



LIFE GROUP NOTES

Week Beginning: 7th July 2024



Matthew 14:13-33
The King That Delivers

Warm Up

Outside of the Bible, what is your favourite piece of literature? Do you prefer novels, poetry, autobiography? Perhaps you prefer to see a story acted out? What is your favourite film or play?

Background and context

We often forget that the bible is skilfully crafted and expertly written ancient literature. It is of course inspired by God, but human creativity and skill have produced an incredible document, relating God's interactions with His chosen people and His plan to rescue them. Matthew's Gospel is a cleverly written account of Jesus, with the aim of convincing Matthew's Jewish readers that Jesus is not only the Messiah, the one to rescue Israel and be her king forever, but also the new Moses who teaches with authority and, God with us, Emmanuel. His gospel slowly builds a picture of Jesus, providing evidence that He fulfils the prophecies and requirements of the Messiah, son of God.

Thinking it through: Main discussion/activity

READ Matthew 14:13-33. What are the surprising things in the passage? What is new? What don't you really understand?

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/matthew/>

If you have time (15 mins) watch the videos on the book of Matthew.

1. **Read ch 14:1-12.** How do you think Jesus was feeling at this time? Does this change your view on what happens in the next few verses?
2. How is Jesus demonstrating authority and Messianic kingship?
2. Why do you think Jesus asks the disciples to feed them?
3. Matthew wants his readers to make connections to the Old Testament. Look up the following: **Isaiah 58:6-7, Isaiah 61:1, Exodus 16:4.** How does the passage in **Matthew 14:13-21** link to these OT passages?
4. **Read v22-33.** How does Jesus demonstrate His authority as Messiah and King?
5. Why does Peter want to get out of the boat? Why does he fail to walk on water?
6. **Read Exodus 14:13-16.** What parallels are there with **Matthew 14:22-33**?

Discipleship and Application

7. How do the stories in **Matthew 14** support the idea that Jesus is the King that delivers?
8. How does Jesus feed you beyond expectations? How has He rescued you from the storm?

Try to leave 15-20 mins to talk about prayer needs of the group and to pray.

We want to encourage the development of prayer, to help everyone grow in confidence in praying. There are many creative ways of praying together: writing prayers, using candles as a focus, reading prayers or praying for each other in pairs.