of the town ask him to leave?

Can you think of any other occasions when Jesus drove out demons?

Have you ever experienced the presence of evil? What did you do?

Reflect on Romans 8:38-39. Thank God that no power (natural or supernatural) can separate you from his love.



Matthew 9:1-8

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

Why did Jesus tell the paralysed man that his sins were forgiven?

Why were the Pharisees angry with Jesus? Who can forgive sins? Who is Jesus?

Do you have any personal experience of God's forgiveness or healing?

Pray for anyone you know who is ill. Ask God to heal them.



Matthew 9:9-13

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

Who are the "healthy" people, and who are the "sick" in this story?

Read Hosea 6:6. What does it mean to desire mercy rather than sacrifice?

Who are the equivalent of "tax-collectors" and "sinners" in your community?

How can you reach out to those people and spend more time with them?



Matthew 9:14-17

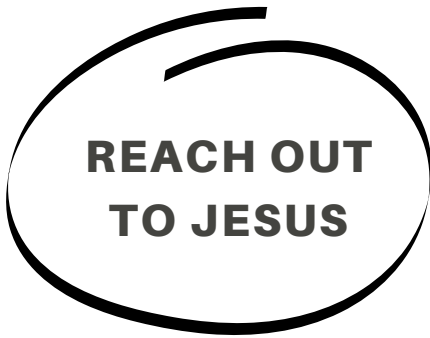
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

How is Jesus like a bridegroom (v15)? Why didn't his ministry fit into the "old wineskins"?

Read Hosea 2. Can you see any similarities between Hosea 2 and Matthew 9:14-17?

Be honest: have you tried to fit Jesus into your existing life, or have you accepted his new life?

Ask God if there are any old habits he wants you to give up or new habits he wants you to start?



Matthew 9:18-26

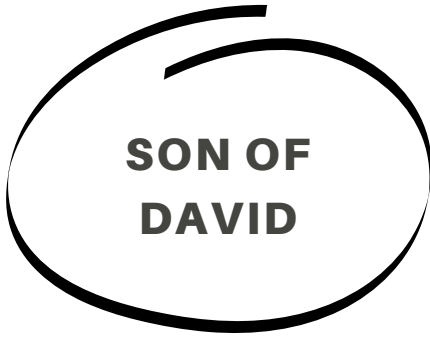
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What motivated the synagogue leader and the bleeding woman to come to Jesus? What obstacles might they have faced?

Look back at Matthew 9. Compare the way the Pharisees spoke to Jesus with the way the synagogue leader spoke to him.

Has anyone ever laughed at you for doing something God told you to do?

Have you got a need today? Are you facing an impossible situation? Reach out to God. Ask him to touch you and change your circumstances.



Matthew 9:27-34

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

The blind men and the Pharisees held different views about Jesus (v27 & 34). Why do you think their opinions differed so much?

Read Isaiah 35. Jesus healed the blind and the mute. Why was this significant?

Can you recall the moment when you recognised the true identity of Jesus?

Pray for the community where you live. Pray that miracles would occur, leading people to be amazed by Jesus and follow him.



Matthew 9:35-38

READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What did Jesus mean by the harvest?
How do we gather it?

Can you think of other times when
Jesus used an example from farming to
illustrate what he was saying?

The word for compassion means to be
moved in the guts or inward parts.
Which people or needs in your
community move you the most?

What can you do today to reach out to
that community and share Jesus with
them?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lou Allen is a Christian blogger and YouTuber. She writes Bible studies to help people grow in their relationship with God and get equipped to live the Christian life.

She is part of a Pentecostal church in South-West England. She studied at Mattersey Hall Bible College and later at the University of Exeter, gaining a BA Honours in Biblical Theology and an MA in Theology.



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