

# Passages

VOYAGE THROUGH THE  
GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

## Small Group Discussion Questions Session 1: An Introduction to Matthew

Welcome to the Passages small group experience. I'm so glad that you decided to lead a group of two, four or more. I guarantee that your relationships will grow broader and deeper because you're doing this series WITH other people.

Be sure to read over the Small Group Leader Tips (Small Group Starter Kit) at least a day before your first group meeting.

If this is your first meeting take a few minutes to get to know each other (if you don't already). We have provided some Ice Breaker questions in the Small Group Starter Kit to use each week as you begin. Even if your group knows each other well, the ice breaker questions are still fun. This isn't just filler until you get to the deep stuff.

**Watch the Video:** (We recommend that you download the video prior to showing it to avoid internet buffering.)

### Discussion Questions:

1. What do you remember about Easter growing up? If you came from a church that practiced Lent, how did you participate and what significance did the experience have for you? If you didn't how else did you prepare?
2. Many people give up something up (fasting) for Lent. How would this better prepare them for Easter? If you have ever been involved in any kind of a fast, what was the experience like and what spiritual impact did it have?
3. How are you going to prepare for Easter this year? (ideas: read the daily Matthew readings, think or write through the weekly journal questions, participate in the Ash Wed. service at Crossroads, give up something for Lent, etc.)
4. (pass out the Matthew Charts from The Bible Project). What are your initial impressions of the book of Matthew? What new insights did you gain from the video?



5. What parts of the book or themes would you like to explore more? Why did Jesus come? Summarize Jesus' mission in one sentence.
6. Read the beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12). Now read the same verses from The Message translation. Pick one and talk about how you have experienced the truth of this beatitude.
7. What is one thing that you hope to get out of our voyage through the book of Matthew?

**End your time with a prayer:** Praying together is one of the great privileges of small group life. You could pray a closing prayer for your group if it works for your group.

If praying in a group is new or uncomfortable for you or people in your group, we encourage you to start by praying single sentence prayer like "God, I'm thankful for \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). Don't worry about how fancy you sound. God isn't looking for eloquence. He just wants honesty. Talk to God like you talk to a friend. Give everyone a chance to pray a single sentence prayer, but don't insist on it. Over time, your group will feel much more comfortable praying together.

There are some Small Group Prayer Tips available online.

If your group is a praying group, take a few minutes to hear some things people are grateful for or need prayer for. Spend some time praying together.

Be sure to assign ownership roles to group members (snack coordinator, prayer request recorder, Facebook Group Page)

Send a group picture to 970.578.9836 and/or post a picture to social media with #mygroupcrossroadsco (no matter what size your group is).

**For Next Week:** Read chapters 1-7 of Matthew especially focusing on 5-7.

