



ANNAPOLIS

First Baptist Church

BEHOLD, YOUR KING

A Family Discipleship Journal Through the Gospel of Matthew

Month Two • October 2026

Name: _____



WELCOME TO BEHOLD, YOUR KING

This journal will take our whole church family through the Gospel of Matthew together, starting September 6, 2026. We're not just trying to finish a reading plan — we want to get to know Jesus better through His Word!

Each week follows the same plan:

Monday & Tuesday Just read the week's passage. Read it slowly, more than once. Let it soak in before you try to figure it out.

Wednesday OBSERVATION — What does the Bible actually say? Look closely before you decide what it means.

Thursday INTERPRETATION — What did it mean to the people who first heard it? Think about the story around this passage. What happened before? What happens after?

Friday APPLICATION — What will I do about it? God's Word isn't just for reading — it's for living!

A NOTE ON STUDYING THE BIBLE THIS WAY

Studying the Bible this way has three steps, in order, on purpose:

OBSERVATION asks, "What do I see?" Look for words that repeat, things that don't match, commands, and questions. Ask who? what? when? where? why? and wherefore? Don't try to explain it yet — just look closely.

INTERPRETATION asks, "What does it mean?" Think about what happens right before and after the verses, and what was going on when it was written. The Bible can't mean something different than what it meant to the people who first heard it.

APPLICATION asks, "What should I do?" Ask God to help you understand how to live out what you just learned. Studying the Bible without doing anything about it doesn't help much — and trying to obey God without understanding His Word first is just guessing!

Use this journal to write down what you discover along the way.

A YEAR OF SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Alongside our walk through Matthew, our whole church will hide one Bible verse in our hearts each month. These twelve verses come from a memory plan called "Live the New Life" — picked to help us know who Jesus is, and how to obey Him, love His Word, pray, love each other, and tell others about Him.

We'll learn the new verse the first Sunday of the month. Say it out loud every day! Review last month's verse too — it's easy to forget things without practice.

Month	Verse	Theme
September	2 Corinthians 5:17	<i>Jesus is the Center</i>
October	Galatians 2:20	<i>Jesus is the Center</i>
November	Romans 12:1	<i>Obeying Jesus</i>
December	John 14:21	<i>Obeying Jesus</i>
January	2 Timothy 3:16	<i>God's Word</i>
February	Joshua 1:8	<i>God's Word</i>
March	John 15:7	<i>Prayer</i>
April	Philippians 4:6–7	<i>Prayer</i>
May	Matthew 18:20	<i>Friendship & Church</i>
June	Hebrews 10:24–25	<i>Friendship & Church</i>
July	Matthew 4:19	<i>Telling Others About Jesus</i>
August	Romans 1:16	<i>Telling Others About Jesus</i>

OCTOBER'S MEMORY VERSE

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

"I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Write it here, then again from memory each day this week:

Review last month's verse by saying it aloud once each day before you begin your day this week.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

WEEK 5 October 4 - 10

Herod Kills the Children

Matthew 2:16–18

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 2:16–18 slowly, in one sitting, on both days. Don't analyze yet, just read prayerfully, perhaps aloud. Note any first impressions or questions below.



WEDNESDAY: OBSERVATION - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read Matthew 2:16–18 again before answering. Observation just means looking closely — ask who? what? when? where? why? and how? Don't worry about explaining it yet, just look!

1. What did Herod do when he found out that the wise men had not told him where Jesus was (v. 16)?
2. What boys did Herod order to be killed? Where did they live, and how old were they (v. 16)?
3. Which Old Testament prophet does Matthew say was speaking through the words in verses 17–18? See Jeremiah 31:15.
4. Who is crying in the prophecy, and why will she not be comforted (v. 18)?
5. What did the wise men tell Herod earlier that helps explain why he chose this age group (2:7)?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Consider context, cross-references, and Matthew's purpose as you answer.

1. Why do you think Matthew tells us about this terrible event? What do the fulfilled prophecies surrounding Jesus birth tell us about who Jesus is?
2. Herod was willing to hurt others because he was afraid of losing his power. What does this show us about how people can react when they do not want Jesus to be King?
3. Jeremiah 31:15 was first about mothers grieving when God's people were taken away to Babylon. Why do you think Matthew uses this verse to describe the mothers grieving in Bethlehem?
4. This passage shows us that terrible things can happen while God is still carrying out His plan. How can we believe both that evil is real and that God is still in control?
5. Jeremiah 31 also gives God's promise of a New Covenant (31:31–34). How does that promise give hope when we read this sad story?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

Be specific. Turn each answer into a concrete step, prayer, or change.

1. When something sad or painful happens that you do not understand, how do you usually respond? What can you do to trust God?
2. The mothers in this story were grieving, but God's Word also gives hope. Is there something sad in your life where you need to trust God and hold on to hope?
3. Herod was afraid of losing control. When you are afraid of losing control, how might you be tempted to do something wrong? What can you do instead?
4. All the fulfilled prophecies Matthew presents in his gospel account proves that Jesus is King. IN what ways do you need to obey Him as King this week?

Prayer for the week:

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"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come."

WEEK 6 October 11-17

The Return to Nazareth

Matthew 2:19–23

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 2:19–23 slowly, on both days. You don't have to figure it all out yet , just read it carefully, maybe even out loud. Jot down anything you notice or wonder about below.



WEDNESDAY: OBSERVATION - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read Matthew 2:19–23 again before answering.

1. Whose death happened before the angel came to Joseph again (vv. 19–20)?
2. What did the angel tell Joseph to do? Why was he supposed to do it (v. 20)?
3. What did Joseph do after the angel spoke to him (v. 21)?
4. Why was Joseph afraid to go to Judea (v. 22)?
5. Where did Joseph's family live, and what did Matthew say this fulfilled (v. 23)?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Consider context, cross-references, and Matthew's purpose as you answer.

1. God told Joseph what to do several times in dreams. What does this show about how God took care of Jesus and His family? What does it show about Joseph's obedience?
2. Why was Joseph afraid to go to Judea? What does this tell us about how dangerous things were for Jesus' family?
3. Nazareth was not a town that people thought highly of. Why is it important that Jesus grew up there? What does this teach us about the kind of King Jesus is?
4. Jesus' family moved from Bethlehem to Egypt and then to Nazareth. How do these moves show that Jesus the anointed one (Messiah) God promised to send?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

Be specific! Turn your answer into something you can actually do, pray, or change this week.

1. Joseph obeyed God one step at a time. Is there something God wants you to obey even though you do not know everything that will happen next?

2. Some people looked down on Nazareth. How should Jesus growing up there change the way you treat people or places that others look down on?

3. What is one way God has helped or guided you? Take time this week to thank Him for it.

Prayer for the week:

OCTOBER'S MEMORY VERSE

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Review last month's verse by saying it aloud once each day before you begin your day this week.

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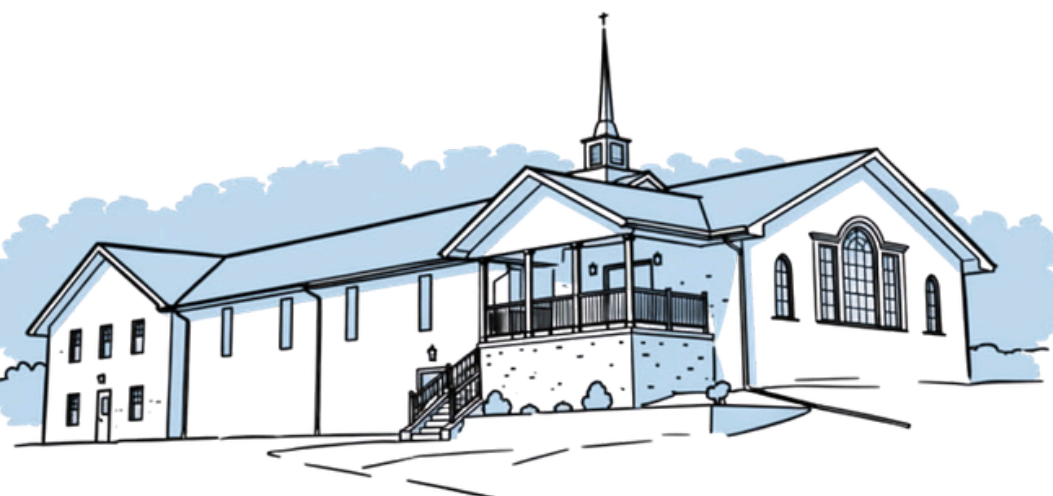
WEEK 7 October 18-24

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Matthew 3:1–12

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 3:1–12 slowly, on both days. You don't have to figure it all out yet, just read it carefully, maybe even out loud. Note any first impressions or questions below.



WEDNESDAY: OBSERVATION - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read Matthew 3:1–12 again before answering.

1. Where was John the Baptist preaching, and what was his main message?
2. Which Old Testament prophet did Matthew say was talking about John? What picture does the prophecy give us? See Isaiah 40:3.
3. What did John wear, and what did he eat ?
4. Who came to John and what did they do when they came?
5. What did John call the Pharisees and Sadducees? What did he warn them not to trust in?
6. How did John say his baptism was different from the baptism Jesus would bring?
7. What picture does John use in verse 12 to explain the judgment that is coming?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Consider context, cross-references, and Matthew's purpose as you answer.

1. John told people to repent because God's kingdom was near. What does this tell us about John's job and why he came?
2. Why does Matthew connect John with Isaiah 40:3, which says, "the voice of one crying in the wilderness"? What does this show about God's plan for John? How did John prepare the way for people to meet Jesus?
3. Why did John use such strong words when he spoke to the Pharisees and Sadducees? What wrong idea did they have?
4. What does it mean to "bear fruit in keeping with repentance"?
5. John baptized with water, but Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (v. 11). What does this tell us about the difference between John and Jesus?
6. John says the Messiah will separate people like a farmer separates wheat from chaff. What does this teach us about Jesus bringing both salvation and judgment?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

Be specific! Turn your answer into something you can actually do, pray, or change this week.

1. John wanted people to truly repent, not just look religious. What does it mean to repent? Are there times when you act religious but need to truly turn away from sin?
2. What is one area of your life where you can show that you have turned away from sin and are following God this week?
3. John always pointed people to Jesus instead of himself. Who can you point to Jesus this week?
4. Just because you were born into a family that knows God does not mean you know Him. Have you by faith submitted to Jesus as Lord?

Prayer for the week:

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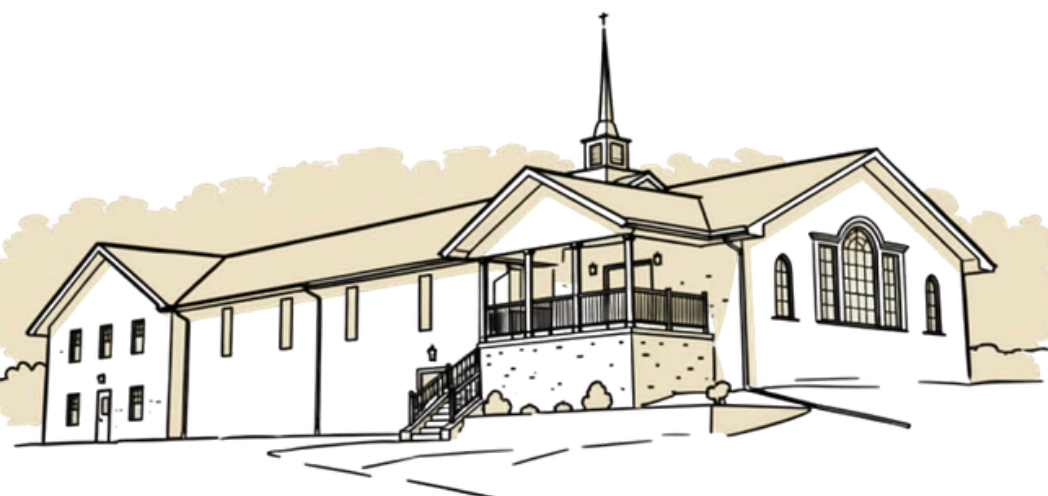
WEEK 8 October 25-31

The Baptism of Jesus

Matthew 3:13–17

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 3:13–17 slowly, in one sitting, on both days. Don't analyze yet, just read prayerfully, perhaps aloud. Note any first impressions or questions below.



WEDNESDAY: OBSERVATION - WHAT DOES IT SAY?

Read Matthew 3:13–17 again before answering.

1. Where did Jesus come from, and why did He come to John?
2. How did John first respond when Jesus asked to be baptized?
3. Why did Jesus say John should baptize Him?
4. What three things happened right after Jesus was baptized?
5. What did the voice from heaven say about Jesus?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Consider context, cross-references, and Matthew's purpose as you answer.

1. Why did John not want to baptize Jesus? What did this show about what John believed about Jesus (v. 14)?
2. Jesus said His baptism was “to fulfill all righteousness” (v. 15). Jesus had never sinned, so why was He baptized? What was He showing by being baptized?
3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all shown in this story. What does this teach us about the Trinity?
4. The Father's words point to Jesus as both the promised King and God's chosen Servant (Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1). What do these verses teach us about the kind of King Jesus is?
5. Why is it important that the Father said He was pleased with Jesus before Jesus began His public ministry?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

Be specific! Turn your answer into something you can actually do, pray, or change this week.

1. Jesus had no sin, but He chose to be baptized and identify with sinners. How does this make you more thankful for Jesus?

2. God the Father loved and approved of Jesus before Jesus began His public work. What does this tell us about Jesus' nature? How can we please God? See Hebrews 11:6 (Without faith it is impossible to please God)

3. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are all at work in this story. Take time this week to thank God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit for their work in saving you.

4. The first act of obedience to Christ is to be baptized. Have you by faith submitted your life to the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, have you proclaimed your faith through baptism?

Prayer for the week: