



ANNAPOLIS

First Baptist Church

BEHOLD, YOUR KING

A Family Discipleship Journal Through the Gospel of Matthew

Month One • September 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>

SEPTEMBER'S MEMORY VERSE

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.”*

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

WEEK 1 September 6 – 12

The Genealogy of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:1–17

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 1:1–17 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 1:1–17 again before you answer. Observation just means looking closely – ask who? what? when? where? why? and how? Don't worry about explaining it yet, just look!

1. Verse 17 splits this list into 3 groups of 14 names. Can you find where each group starts and ends?

2. Find the 4 women named in the list (verses 3, 5, 6). Write down their names.

3. What two special names does verse 1 give Jesus? ("son of ____" and "son of ____")

4. Which names in the list have you heard of before? Which names are brand new to you?

5. What one word keeps showing up over and over in verses 2–16?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Think about why Matthew wrote this and who he was writing to as you answer.

1. Why do you think Matthew started his whole book with a list of names instead of a story?
2. Jesus is called "son of David" and "son of Abraham." Why do you think that matters (God had made big promises to both of these men)?
3. Some of the women in this list had hard or messy stories. What does that tell you about the kind of people God chooses to use?
4. Matthew arranged the names into 3 neat groups of 14. Why might he have arranged them in this way?
5. Joseph wasn't Jesus' real father, but the list still goes through him. How does that still connect Jesus to King David's family?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

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

1. In Jesus family line there are people included who made sinful choices in their pasts yet God included them as part of Jesus family line. God made a big change in their lives. Are there sins in your life that need to be forgiven by God so that He can include you in His plan and use you for His kingdom? Read 1 John 1:9
2. This family list covers a long time — about 42 generations! God kept His promise even though people had to wait a long time. What are you waiting for God to do?
3. God welcomed people into Jesus' family who others might have left out. Who is someone you could be kinder to or include this week?

Prayer for the week:

SEPTEMBER'S MEMORY VERSE

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."*

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

WEEK 2 September 13 – 19

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Matthew 1:18–25

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 1:18–25 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 1:18–25 again before you answer.

1. What did Joseph plan to do when he found out Mary was going to have a baby? What word does verse 19 use to describe Joseph?
2. What name did the angel tell Joseph to give the baby (v. 21)? Why that name?
3. What Old Testament promise does Matthew quote in verses 22–23? What name does it give Jesus, and what does that name mean?
4. List everything Joseph did after his dream, in order (v. 24).
5. What does verse 25 tell us about Joseph and Mary before Jesus was born?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Think about why Matthew wrote this and who he was writing to as you answer.

1. Joseph didn't want to embarrass Mary, even though he was confused and hurt. What does that tell you about Joseph's character?
2. Isaiah had promised, hundreds of years earlier, that a virgin would have a baby (Isaiah 7:14). Why would that promise coming true help people believe Jesus was really sent by God?
3. Jesus has two names here: "Jesus" means "God saves," and "Immanuel" means "God with us." What do these two names tell us about who Jesus is?
4. Why is it important that Jesus' birth was a miracle from the Holy Spirit, and not just an ordinary birth?
5. Joseph obeyed right away, even though it was scary and confusing. What does that teach us about trusting God?

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 even before he understood everything. What is something God wants you to obey, even if you don't fully understand it yet?
2. "Immanuel" means God is with us. Where do you most need to remember that God is with you this week?
3. How does knowing Jesus is "God with us" help you when you're scared or facing something hard?

Prayer for the week:

SEPTEMBER'S MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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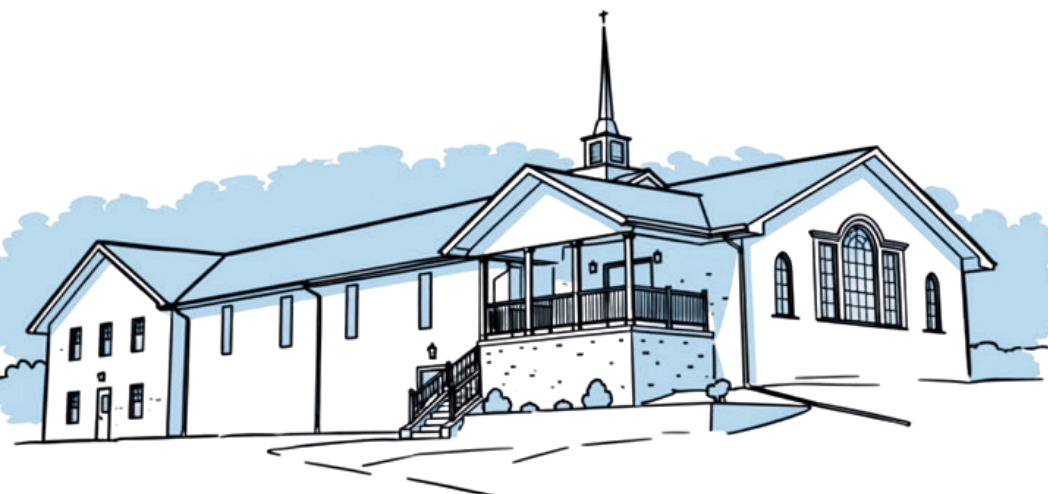
WEEK 3 September 20 – 26

The Visit of the Wise Men

Matthew 2:1–12

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 2:1–12 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 2:1–12 again before you answer.

1. Where was Jesus born, and who was king at the time (v. 1)?
2. Who came looking for Jesus, and what exactly were they looking for (v. 2)?
3. How did Herod feel when he heard about Jesus? Who did he call together to ask about it (vv. 3–4)?
4. What Old Testament verse did the priests and teachers quote to answer Herod's question (v. 6)?
5. What three gifts did the wise men give Jesus, and what did they do when they saw Him (v. 11)?
6. How did the wise men avoid going back to tell Herod where Jesus was (v. 12)?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Think about why Matthew wrote this and who he was writing to as you answer.

1. The wise men came from far away and were not part of God's people Israel, but they traveled to worship Jesus. The religious leaders in Jerusalem knew exactly where to find Him but never went. What does that teach us?
2. Herod was scared and upset when he heard about a new king being born. Why do you think a baby made a powerful king so afraid?
3. Why did the priests and teachers quote the verse from Micah to answer Herod's question?
4. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh were expensive, special gifts. What might they tell us about who Jesus is?
5. The wise men were full of joy and worship. Herod and the leaders in Jerusalem were afraid and made secret plans. What's the difference between these two reactions to Jesus?

FRIDAY: APPLICATION - WHAT WILL I DO?

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

1. The wise men traveled far and gave their best gifts just to worship Jesus. What could you give up or do this week to show Jesus He's worth that much to you?
2. The religious leaders knew facts about Jesus but never went to see Him. Is there something you know about Jesus that you haven't really acted on?
3. The wise men were "overjoyed" just to find Jesus. What would it look like for you to feel that excited about Jesus this week?

Prayer for the week:

SEPTEMBER'S MEMORY VERSE

2 Corinthians 5:17 (ESV)

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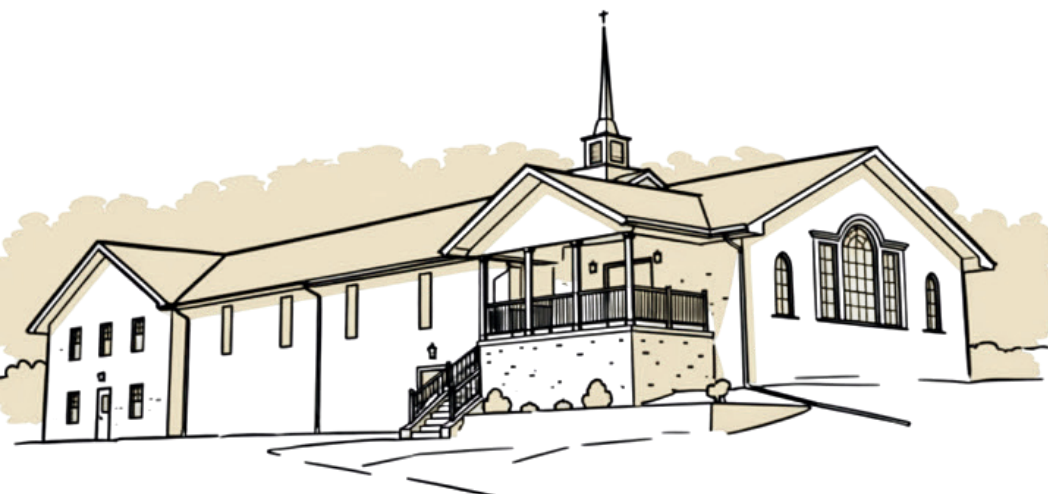
WEEK 4 September 27 - October 3

The Flight to Egypt

Matthew 2:13–15

MONDAY & TUESDAY: READ

Read Matthew 2:13–15 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 2:13–15 again before you answer.

1. Who appeared to Joseph, and what did he tell Joseph to do (v. 13)?
2. Why did Joseph need to do this (v. 13)?
3. What did Joseph do, and when did he do it (v. 14)?
4. How long did Joseph's family stay in Egypt (v. 15)?
5. What Old Testament verse does Matthew say this fulfilled (v. 15)?

THURSDAY: INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Think about why Matthew wrote this and who he was writing to as you answer.

1. God warned Joseph in a dream again, just like before. What do you notice about how God kept guiding Joseph?
2. The verse from Hosea was first about Israel coming out of Egypt long ago. How does baby Jesus' story remind you of Israel's story?
3. Jesus, God's own Son, had to run away from danger as a little child. What does that tell you about Jesus understanding hard things we go through?
4. This story shows real danger for baby Jesus and also God protecting Him. Where do you see both of those things happening?

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 right away, even though it meant leaving everything and going to a strange country. What is something hard God might be asking you to do?
2. Jesus' family had to run from danger and live as strangers in another country. How can this help you be kind to kids or families who have had to move from somewhere else?
3. What is one thing God wants you to obey this week, even if you don't have all the answers yet?

Prayer for the week: