

MEET THE KING!

with Matthew

'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased (Mat. 3:17)'



Handouts to help you read & understand –
for personal Bible study, reading the Bible with a friend or with a group

1st Session THEME: The arrival of the King

1. Start with prayer. Then look at this icebreaker question. 10 minutes to get started

Two Christians have a discussion. One says that we must encourage people to bring up every doubt and question they have about the Bible and Christianity. The other says we should encourage people to lay aside their doubts and questions and to learn to rely and trust in God. What would you say?

2. Short introduction to Matthew's Gospel 5 minutes of introduction

Today we start a short series on (a part) of Matthew's Gospel. With this Gospel the New Testament starts. Matthew announces that the promised Son to David and to Abraham has finally arrived and been born. The whole world should know about it. And first and foremost, God's own people, to whom this King had so long been announced. As soon as the King's arrival was announced however, this announcement was received with many questions, objections and doubts. Like: if his mother was not pregnant of Joseph and not married, how can such a one be the Messiah? In Matthew 1, with the genealogy and with what follows, Matthew answers this question. And: it seems pagans (non-law-keeping people) worship this man (rather than God, the only one who should be worshipped) – how could we join? And was Jesus truly an Israelite? In Matthew 2, hinting at Psalm 72 and at what happened during the Exodus, Matthew begins to answer such questions. The chapter we study today however, is meant to show that everyone who has many questions, should become deeply aware that 'heaven' has many questions for us as well. We should repent and humble ourselves, admit our sins, for only by becoming poor and in desperate need of righteousness and forgiveness would we be in the right position to receive, learn from and meet the King who came.

3. Read Matthew 3 30 minutes to understand the passage

Look again at verses 1-4 The arrival of the King announced

John's coming was in line with what Isaiah and Malachi (4:5-6) had announced. John preached repentance.

- What strikes you in these verses?
- Why, according to the text, was the preaching of repentance needed and what does it mean to repent?
- Is that still needed?

Look again at verses 5-12 The arrival of the King anticipated

- Which are the two responses that we see in these verses on John's preaching?
- What should we learn from the response of the religious leaders and of what John said about it?

Look again at verses 13-17 The arrival of the King affirmed

- Why wasn't John baptised by Jesus?
- What is the meaning of what happened after Jesus' baptism?

4. Apply and end with prayer. 15 minutes to make it personal and to pray

To meet the King and receive his teaching, we need humility. Which does not mean we may not ask questions. What kind of questions would the King have for you? Take a few moments of silence, share and end with prayer.

5. Digging deeper.

- To learn more about repentance, read II Corinthians 7:8-11. Paul had written a confronting, painful letter to the church at Corinth, with the aim that that church would repent. Look also at Luke 24:45-49
- To learn more about what happened after Jesus' baptism, read Isaiah 11:2, 42:1 (see also Isaiah 52:13 and what follows), Isaiah 61:1, 64:1. Read also Psalm 2.