

ISSUE NO.5
MATTHEW 13-15

The Bible Community

12 Bible studies on Matthew 13-15

The Parable of the Sower | The Parable of the Weeds | Mustard Seeds and Yeast | Treasure and Pearl
All Kinds of Fish | Rejected Witness | John's Death | Bread and Fish | Walking on Water
Outside or Inside? | Crumbs of Faith | Feeding 4,000

Matthew 13-15

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THE BIBLE COMMUNITY



Introduction

MATTHEW CHAPTERS 13-15

In chapter 13, Jesus tells his disciples several parables using examples from the life of farmers, fishermen, and merchants.

In chapter 14, we see the death of John the Baptist, Jesus miraculously feeding 5,000+ people and Jesus walking on water.

In chapter 15, Jesus debates what makes a person unclean, responds to a Gentile's plea for healing, and miraculously feeds 4,000+ people.

TOPICS COVERED

The twelve Bible studies in this series look at the following topics: The Parable of the Sower, The Parable of the Weeds, Mustard Seeds and Yeast, Treasure and Pearl, All Kinds of Fish, Rejected Witness, John's Death, Bread and Fish, Walking on Water, Outside or Inside? Crumbs of Faith, Feeding 4,000.

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.

**THE PARABLE
OF THE
SOWER**

Matthew 13:1-23

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

What does the parable of the sower mean? Who is the farmer? What are the seeds, soil, paths, birds, sun, rocks and thorns?

Why did Jesus speak in parables?

Which soil represents your life right now?

Are you hungry to hear God speak to you? How can you make your life more fruitful?



Matthew 13:24-30 & 36-43

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

Why did the field owner allow the weeds to continue to grow?

Why does God allow evil to remain in the world?

Have you ever met a person who seemed mean but later changed their life for the better?

Ask God to help you remain faithful to him, even when surrounded by challenging people.



Matthew 13:31-35

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

What is the significance of the mustard seed and the yeast?

What does Psalm 78:1-8 teach us about the purpose of parables?

Can you think of any Christians whose lives and faith have made a significant impact on society?

What simple action can you take today to help grow the kingdom of heaven in your community?



Matthew 13:44-46

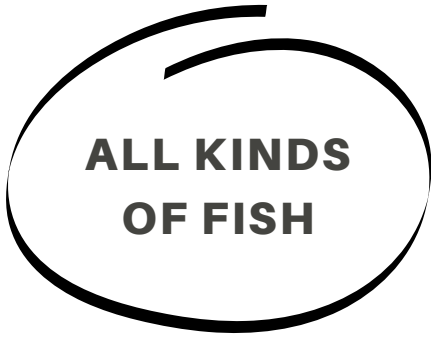
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What do the treasure and the pearl represent? How do the two parables differ, and what similarities do they share?

Read Philippians 3:7-14. How can we follow Jesus with the same level of dedication as Paul?

What do you value most in your life?

Ask God if there is anything he wants you to give up in order to pursue his kingdom?



Matthew 13:47-52

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

What does the parable of the net mean? Why did Jesus tell it to his disciples?

What are the old and new treasures (v52)?

What illustration could you use to explain the 'end of the age' to one of your friends?

Make a plan to learn more about the Bible, especially the parts you don't understand.



Matthew 13:53-58

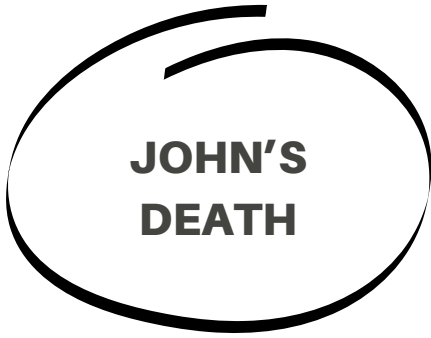
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What was it about Jesus that offended the people of Nazareth?

Can you think of any people in the Old Testament who faced rejection from their family and friends?

Do you find it difficult to share your faith with those closest to you?

Pray for your close friends and family who are not yet Christians. How can you share the message of Jesus with them?



**JOHN'S
DEATH**

Matthew 14:1-12

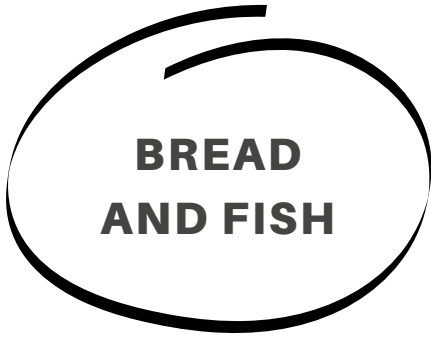
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

What was the motivation behind the actions of Herod, Herodias, her daughter, and John?

Can you think of any other prophets who were imprisoned? What happened to them?

Why do people act badly when they are afraid?

Is there anyone causing you fear or mistreating you? Pray for God's guidance, wisdom, and strength.



Matthew 14:13-21

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

What thoughts and emotions do you think the disciples experienced before, during, and after this miracle?

Can you see any similarities between this passage and Exodus chapter 16?

Can you think of a time when God unexpectedly provided for you?

Do you have a need today? Ask God to multiply what little you have and perform a miracle in your life.



Matthew 14:22-36

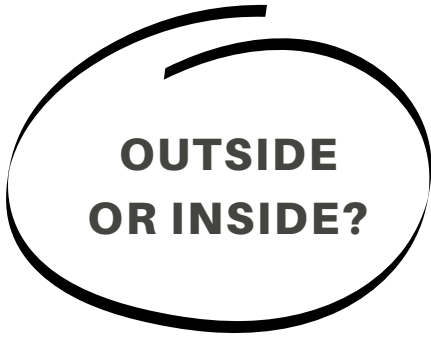
READ THIS BIBLE PASSAGE AND USE THE QUESTIONS BELOW TO GUIDE YOUR STUDY, REFLECTIONS, AND PRAYERS

Why did Jesus to walk on the water?
Why did Peter jump out of the boat?

Compare and contrast the accounts of Jesus walking on the Sea of Galilee and Moses leading Israel through the Red Sea (Exodus 14).

Has God ever asked you to do something impossible? How did you react?

Are you struggling with doubts at the moment? Reach out to Jesus. Ask him to take your hand and support you as you walk alongside him.



Matthew 15:7-20

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

Why did the Pharisees hold so strongly to the tradition of the elders?

What made Jesus' parable in Matthew 15:11 so radical?

How should we respond when the traditions of our community conflict with the words of God found in the Bible?

Do you struggle with any of the behaviours mentioned in Matthew 15:19? Ask God to purify your heart and change your life from the inside out.



Matthew 15:21-28

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

Why did Jesus stay silent when the Canaanite woman cried out to him?

In Matthew 10:5-6, Jesus sent his disciples to the lost sheep of Israel, yet in Matthew 28:19, he sent them to all nations. Why did they start their mission with Israel alone, but then later expand it to include everyone else?

What has God called you to do? How can you stay focused on that task yet also respond to the needs of those around you?

Do you know someone who is suffering? Cry out to God on their behalf.



Matthew 15:29-39

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

Given that the disciples had already witnessed Jesus feed over five thousand people, why do you think they still asked him where to find enough bread?

Compare and contrast the accounts of the four thousand being fed in Matthew 15:32-39 and the five thousand being fed in Matthew 14:15-21. Can you identify any similarities or differences between the two miracles?

Why do we forget the things God has done in our lives?

Are you facing a difficult situation? Are you struggling with doubts? Take a moment to remember all the times God has helped you in the past.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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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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