

THE BOOK OF

Matthew

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

CREATED BY STEVE CASE

A Family Like Mine

OPENING QUESTION

Name a relative you are proud of. Who's a relative you're not so proud of?

READ **Matthew 1:1—25.**

1. Why are genealogies important?

- A. It provides identity.
- B. To maintain a pure blood line.
- C. They provide boring spots—a good excuse to not read the Bible.
- D. It lays out a frame of reference for how people relate to each other.
- E. To give practice at reading names you'd usually never attempt.
- F. I don't think genealogies are important.
- G. To make it clear who are Jews and who are Gentiles (in and out).
- H. To expose the good and the bad in your family line.
- I. Other.

2. Why do Abraham and David get singled out for "Jesus the Messiah"?

- A. They are clearly the two who are most important.
- B. It's more likely Americans will pronounce their names correctly.
- C. God promised Abraham a son, and Jesus is God's promised son.
- D. David was an example of rising from a humble beginning to be king.
- E. The others in the genealogy did too many embarrassing things.
- F. All Jews, from kings to commoners, wanted the Messiah to be King.
- G. Jesus is the ultimate Jew (Abraham) and the ultimate king (David).
- H. They're just better known than the rest.
- I. Other.

3. Who would you have kept off the list in the Matthew 1 genealogy?

- A. The names I can't pronounce.
- B. The kings who were wicked (like Ahaz, Manasseh, and Amon).
- C. No one—keep them all there.
- D. The women; especially these women.
- E. Those after the Babylonian captivity really don't matter.
- F. Amminadab and Zerubbabel—the A & Z tongue twisters.
- G. Judah (*see Genesis 38*).
- H. Jesus.
- I. Other.

4. What is the significance of three sets of 14 generations (vs. 17)?

- A. The Jews were really into the symbolic meaning of numbers.
- B. The total is 42, used in other parts of the Bible (*Rev. 11:2; 13:5*).
- C. It's a coincidence that the genealogies came out this way.
- D. The genealogies were actually altered some to make it 3 x 14.
- E. The number 14 is the symbolic name of David, so Jesus = David.
- F. The number 3 is the symbolic number for God, so Jesus = God.
- G. It divides Jewish history based on three significant events.
- H. This is a bunch of "ooga, booga" and not truly significant.
- I. Other.

5. What seems odd about the lead up to the birth of Jesus in Matthew?

- A. No mention of the angel appearing to Mary (*Luke 1:26-38*).
- B. No mention of the miraculous conception of John (*Luke 1:5-25*).
- C. With all the Messiah hype at that time, this story seems too crazy.
- D. A virgin conceiving.
- E. God becoming a human.
- F. God going through a 9-month gestation period and becoming a baby.
- G. Joseph believing a dream to explain Mary's pregnancy.
- H. Joseph married Mary, but waited to consummate their marriage.
- I. Other.

6. Why was Jesus called "Immanuel"?

- A. "Immanuel" means "God is with us."
- B. No one else had ever been called by that name.
- C. People associated this word with "Messiah."
- D. It fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy of *Isaiah 7:14*.
- E. He just looked like an "Immanuel."
- F. He was named after his father.
- G. Two reasons: Jesus really was God; and he was right with us.
- H. Other.

7. How is Jesus able to "save people from their sins" (vs. 21)?

8. Why might God have chosen to bring Jesus into the world in this way?

Good News or Bad News?

OPENING QUESTION

When was the last time you heard some really good news?

READ **Matthew 2:1–23.**

1. Why weren't the religious leaders as concerned as others about the star and the newborn king of the Jews?

- A. It really wasn't that big of a deal.
- B. They had already checked out the star and "the newborn king."
- C. God would tell them about the Messiah before telling anyone else.
- D. Jewish religious leaders have always been quite mellow.
- E. To protect themselves from Herod's erratic responses.
- F. The word about the star came from Gentiles.
- G. They hadn't seen the star, even though it was right over their heads.
- H. They weren't looking for a Messiah.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the wise men go to Jerusalem first before going to Bethlehem?

- A. They got lost.
- B. You had to get a visa in Jerusalem before moving on to Bethlehem.
- C. That's where the star took them.
- D. Herod brought them in.
- E. They wanted to join forces with the religious leaders.
- F. They expected the newborn king to be at the temple in Jerusalem.
- G. Jerusalem had a great coffee shop they had heard about.
- H. This was another way God told about the Messiah's arrival.
- I. Other.

3. What was Herod up to with his involvement with the wise men?

- A. No good.
- B. He really did want to see the baby king.
- C. He reveled in the showdown to outwit foreign wise men.
- D. Herod had a nickname: "Hospitality Herod."
- E. Herod suffered from paranoia regarding power and control.
- F. Word of a newborn king would pose an immediate threat to Herod.
- G. Judea didn't need the hype of a newborn king for the Jews.
- H. Other.

4. How many wise men were there?

- A. Three.
- B. Four.
- C. Not many.
- D. Not enough to fight Herod and his crew.
- E. Nobody knows.
- F. They've been named: Melkon, Balthasar, and Gaspar.
- G. Think about it: 3 gifts (3 wise men).
- H. Other.

5. What is the significance of Jesus fulfilling Old Testament prophecies?

- A. He must have been the Messiah.
- B. It was just luck/coincidence.
- C. Matthew twisted Old Testament verses to fit Jesus.
- D. It wasn't obvious enough for people to see it when it happened.
- E. The entire Old Testament has a focus on the coming Messiah.
- F. There were lots of Old Testament prophecies that weren't fulfilled.
- G. It pays to study the Bible.
- H. Jesus is the fulcrum of the entire Bible.
- I. Other.

6. Why didn't God protect Jesus from Herod and the soldiers?

- A. He did.
- B. God didn't see it coming.
- C. There's another unnamed force at work in this story.
- D. God used dreams and night travel.
- E. The real question is why didn't God protect all the other boys.
- F. The death threat on Jesus mirrored the death threat on baby Moses.
- G. It prefigured that Jesus one day would be killed by Roman soldiers.
- H. Other.

7. In what ways did God communicate in *Matthew 2*? How does that compare with the ways God communicates today?

8. What gifts have you given Jesus? What will you give him now?

Preparing the Way

OPENING QUESTION

What is something strange that you've eaten?

READ Matthew 3:1–17.

1. Why did John the Baptist go to the wilderness to preach?

- A. He didn't have money to rent a building in town.
- B. John lived in the wilderness; it was his home.
- C. It created more of a spectacle by drawing people to the wilderness.
- D. He hadn't been ordained, so he couldn't preach in the synagogues.
- E. He needed a river to do all of his baptizing.
- F. Nobody knows.
- G. That's where John had received his training from God—in nature.
- H. He wanted a break from his father's priestly training.
- I. Other.

2. What was John the Baptist's message?

- A. Turn or burn.
- B. God loves you.
- C. What is your spiritual heritage?
- D. Live a simple life instead of following cultural norms.
- E. Wake up! You're too complacent for these monumental times.
- F. You need forgiveness and cleansing.
- G. God's kingdom is at hand—here it comes!
- H. Turning hearts of parents to children and vice versa (*Malachi 4:5-6*).
- I. Other.

3. How is the Seventh-day Adventist Church similar to John the Baptist?

- A. It's not.
- B. SDA's don't favor traditional education.
- C. Called to give a message of warning prior to the Advent of Christ.
- D. A miraculous beginning.
- E. Diet and dress/appearance that seem strange or odd.
- F. More and more people come to hear about it.
- G. Baptism by immersion.
- H. Actively prepare the way for the Lord to come to earth.
- I. Other.

4. What are good ways to prepare a straight path for Christ's coming?

- A. Be a good example for others to be just like you.
- B. Love others the way God has loved you.
- C. Regularly ask God to change you to not be crooked.
- D. Invest in road construction equipment.
- E. Talk a lot about Christ's Second Coming.
- F. Have a strange diet and wear strange clothes (like Elijah).
- G. Don't create waves (or pot holes).
- H. Other.

5. Why did Jesus go to John to be baptized?

- A. Jesus wasn't quite as perfect as many people make him out to be.
- B. It was his first opportunity to meet his cousin.
- C. Jesus modeled what each human needs—forgiveness and cleansing.
- D. He was sick and tired of working in the carpenter shop in Nazareth.
- E. Jesus was curious, like so many other people.
- F. To give John's followers an opportunity to follow Jesus.
- G. It was time to start his earthly ministry.
- H. Other.

6. What happened after Jesus' baptism?

- A. A dove came and landed on his head.
- B. John called Jesus "The Lamb of God who removes the world's sins."
- C. Disciples started to follow him.
- D. All heard God's voice: "This is my Son, in whom I'm well pleased."
- E. Satan quit his assault on Jesus.
- F. Jesus received the support of angels.
- G. Jesus became more popular and John became less popular.
- H. Other.

7. What happened after your baptism?

8. What happens after a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire (*Isaiah 1:25; Isaiah 4:4; Hebrews 12:29*)?

Launch

OPENING QUESTION

What amazes you about a rocket launch?

READ **Matthew 4:1–25.**

1. Why did God launch Christ's ministry by sending him to the wilderness?

- A. God likes the wilderness.
- B. No interruptions as Jesus transitioned from carpenter to Christ.
- C. So Jesus would succeed where the Israelites had failed.
- D. There were lots of angels there.
- E. That's simply where Jesus was after being baptized by John.
- F. That's where Satan was, and it was time to engage.
- G. God started Jesus encountering wild animals before wild people.
- H. It just seemed like a good idea at the time.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Jesus fast 40 days and 40 nights?

- A. His focus on launching his ministry left him no time to eat.
- B. That's how long Moses fasted (*Deut. 9:7-11, 18*).
- C. Jesus didn't have the Pathfinder honor for wild edible plants.
- D. To overcome physical temptations.
- E. To be holy (fast and pray).
- F. That's about the longest humans can survive without food.
- G. It matches the time preparing to enter Canaan (*Num. 13:25-14:4*).
- H. To match his time on earth after his resurrection (*Acts 1:3*).
- I. Other.

3. What are the main tests in Satan's temptations found in *Matthew 4*?

- A. Appetite.
- B. Choosing self over God or others.
- C. Lying (or fibbing—not quite as bad as lying).
- D. Doubting God's previous statements.
- E. Taking the easy way.
- F. How well a person knows the Bible.
- G. We have to take care of ourselves.
- H. Ego.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Jesus leave Judea when Herod arrested his cousin John?

- A. If he stayed, it would have led to his death prematurely.
- B. This brought back bad childhood memories of fleeing another Herod.
- C. Jesus needed to check with his mother back at home.
- D. In order to launch his ministry outside of Judea.
- E. He figured John could take care of himself.
- F. Jesus never wanted to be accused of nepotism.
- G. Jesus could recruit better disciples around the Sea of Galilee.
- H. Other.

5. How did calling four fishermen launch Christ's ministry (vs. 18-22)?

- A. He wouldn't have to worry about being without food anymore.
- B. "Calling" a young man was what rabbis did, so no more carpentry.
- C. Once he started, others had to be added.
- D. Fishermen were rabbinical rejects; Jesus chose rejects as disciples.
- E. The fathers would be upset about losing their free laborers.
- F. It broadened Christ's base of support by tapping into another trade.
- G. It turned out to be a questionable choice on Christ's part.
- H. Other.

6. Why did so many people follow Jesus?

- A. He was very good looking and charismatic.
- B. All of the healings.
- C. Christ's teachings.
- D. They believed Jesus was the promised Messiah.
- E. There really wasn't anything else to do.
- F. The potential for breaking free from Roman occupation.
- G. Christ's call for repentance and the coming kingdom.
- H. Other.

7. What are three temptations Satan would use on you? How would you respond to each one?

8. Which best describes how you relate to Jesus: Disciple or Follower or Observer? Explain.

Try This!

OPENING QUESTION

How did you learn how to ride a bicycle?

READ **Matthew 5:1–48.**

1. Who is the target audience for the “Sermon on the Mount”?

- A. The masses who followed Jesus.
- B. The religious leaders of Christ’s day.
- C. Christ’s disciples.
- D. Sinners.
- E. Americans.
- F. Children and young people.
- G. All who want to be disciples of Jesus.
- H. The people in Christ’s day.
- I. Other.

2. Why do Christians give such prominence to “The Beatitudes”?

- A. They are a lot easier than the 10 commandments.
- B. They are more challenging than the 10 commandments.
- C. The “Sermon on the Mount” can be summed up by “The Beatitudes.”
- D. They make a nice wall hanging or poster.
- E. They’re super important.
- F. These capture the essence of Christ’s new kingdom.
- G. They are nebulous so it’s easy to give assent without doing much.
- H. Our world would be completely different if people practiced these.
- I. Other.

3. Where have you seen verse 16 occur?

- A. In my own life.
- B. It’s usually showing good deeds for personal credit.
- C. I don’t observe people praising my “Father in heaven.”
- D. Nowhere.
- E. Now here.
- F. In service settings.
- G. At church.
- H. At Christian concerts.
- I. Other.

4. What makes verses 23-24 so difficult?

- A. I don't offer sacrifices at a temple altar.
- B. I don't sacrifice.
- C. If I make a commitment to God, I'm not going to have it interrupted.
- D. There are too many people who "have something against me."
- E. I would spend too much time seeking reconciliation.
- F. It's usually the other person's fault, not mine.
- G. I don't find this to be difficult.
- H. Other.

5. Looking lustfully (vs. 28) is as bad as:

- A. Having physical sex with that person.
- B. Having emotional sex with that person.
- C. Looking at pornography online.
- D. Going to a strip club.
- E. Participating in a bachelor's party or a bachelorette's party.
- F. Lying.
- G. Skipping personal devotional time.
- H. Other.

6. What is a good way to "love your enemy"?

- A. Spend a lot of time with them.
- B. Heap coals of fire on their head by serving them gladly (*Rom. 12:20*).
- C. Recommend they serve on the church board.
- D. Pray silently for your enemy.
- E. Pray out loud for your enemy.
- F. Pray for God to change your heart, and then expect it to change.
- G. Submit to God whatever made that person your enemy.
- H. Other.

7. Paraphrase *Matthew 5:48*.

8. Which verse in *Matthew 5* do you find most challenging?

Praying Worry Away

OPENING QUESTION

As a child, who worried about you more: a parent or a sibling?

READ Matthew 6:1–34.

1. What does it mean to give your gifts in secret (vs. 4)?

- A. Do it anonymously.
- B. Don't be bragging about it.
- C. Give up your IRS tax deduction.
- D. Use gift cards.
- E. Don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.
- F. Turn over your donation funds to someone else to choose for you.
- G. Cast lots to determine the amount and recipients of your gift(s).
- H. Never have your name mentioned or engraved because of a gift.
- I. Other.

2. Who taught you to pray?

- A. Nobody.
- B. I've picked up little things here and there.
- C. My parents taught me this while I was growing up.
- D. Jesus.
- E. I had to teach myself.
- F. I'm probably doing it all wrong.
- G. I've learned what to do and what not to do by observing others.
- H. I could use some help.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus repeat the forgiveness theme in vs. 14-15?

- A. It's super-important, so it needs repeating for emphasis.
- B. Most people won't take it to heart in the heart of "The Lord's Prayer."
- C. Jesus forgot he had already mentioned it.
- D. Some of his listeners weren't listening very well right then.
- E. The context changed.
- F. Jesus wanted forgiveness to be a major activity in His Kingdom.
- G. His mother had told him to do so.
- H. It summarizes everything else in the Sermon on the Mount.
- I. Other.

4. What does it take to live this care-free life Jesus described?

- A. It's a lot easier if you're rich and have what you need.
- B. It's a lot easier if you're poor and know how to live with little.
- C. Faith in God.
- D. A background as a hippie would help.
- E. Release the pull of Western materialism in your life.
- F. Give away enough so you must trust in God to provide the basics.
- G. Periodically hand over to God any burdens you have.
- H. Other.

5. When have you experienced *verse 33*: "Seek ye first...?"

- A. This is my daily prayer.
- B. Once, right after I had made a big commitment to Christ.
- C. When I seemed to have lost everything, and I turned to God.
- D. I have done the first part, but haven't experienced the second part.
- E. I lack a grasp of what it means to "seek the kingdom of God..."
- F. When I feel a palpable sense of contentment.
- G. When I got a big payout, and "all these things" were added to me.
- H. Other.

6. What advice do you have for someone who worries a lot?

- A. Don't.
- B. Stop.
- C. Pray for them.
- D. Pray with them.
- E. Have them read Matthew 6 each day.
- F. Help them notice the many things in nature that God easily manages.
- G. Worry actually works: most things you worry about won't happen.
- H. Other.

7. Which phrase in The Lord's Prayer (*vs. 9-13*) is your favorite? Why?

8. Does your heart follow your treasure (*vs. 21*), or does your treasure follow your heart? Give an example.

Judge Not!

OPENING QUESTION

When have you seen someone make a bad judgment? When have you made a bad judgment?

READ **Matthew 7:1–29.**

1. What does “judge not” (vs. 1) mean?

- A. Don't judge.
- B. Don't speak your judgments out loud (keep them quietly to yourself).
- C. Others will go easy on you if you don't judge them—be nice.
- D. It means the opposite: We are supposed to judge.
- E. You're probably worse than the ones you're judging.
- F. Wise up—you don't know enough about a situation to pass judgment.
- G. This is Christ's sly humor of hyperbole; you can't help but judge.
- H. There's no need for a judicial system when you have a great king.
- I. Other.

2. What is most important when it comes to judging?

- A. Who does the judging.
- B. Having all the facts presented.
- C. The standard used for judging.
- D. Your personal bias.
- E. Who the attorneys are.
- F. The verdict.
- G. Not being too speedy.
- H. Not being too slow.
- I. Other.

3. When should you help remove a speck from another person's eye?

- A. That's not your job.
- B. If you're an ophthalmologist.
- C. When you've had the log taken out of your own eye.
- D. Only if you outrank the person or have a higher hierarchical position.
- E. If you've been humbled and repented of a similar problem.
- F. When you want to help that person.
- G. You're just going to make it worse.
- H. Other.

4. What makes the “golden rule” (“do unto others. . .” vs. 12) golden?

- A. It’s so valuable.
- B. It’s part of every society’s code of life.
- C. Whoever has the gold does the ruling.
- D. It makes us less selfish by stopping to think of others.
- E. It’s quite egocentric—thinking others want what you want.
- F. You have to pay people to treat others this way.
- G. It’s a pithy summary of all God has tried to communicate to us.
- H. Other.

5. Why is the road to hell broad, and the road to God’s kingdom narrow?

- A. Traffic patterns.
- B. The majority is usually wrong.
- C. Jesus just said this to get people’s attention.
- D. More people will be lost than saved.
- E. I don’t agree with this (at all).
- F. “Anything goes” on the way to hell; heaven is more particular.
- G. As it was in the days of Noah . . . (*Genesis 6:5-8; Matthew 24:37*).
- H. Other.

6. Who are the ones who enter God’s kingdom?

- A. Good fruit producers.
- B. Those who build a rock-solid foundation.
- C. Those who don’t judge.
- D. Those who aren’t judged.
- E. Very religious people.
- F. The ones who know God personally.
- G. The obedient.
- H. The poor in spirit.
- I. Other.

7. How does “you will know them by their fruits” (vs. 15-20) affect your relationships at work? At home? At church?

8. What is your takeaway about building on a solid foundation (vs. 24-27)?

Great Faith

OPENING QUESTION

If you were diagnosed with cancer today, who would you turn to for help?

READ **Matthew 8:1–34.**

1. Why would Jesus want to heal a leper?

- A. He was a nice guy.
- B. To spark a great public relations campaign.
- C. The leper seemed so helpless.
- D. That's just what Jesus does.
- E. He was the only one in need of healing.
- F. The faith demonstrated by the leper.
- G. To demonstrate that lepers shouldn't be treated as untouchables.
- H. It would show that Jesus was the Messiah.
- I. Other.

2. Why would Jesus want to heal a Roman centurion's servant?

- A. He was a nice guy.
- B. So the Romans soldiers would later be nice to him.
- C. Being a centurion's servant was really difficult.
- D. To restore those diseased and broken he found in this world.
- E. It would shock the Jews to help a Roman centurion.
- F. He knew this would publicly show a Gentile's greater faith.
- G. It seems like a poor use of supernatural power.
- H. This would reveal the superior status of Jesus—he's "Lord."
- I. Other.

3. Why would Jesus heal Peter's mother-in-law of her fever?

- A. You want to be on the good side of the lady of the house.
- B. This showed that even relatively minor disease was major to Jesus.
- C. Jesus was hoping to get a good supper.
- D. She was related to one of Christ's disciples.
- E. Sickness can't survive in the presence of God.
- F. To open the door for even more healings in the neighborhood.
- G. He didn't want to catch it himself.
- H. Even those who didn't ask for healing still received it.
- I. Other.

4. What does it mean to follow Jesus wherever he goes?

- A. We will end up in heaven.
- B. We'll end up on a cross.
- C. We won't have a place called "home" as long as we're on this earth.
- D. Expect to end up in places you would never choose for yourself.
- E. This includes partying.
- F. Don't be surprised if you end up hanging out with scumbags.
- G. You'll be at gatherings for the social elite.
- H. Not knowing where you'll go, but knowing who will be with you.
- I. Other.

5. Who is Jesus if he controls the wind and the waves?

- A. A super magician.
- B. Scary.
- C. Powerful.
- D. God.
- E. Some type of supernatural being.
- F. Creator.
- G. Messiah.
- H. The weather man.
- I. Other.

6. Why would Jesus cast out demons from two demoniacs in Gadara?

- A. So the people of Gadara would be cleansed from pig farming.
- B. To clear the land of demons by sending them to hell—sea bottom.
- C. To free the demoniacs.
- D. This showed Christ's supernatural power, even among the Gentiles.
- E. To show that those on an unstoppable slide to hell could be saved.
- F. To show that people are more important than (pig) profit.
- G. To bolster the courage of his disciples.
- H. Other.

7. What does it mean to follow Jesus no matter where he goes (vs. 19)?

8. Why did the people of Gadara ask Jesus to leave? What would cause you to ask Jesus to leave?

This Isn't Normal

OPENING QUESTION

What's an example of one thing about you that you think isn't "normal"?

READ **Matthew 9:1–38.**

1. What would be your reaction if you saw Jesus heal the paralyzed man?

- A. Is this real or one of those fake healings set up in advance?
- B. I'm confused about the forgiveness and "take up your mat" combo.
- C. Those are true friends (to carry the paralyzed man to Jesus).
- D. Blasphemy.
- E. This miracle is from God.
- F. This is God.
- G. I thought he's supposed to come through the roof (*Mark 2, Luke 5*).
- H. I want to be with this guy.
- I. Other.

2. Why is it that only God can forgive sins?

- A. Because he's God.
- B. All sin is against God.
- C. When we forgive, it's not enough unless God also forgives.
- D. We are supposed to forgive the way God does (*Matt. 6:14-15*).
- E. That's just the way God set it up.
- F. Humans don't have the authority or power to do this.
- G. Sin separates us from God, and only God can heal the breach.
- H. We lack the desire to forgive sins.
- I. Other.

3. What happens when you get connected to despicable tax collectors?

- A. You end up hanging out with the friends of despicable tax collectors.
- B. You effectively cut yourself off from religious people.
- C. Tax collectors will put on a party for you.
- D. It will probably make the tax collectors really uncomfortable.
- E. You will become like a despicable tax collector yourself.
- F. It's possible you could get a tax break or avoid being audited.
- G. You might not be able to shake these people from being around you.
- H. Expect to be misunderstood and criticized by "good people."
- I. Other.

4. What would be your response if Jesus asked you to be his disciple?

- A. I'm all in!
- B. I don't think I have what it takes.
- C. Maybe Jesus doesn't know I already have a full time job.
- D. I thought I was already doing that.
- E. This is way too serious.
- F. Maybe later.
- G. Who else is doing this?
- H. First tell me what this involves, and what it will cost me.
- I. Other.

5. Why don't you fast?

- A. I do.
- B. When I work overtime it's a form of fasting.
- C. That's not part of my faith tradition or practice.
- D. Because I get hungry.
- E. The bridegroom is still with me.
- F. The thought hardly ever enters my head.
- G. It seems like an attempt to earn favor with God, or get his attention.
- H. I do, but not from food.
- I. Other.

6. Why did Jesus resurrect the synagogue leader's daughter?

- A. The father specifically asked him to do so.
- B. The faith and testimony of the synagogue leader.
- C. To show Jesus had the power over death, not merely sickness.
- D. Of all the people who died that month, she would be the lucky one.
- E. This would increase the faith of his disciples.
- F. To possibly get a speaking appointment at that synagogue later.
- G. He was a good man.
- H. Other.

7. What do you find most abnormal about Jesus healing the bleeding lady?

8. Which story is more abnormal for you: Healing two blind men or casting out the demon of one mute man? Explain.

On a Mission

OPENING QUESTION

Who has hurt you the most: Family or Friends or Enemies?

READ **Matthew 10:1–42**

1. Why did Jesus send out his 12 disciples?

- A. He wanted to see how well they would do with their training.
- B. They had driven Jesus crazy and he needed a break.
- C. To demonstrate the Holy Spirit's power through other humans.
- D. This was the start of the pyramid scheme for Christianity.
- E. Instead of people coming to the 12 tribes, Jesus sent out the 12.
- F. Consider this their lab time for their discipleship training.
- G. To prepare places for Christ's ministry later.
- H. He was able to cover more territory this way.
- I. Other.

2. Why did Jesus limit the disciples mission to only Israelites?

- A. They were God's chosen people.
- B. Israelites would treat the disciples better than Gentiles would.
- C. They were conveniently close.
- D. If they could reach Israelites, Gentiles would be easy.
- E. You need to start at home.
- F. The Israelites were "lost."
- G. They wouldn't have problems with their dietary distinctives.
- H. This was God's primary target group at that time.
- I. Other.

3. What does it mean that "the kingdom of heaven is near" (vs. 7)?

- A. God's kingdom is so close you can touch it.
- B. You can expect the 2nd Coming in about 2,000+ years.
- C. God is watching you.
- D. You're about to see miracles that will grab your attention.
- E. God's kingdom will be here in just a little while.
- F. Sickness and disease and dreaded leprosy will be leaving now.
- G. You won't be going to heaven; heaven is coming here.
- H. I need a place to eat and sleep. Is your place okay?
- I. Other.

4. When has God spoken through you?

- A. Never.
- B. I'm not aware of it if God ever did.
- C. God speaks to me, but I keep that to myself.
- D. If I get into trouble for what I say, I say God told me to say it.
- E. When I correct people.
- F. When I encourage people.
- G. The times I have to answer people in authority over me.
- H. When words come out and I have no idea from whence they came.
- I. Other.

5. Why would you be unafraid of someone who wanted to kill you (vs. 28)?

- A. They can only kill my body (not my soul).
- B. I'm ready to die.
- C. I'm not ready to die; I would be very afraid.
- D. I always have my cell phone, so nothing bad will happen to me.
- E. I always have Jesus with me, so nothing bad will happen to me.
- F. I pack my own heat, so I would kill them first.
- G. I'm in God's hands, so I'll trust him no matter what happens to me.
- H. I'm not afraid for me, but for those who still need me to stay alive.
- I. Other.

6. When you are persecuted, what should be your response?

- A. "Thank you very much."
- B. "God is going to pay you back!"
- C. Rejoice.
- D. Fight back.
- E. Flee to another place.
- F. Demand your rights.
- G. Negotiate.
- H. Other.

7. What is your paraphrase of verse 16?

8. How do you publicly acknowledge Christ? How do you publicly deny Christ?

Clarifying Confusion

OPENING QUESTION

When have you tried to clarify something, but it only confused things more?

READ **Matthew 11:1–30.**

1. What makes Jesus so wonderful to you? Pick your top 2:

- A. He is God.
- B. Jesus healed lots of people.
- C. Children loved to be around him.
- D. Christ's teachings, which tell us about God and how to live.
- E. He afflicted the comfortable, and comforted the afflicted.
- F. Jesus died for my sins.
- G. The way he empowered others.
- H. His blessings.
- I. Other.

2. When do you have questions about Jesus (like John's disciples asked)?

- A. When things don't go my way.
- B. When life gets tough.
- C. When there's no payoff for being with Jesus.
- D. Conflicting stories or teachings from Jesus.
- E. Nothing seems to happen (and it should).
- F. When others have questions about him, too.
- G. When Jesus doesn't fit into my world.
- H. The times it seems like I'm on my own.
- I. Other.

3. SDAs claim to have a mission similar to John's. What is it?

- A. Announce the coming of Jesus.
- B. A call for repentance in anticipation of Christ's arrival.
- C. Wear strange clothes and have a strange diet.
- D. Be like Elijah.
- E. Go to jail for taking a strong stand for God.
- F. Warn those who think they are "in" that maybe they aren't.
- G. Live away from cities and have people come to you.
- H. Turn the hearts of parents to children, and vice versa.
- I. Other.

4. Put an “X” where you are on the continuum. Put a “+” where you would like to be. Put a “√” where your friends are.

FASTING

GLUTTON

TEETOTALER

DRUNKARD

RESPECTABLE PEOPLE

BAD CROWD

5. What have you received in comparison to those in Tyre and Sidon?

- A. The Bible.
- B. Jesus.
- C. A community of faithful Christians.
- D. A culture that is Christian.
- E. A lifestyle that is life-giving.
- F. More financial prosperity.
- G. Miracles.
- H. Living prophets.
- I. Other.

6. Rank your order of importance (1-7) for the elements of Christ’s call (28-30).

- ___ Come to Jesus
- ___ Rest from weariness and burdens.
- ___ Taking Christ’s yoke.
- ___ Learning from Jesus.
- ___ Rest for your soul.
- ___ An easy yoke.
- ___ A light burden.

7. What do children understand that adults don’t understand (vs. 25)?

8. What’s included in Christ’s yoke for you?

New Perspectives

OPENING QUESTION

What's a Sabbath rule you had as a child, but you don't follow it now?

READ **Matthew 12:1–50.**

1. The 4th commandment forbids work on Sabbath. Name the exceptions.

- A. No exceptions.
- B. Taking a sheep out of a well.
- C. Pastors can do whatever they want; it's the only day they really work.
- D. Anything related to the medical field is okay to do on Sabbath.
- E. Making plans to kill Jesus.
- F. Eating table of showbread food.
- G. Whatever you want.
- H. Eating at a restaurant (as long as only Gentiles are working).
- I. Other.

2. What is the significance of Jesus being greater than the temple?

- A. I don't see any significance.
- B. The temple housed the presence of God.
- C. Those most serious about following God were in the temple.
- D. Jesus seems to be really bragging about himself here.
- E. He couldn't be greater; it was the temple.
- F. All religion was centered in the temple.
- G. Only God could be greater than the temple.
- H. Herod's temple wasn't as magnificent as Solomon's temple had been.
- I. Other.

3. What miracle would convince you Jesus was the promised Messiah?

- A. Casting out demons.
- B. A healing that couldn't be explained as anything but a miracle.
- C. It would have to happen to me.
- D. Outsmarting the religious lawyers.
- E. Doing a miracle on my command.
- F. A double-doozie—like a blind AND mute person healed/cleansed.
- G. A change of heart.
- H. Sorry, I'm just a skeptic. Don't count on me believing.
- I. Other.

4. Are you “for Christ” or “against Christ” (vs. 30)?

- A. For Christ.
- B. Against Christ.
- C. Smack dab in the middle.
- D. I’m not sure.
- E. I prefer to be balanced.
- F. It’s hard to know which is which nowadays.
- G. What about *Mark 9:40*?
- H. We won’t really know until Christ returns.
- I. Other.

5. How does the fruit tree parable/metaphor work?

- A. Great!
- B. A tree naturally produces fruit (as long as it is a fruit-bearing tree).
- C. Good tree = good fruit. Bad tree = bad fruit.
- D. The fruit is a product, not a cause.
- E. Roots matter more than the visible tree or fruit.
- F. The sun, soil, and water matter—things beyond the tree itself.
- G. Beware of drawing too many analogies from any parable.
- H. I’m not into trees; I could use a more current parable (technology?).
- I. Other.

6. When do you sense that other believers are your family?

- A. I don’t.
- B. That just doesn’t happen at my church.
- C. When my family isn’t very close by comparison.
- D. When we have shared experiences as believers.
- E. When we go through potent things together.
- F. When we fight.
- G. Those times when we forgive one another.
- H. When we’re on the same page and moving together.
- I. Other.

7. When have you been an example of “doing good” on the Sabbath?

8. Which believers are you closer to than your own family? Why?

Let's Tell Stories!

OPENING QUESTION

Who's a good story-teller you've heard at some point in your life?

READ Matthew 13:1–58.

1. Why did Jesus use so many stories when he taught the crowds?

- A. Because he was a great story-teller.
- B. It's a lot more interesting than lecturing.
- C. Because Jesus didn't go to seminary, it was all he could do.
- D. A wider reach—people of all ages will listen to stories.
- E. Stories stick in a person's mind.
- F. To conceal certain parts of his teachings from the critics.
- G. So he could fulfill prophecy.
- H. It's easier to swallow the hard stuff when it's wrapped in a story.
- I. Other.

2. What grabs your attention with the story of the sower and the seeds?

- A. The sower wasted a lot of good seed.
- B. The various types of soils.
- C. The disciples didn't get it.
- D. Crop yields in good soil aren't uniform.
- E. I wonder what kind of soil represents me.
- F. There seem to be more misses than hits.
- G. Sunlight and water got left out of the story.
- H. There is a harvest.
- I. Other.

3. What do you do when you don't understand a religious teaching?

- A. Forget about it.
- B. Go ask the person who gave the teaching to explain it to me.
- C. Ask somebody besides the teacher to explain it to me.
- D. Pray about it.
- E. Use this as an example of what a poor teacher that person is.
- F. I feel stupid and guilty at the same time.
- G. Bring it up in my small group Bible study.
- H. I check it out with my favorite sources; namely _____.
- I. Other.

4. What are the ramifications of both the wheat and weeds growing together until the harvest?

- A. It's sometimes hard to tell the difference.
- B. It will be sorted out eventually.
- C. There will always be wheat and weeds until Christ returns.
- D. You probably need to get the hoe out once in a while.
- E. Angels do the separating; we don't.
- F. An enemy of God's kingdom is at work.
- G. Both wheat and weeds can thrive off the same nutrients.
- H. Other.

5. What's your take-away about the hidden treasure in a field (vs. 44)?

- A. It's hard for me to get so excited about the kingdom of God.
- B. I think that's a form of stealing.
- C. I feel sorry for the person who hid it—what's the back-story?
- D. Is the kingdom of God worth that much; I mean really?!
- E. I'm not ready to follow this strategy in anything.
- F. Finders keepers, losers weepers.
- G. Count me in—I'm going for it.
- H. Other.

6. Which story in *Matthew 13* grabbed your attention the most, and why?

- A. Sower and seeds.
- B. Wheat and weeds.
- C. Mustard seed.
- D. Yeast and dough.
- E. Hidden treasure in a field.
- F. Pearl of great price.
- G. Fishing dragnet.
- H. Christ's rejection in Nazareth.
- I. Other.

WHY?

7. What makes the kingdom of God valuable to you?

8. What are you willing to give/pay for the kingdom of God? What have you already given/paid? Would you give/pay more? Why or why not?

Mostly Miracles

OPENING QUESTION

Would you rather feed 5,000 with your lunch OR walk on water?

READ **Matthew 14:1–36.**

1. What seems likely regarding Herod and his family?

- A. They made a lot of memories together.
- B. Sex seemed to be a problem.
- C. Power seemed to be a problem.
- D. They didn't like John the Baptist.
- E. Nobody knew who really ruled.
- F. Family gatherings proved problematic.
- G. They would have preferred to live in Rome.
- H. Their group therapy had paid off.
- I. Some had been contestants on Dancing with the Stars.
- J. Other.

2. Why was John the Baptist executed?

- A. Jesus couldn't save him.
- B. Herodias didn't like how John affected Herod.
- C. Herod wanted to rid himself of guilt.
- D. Salome manipulated her drunk and proud papa.
- E. John was a positive example for future martyrs to remain faithful.
- F. It all seems so senseless.
- G. Satan always wants to eliminate people.
- H. Herod chose to save his own face rather than save John's life.
- I. Other.

3. How would you respond if Jesus asked you to feed a multitude?

- A. Impossible!
- B. I'd get organized right away.
- C. Start fund raising.
- D. Give as much as I can.
- E. Pray.
- F. This sounds like a Pathfinder camporee.
- G. Pass it off to someone else.
- H. Other.

4. Why did the disciples go onto the lake after feeding 5,000 people?

- A. They felt comfortable on the lake—so many of them were fishermen.
- B. So Jesus could play with them later when he walked on water.
- C. To remove the temptation to make Jesus king (*John 6:14-16*).
- D. Jesus was praying and they had nothing else to do.
- E. It was safer than staying on land.
- F. The disciples wanted to see if they could catch lots of fish now.
- G. Jesus sent them onto the lake.
- H. Other.

5. What did Peter's walk on the water reveal?

- A. Humans can do supernatural things.
- B. Humans make fools of themselves.
- C. Fear → Faith → Failure in a very short time.
- D. Peter didn't know how to walk on water.
- E. A lack of faith.
- F. Miracles last for only a short while.
- G. If you want to walk on water, you have to step out of the boat.
- H. Other.

6. What seems most significant about Christ's ministry so far in Matthew?

- A. Healings.
- B. Power over nature.
- C. Feeding 5,000+.
- D. Teachings.
- E. Conflict with religious leaders.
- F. Not rescuing John the Baptist.
- G. Choosing and empowering the 12 disciples.
- H. Combatting the powers of evil.
- I. Other.

7. What has convinced you that Jesus is God (*vs. 33*)?

8. In these stories, what is the human part and what is God's part?

Resources

OPENING QUESTION

When you asked for something as a child, were you more likely to get it from your mom, your dad, or someone else?

READ **Matthew 15:1—39.**

1. Which religious traditions have you found helpful (+); not helpful (-)?

- A. Family worship.
- B. Attending church.
- C. The order of service at church.
- D. Sabbath observance.
- E. Easter celebrations.
- F. Baptism.
- G. Foot-washing.
- H. Communion service.
- I. Other.

2. What's a religious tradition that seems contrary to Scripture?

- A. Tithing that must go to the church.
- B. All alcohol drinking forbidden.
- C. Ingathering as SDAs practice it.
- D. No dancing (remember Salome and John the Baptist?).
- E. Annual Council for the General Conference.
- F. Eschew personal adornment.
- G. Sabbath School begins at 9:30 AM.
- H. Human voting to determine who will be church leaders.
- I. Other.

3. What was Jesus' reaction when told he had offended the religious cops?

- A. Please forgive me.
- B. Forget-about-it.
- C. Let's create a website to promote our own ideas.
- D. I'm shocked.
- E. God will get rid of them.
- F. The Pharisees aren't a good resource for you.
- G. You'll know them by their fruits.
- H. Other.

4. Why did Jesus give the Canaanite woman the “cold-shoulder” treatment?

- A. Jesus knew that women could easily become nothing but trouble.
- B. In order to test her faith.
- C. To expose his disciples’ attitudes and actions to outsiders.
- D. She wasn’t part of Christ’s target-group.
- E. He knew he shouldn’t have been in her neighborhood.
- F. To highlight determined and persistent faith.
- G. Jesus was behind on his sleep and he simply got agitated.
- H. Other.

5. How did the disciples do when Jesus wanted to feed this multitude?

- A. They had learned how to do this from the feeding of the 5,000.
- B. It motivated them to become better fund raisers.
- C. They seemed to have forgotten what Jesus had done previously.
- D. Repetition seems needful for them to “get it.”
- E. They knew their role: Distribute what Jesus gave; collect the extra.
- F. The disciples did about as well as I do.
- G. They didn’t go on the lake without Jesus being with them.
- H. Other.

6. When comparing the feeding of the 4,000 (Mt. 15) with the feeding of the 5,000 (Mt. 14), what makes this feeding different?

- A. These were Gentiles rather than Jews.
- B. The Gentiles had enough food for 3 days without Jesus’ help.
- C. Jesus seems to be losing some of his power (started with more food, but fewer fed).
- D. The leftover baskets were fewer, but larger.
- E. Symbolic number: 4,000 = the world x army (God’s worldwide army).
- F. Symbolic number: 7 = perfection (Gentile food & baskets perfected).
- G. Both are miracles—just leave it at that.
- H. Other.

7. If the flow is insider → outside (vs. 11), what concern do you have about outside influences on you? On others?

8. In this chapter, what did Jesus give? What did he receive? How is this instructive for his followers? How is it instructive for you?

Make It Plain

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when something wasn't plain to you, but it seemed plain to everyone else.

READ **Matthew 16:1–28.**

1. What is the sign of Jonah the prophet (vs. 4)?

- A. God will get you where he wants you to be, even if it takes a miracle.
- B. Being as good as dead for 3 days and nights, and then: Watch out!
- C. Powerful preaching.
- D. Running away from God.
- E. Skin bleached with fishy gastric juice.
- F. A feeling of catastrophic doom that leads to heartfelt repentance.
- G. Prejudice against certain people.
- H. Suicidal thoughts.
- I. Other.

2. What is the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees (vs. 6, 11)?

- A. Small stuff that affects a lot of stuff.
- B. The impact of leadership.
- C. The impact of devout, but controlling people.
- D. False teachings.
- E. Hypocritical living.
- F. The secret ingredient in homemade bread.
- G. The ingredient removed for the annual Feast of Unleavened Bread.
- H. The thing that causes that wonderful smell of freshly baked bread.
- I. Other.

3. Who do YOU say “The Son of Man” is?

- A. The promised Messiah.
- B. Jesus when he comes the 2nd time.
- C. Jesus when he came the first time in human form—the son of MAN.
- D. The heavenly ruler and judge foreseen in *Daniel 7:13-14*.
- E. John the Baptist or Elijah.
- F. Ellen White.
- G. Same as the “Son of God.”
- H. Other.

4. Who/What is the “rock” upon which Christ said he’d build his church?

- A. Peter.
- B. Peter’s testimony that Jesus is God.
- C. All who testify that Jesus is God.
- D. Unity in the church (like Christ’s disciples had).
- E. The truths of Scripture.
- F. The 2300 day prophecy.
- G. Only Jesus is “the rock.”
- H. Other.

5. Why did Jesus call Peter “Satan” (vs. 23)?

- A. To lower him a notch after the great affirmation in vs. 18.
- B. Peter spoke Satan’s temptation: take the easy way out.
- C. It was Jesus’ way of telling Peter, “Enough; zip it!”
- D. Peter didn’t think Jesus could be resurrected if he was killed.
- E. Jesus heard it as Satan’s message even though Peter spoke it.
- F. Peter expected full endorsement from church leaders.
- G. Any perspective that lacks God’s perspective is Satanic.
- H. Other.

6. What tempts people to give priority to something over their soul?

- A. Just wanting everyone to get along and be happy or “chill.”
- B. Personal or professional drive.
- C. Success when viewed as achievement or money or lifestyle.
- D. Reputation or fame.
- E. Acceptance or respect.
- F. Ego or image.
- G. Visible rather than invisible things.
- H. Other.

7. What has made it plain to you that Jesus is God? What miracle(s) or sign(s) would make it more plain to you?

8. What does it mean to “take up your cross and follow Jesus” (vs. 24)?

Big Changes

OPENING QUESTION

Share an event from your childhood that made a BIG change in your life.

READ **Matthew 17:1–27.**

1. What stands out the most in your mind about Jesus being transfigured?

- A. It sounds pretty cool.
- B. I think it would freak me out if I saw that happen.
- C. It reminds me of *Daniel 10:5-6* and *Revelation 1:13-15*.
- D. Only 3 disciples witnessed it; and they couldn't immediately testify.
- E. There are times when divinity just bursts through.
- F. It was another "big change" for Peter (*see 2 Peter 1:16-18*).
- G. Face and clothes glowing.
- H. God's voice from the cloud.
- I. Other.

2. How did the 3 disciples know it was Moses and Elijah who appeared?

- A. Jesus called them by name.
- B. They had name tags.
- C. What they said to Jesus made it obvious who they were.
- D. They just looked like Moses and Elijah should look.
- E. Listening to their dialogue with Jesus.
- F. The disciples had tremendous insight.
- G. They represent those who go to heaven without dying (Elijah) OR after dying (Moses).
- H. They represent the Old Testament Law and Prophets.
- I. Other.

3. What did the "voice from the cloud" add to this moment?

- A. Over-the-top power.
- B. A reminder of the start of Christ's ministry (*Matthew 3:16-17*).
- C. Mystery.
- D. Another sense—hearing (because the disciples were flat on their faces).
- E. A reminder of what it was like at Mt. Sinai (*Exodus 19:16-20*).
- F. Specific instructions for the disciples.
- G. The disciples were now outnumbered.
- H. Other.

4. Why did the disciples understand John the Baptist was the promised Elijah, but miss that Jesus was going to die (vs. 11-13)?

- A. One out of two isn't bad for these guys.
- B. John's ministry was past, but the death of Jesus was future.
- C. Jesus basically named John as the "Elijah who was to come."
- D. The death of Christ isn't what the disciples signed up to join.
- E. Nobody foresaw the death of Jesus.
- F. Jesus was too powerful and smart to be killed.
- G. They couldn't fathom that God would allow Jesus to be killed.
- H. Other.

**5. When has someone asked you for supernatural help and you couldn't deliver it (vs. 16)?
Number from most frequent (1) to least frequent (8):**

- ___ Someone was terribly sick.
- ___ The impact of a sudden death.
- ___ Financial needs beyond your capability to help.
- ___ Self-loathing.
- ___ Marriage or family problems.
- ___ Having the right thing to say at the right time.
- ___ Questions about God that you didn't know how to answer.
- ___ Other: _____

6. What got revealed through the temple tax interchange?

- A. When we stand up for Jesus, we often botch it.
- B. Taxes have always been a problem for the good guys.
- C. It wasn't just the Romans who collected money from the people.
- D. An unenforceable tax could still carry a social or religious stigma.
- E. Priests, Levites, and prophets were exempt from the temple tax.
- F. Jesus has an endless array of options where we see dead ends.
- G. Peter was a gifted fisherman.
- H. Other.

7. If you were Moses or Elijah, what would you have said to Jesus (vs. 3)?

8. What do you lack the faith to do (vs. 20)?

Shock Value

OPENING QUESTION

Which do you experience more often: Serenity OR Shock?

READ Matthew 18:1–35.

1. Who is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?

- A. Everyone.
- B. No one.
- C. Powerful people.
- D. Humble people.
- E. Young people.
- F. Children.
- G. Certain children.
- H. Followers of Jesus.
- I. Other.

2. What would cause a child to lose faith in Jesus?

- A. Bad parenting.
- B. A bad church experience.
- C. Praying to Jesus and receiving no answer.
- D. Choosing other options that are available.
- E. Significant role models losing faith in Jesus.
- F. Not being able to see or hear Jesus in person.
- G. Calamity.
- H. Persistently bad images of Jesus.
- I. Other.

3. What did Jesus really mean about cutting off one's hand/foot (vs. 8-9)?

- A. Do it (if needed).
- B. Don't do it; just be willing to do it.
- C. Don't sin.
- D. Jesus was using hyperbole (extreme statement for effect).
- E. Gauge out your eye as well.
- F. Hell is worse than current disfigurement.
- G. It's more about causing others to sin than sinning yourself.
- H. Just get to heaven; you'll get a new body there.
- I. Other.

4. What's the point of the parable about the lost sheep (vs. 12-14)?

- A. The loss of one is enough to provoke extreme action.
- B. Sheep are stupid.
- C. The 99 sheep aren't as important as the one lost sheep.
- D. The lost sheep gets identified as "one of these little ones."
- E. Heaven and earth rejoice when a lost sheep is found.
- F. Shepherds go anywhere and everywhere to find the lost.
- G. Stay in the sheep fold.
- H. Other.

5. Mark: D=Daily W=Weekly M=Monthly Y=Yearly N=Never for how often you:

- Experience another believer sinning against you.
- Confront a sinning believer to provide correction.
- Find that a confronted believer refuses to confess.
- Take 2-3 believers with you for a second confrontation.
- Take the sinning incident to the church for a decision.
- Talk to someone else about a sinning believer.
- Treat someone who sinned against you as a tax collector.
- Other.

6. How often do you forgive someone who keeps sinning against you?

- A. I don't.
- B. Once.
- C. Up to 7 times.
- D. 70 x 7.
- E. I don't keep track.
- F. I say that I don't keep track (but silently I do).
- G. As often as God forgives me.
- H. Other.

7. Who do you identify with in the parable of the "unforgiving debtor"?

8. What did you find most shocking in this chapter?

Big Payoffs

OPENING QUESTION

Which is worth the most to you: Wealth OR Wisdom OR Wellness?

READ **Matthew 19:1–30.**

1. What did Jesus do for the multitudes who followed him (vs. 2)?

- A. Fed them.
- B. Taught them.
- C. Healed them.
- D. Provided jobs.
- E. Played with the children.
- F. Provoked the religious leaders.
- G. Made them listen to the disciples' early attempts at preaching.
- H. Invited them to join the Kingdom of heaven.
- I. Other.

2. Why did God allow for divorce in Old Testament times (Deut. 24:1-4)?

- A. God set parameters when men were divorcing for any reason at all.
- B. It was because of the hardness of the human heart.
- C. People are so broken that God had to come up with an alternative.
- D. To protect women.
- E. To protect men.
- F. Women were considered “indecent” when sexually promiscuous.
- G. Women were considered “indecent” when they burned supper.
- H. God allowed what he didn't actually want (like choosing a king).
- I. Other.

3. Is it better not to marry (vs. 10)?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. If depends on whether or not you've received that gift.
- D. It's better to be single and wish you were married than vice versa.
- E. This is why so many people co-habit today.
- F. You have to consider the financial ramifications.
- G. What about the children?
- H. Based on personal experience or God's design?
- I. Other.

4. How does a person “inherit” eternal life (vs. 16)?

- A. You have to be in the right family.
- B. Eternal life isn’t inherited.
- C. Keep the 10 commandments.
- D. Keep the last 6 of the 10 commandments.
- E. Keep all of God’s instructions.
- F. Join God’s family.
- G. Somebody has to die.
- H. Other.

5. What does it mean that “it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God” (vs. 24)?

- A. Few rich people will be in heaven.
- B. It’s a warning about the results of materialism.
- C. There was a short gate camels had to get on their knees to enter.
- D. It takes a miracle for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.
- E. It takes a miracle for anyone to enter God’s kingdom.
- F. This challenged the idea that rich people have God’s favor.
- G. A 1-letter mistranslation: it should be “cable” rather than “camel.”
- H. It’s really, really hard for the rich to enter heaven; but it can be done.
- I. Other.

6. What have you given up to follow Jesus?

- A. Everything.
- B. Not much.
- C. Wealth.
- D. My dreams.
- E. Broken dreams and heartache.
- F. I don’t know.
- G. Not nearly as much as I have already received.
- H. Other.

7. Who can be saved (vs. 25)?

8. What is your payoff in heaven compared to what you get now?

Payday

OPENING QUESTION

How long is a “normal” day of work for you?

READ **Matthew 20:1–34.**

1. When would you have wanted to start working in the vineyard?

- A. Crack of dawn.
- B. Midday.
- C. Just before quitting time.
- D. Early enough to earn my pay.
- E. Whenever everyone else started.
- F. Whenever the owner is there.
- G. I'd prefer being the owner rather than a worker.
- H. I'd rather not work at all.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the owner have the foreman pay in reverse order of hiring?

- A. It's a common mistake new owners make.
- B. He did it intentionally.
- C. It might work for heaven, but not for earth.
- D. He wanted to get rid of the slackers as quickly as possible.
- E. This exposed that the workers' primary motivation was financial.
- F. To demonstrate that fairness is easily misunderstood.
- G. He was just plain mean.
- H. Stupidity—not an issue if he had paid the first workers first.
- I. Other.

3. What is God's pay for your work in his vineyard?

- A. Heaven.
- B. Not burning forever in hell.
- C. It depends on how much I work.
- D. The work itself.
- E. Being in the owner's vineyard.
- F. Being with the owner.
- G. Unfair.
- H. A crown with ___ stars in it.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Jesus tell his disciples about his devastating future again?

- A. Jesus hoped they would catch on this time.
- B. He just had to get it off his chest.
- C. It's not what they expected—like the pay for the vineyard workers.
- D. To alert them to the religious leaders' intentions and actions.
- E. So they could recall it and make better sense of it after it happened.
- F. To give the sequence: Religious leaders initiate; Romans implement.
- G. People need 7 exposures to even become aware of something.
- H. Other.

5. What do you make of “Mrs. Zebedee’s” request for her two boys?

- A. She's a helicopter parent.
- B. James and John are “Mommy's boys.”
- C. I'd be livid if I were one of the other disciples.
- D. What about Peter, wasn't he one of the Big 3 for Jesus?
- E. None of these people understood the Kingdom of God.
- F. Clueless that this meant to be crucified on either side of Jesus.
- G. I'd ask for the same thing for my wonderful children.
- H. She was copying the way of the world rather than the way of Jesus.
- I. Other.

6. What was Jesus' basic message to his power-grabbing disciples?

- A. Now you understand what I've been trying to teach you.
- B. The first will be last, and the last will be first.
- C. It's about giving, not getting.
- D. Copy Me rather than all the others you're observing.
- E. You're trying to get to the top of the wrong mountain.
- F. I'm coming in judgment.
- G. I'm so proud of you.
- H. Other.

7. When in your life is a good time to join Jesus in the vineyard?

Birth

Death

8. When Jesus asks you, “What do you want me to do for you?” what is your response?

Conflict

OPENING QUESTION

When it comes to conflict, are you more likely to engage or avoid?

READ **Matthew 21:1–46.**

1. Why did Jesus ride triumphantly on a donkey into Jerusalem?

- A. To force a conflict with the establishment at the Feast of Passover.
- B. He was tired of walking since he started his trek in Galilee (60+miles).
- C. The Old Testament prophesied it (*Zechariah 9:9*).
- D. Triumphant war leaders rode horses; Jesus chose a symbol of peace.
- E. To identify with the poor (more likely to have a donkey, not a horse).
- F. It's how David's successor was crowned as king (*1 Kings 1:32-40*).
- G. Jesus liked donkeys, and one was available.
- H. To show he had dominion—Jesus calmly rode an unbroken donkey.
- I. Other..

2. What stands out the most in your mind about the triumphal entry?

- A. Jesus finally took a public stand about being king.
- B. The masses supported him.
- C. The palm-waving and Hosanna-shouts like the Feast of Tabernacles.
- D. This naturally led to Jesus cleansing the sanctuary.
- E. Jesus seems unstoppable.
- F. How could Jesus be crucified in less than a week?
- G. Jesus chose to ride on an unbroken donkey.
- H. The donkey-owner let the disciples take the donkey.
- I. Other.

3. Why did Jesus cleanse the sanctuary?

- A. It needed to be cleansed.
- B. This fulfilled *Daniel 8:14*.
- C. To create conflict with the religious leaders and their pawns.
- D. In order to make room for those who had been excluded.
- E. To change it from a market to a place of praise.
- F. He only cleansed the outer court (Court of the Gentiles).
- G. It book-ended his ministry (*cf. with John 2:13-25*).
- H. To take over as the ruler of the sanctuary.
- I. Other.

4. Why did Jesus curse the fig tree?

- A. Jesus was hungry.
- B. The fig tree illustrated hypocrisy—it had leaves but no fruit.
- C. To give another shocking illustration as his ministry was about to end.
- D. This will happen to people; the fig tree enactment is more merciful.
- E. He was just plain mad.
- F. This illustrated what would happen to the Jewish nation.
- G. This has roots in *Jeremiah 24* where figs represent God’s people.
- H. Other.

5. By what authority did Jesus drive out the temple merchants (vs. 23)?

- A. God the Father’s authority.
- B. Jesus’ own authority.
- C. Jesus never said.
- D. The religious leaders knew, but wanted to make Jesus say it.
- E. We’ll never know.
- F. We already know.
- G. Jesus had driven out demons before, so this was nothing new.
- H. John the Baptist.
- I. Other.

6. Why did Jesus tell the story of the evil farmers?

- A. To lead the religious leaders to incriminate themselves.
- B. Jesus always communicated by using stories (*Matt. 13:10-15*).
- C. This predicted what would unfold that very week.
- D. This showed Jesus wasn’t joking—things were getting very serious.
- E. To expose the religious leaders before judging them (*Matthew 23*).
- F. He was testing the waters to see if he should tell a sequel.
- G. Most of his listeners were farmers.
- H. Other.

7. How many commitments do you make to God? (put an “X” on the line)

FEW

MANY

8. What is your follow through percentage on your commitments to God?

0%

100%

Q & A

OPENING QUESTION

Do you prefer to ask questions or find answers?

READ 22:1—46.

1. In Christ's parable, who was invited to the wedding feast?

- A. The friends of the king.
- B. Primarily the aristocracy.
- C. Farmers and merchants.
- D. Whoever the servants invited.
- E. Anyone and everyone who would respond.
- F. Some real low-life types.
- G. I'm not sure I'd want to be there if certain people show up.
- H. People willing to persecute the messenger.
- I. Other.

2. What's the big deal about wearing the right wedding garment?

- A. It's the proper decorum, and culturally understood.
- B. This is why so many churches are going casual these days.
- C. The garment industry is behind all of this.
- D. You just feel different when you're all dressed up.
- E. The wedding attire was provided; it was disrespectful not to wear it.
- F. The guy certainly had no defense for his *laissez faire* style.
- G. What's on the outside is a good indicator of what's on the inside.
- H. Many are called, but few are chosen.
- I. Other.

3. Is it right to pay taxes?

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. They're unavoidable; just deal with it.
- D. You get the services, so pay your dues.
- E. Paying taxes to the government shows a lack of loyalty to God.
- F. God has an even higher tax for his followers.
- G. It's only money (which isn't a big deal to God).
- H. I'm against it, but I still pay (just to avoid penalties).
- I. Other.

4. What did Jesus mean when he said the Sadducees didn't know the Scriptures or the power of God (vs. 29)?

- A. They didn't know the Scriptures or the power of God.
- B. Jesus simply wanted to put them on the defensive.
- C. The Sadducees believed in only the writings of Moses.
- D. "Group think" had limited their understanding of the Bible.
- E. They avoided situations in which they would have to rely on God.
- F. The Bible teaches that marriage is only for earth; not for heaven.
- G. This statement confuses me every time I read it.
- H. Other.

5. What is the most important commandment in the law of Moses?

- A. Honor your father and your mother.
- B. All 10 commandments.
- C. The 4th commandment—the Sabbath.
- D. Love God.
- E. Love others.
- F. Love.
- G. Obey.
- H. Keep the religious feasts.
- I. Other.

6. Why was it important for the Messiah to be the "Son of David"?

- A. So he would be the king of the earth.
- B. This was the Messianic title the people expected.
- C. The title "Son of Man" was too human/common.
- D. David's family line was promised the throne for eternity.
- E. It wasn't important.
- F. It wasn't; the Son of God preceded the Son of David.
- G. The Messiah needed to be a grand character.
- H. Other.

7. Give 2 examples that illustrate how you:

Love God

- 1.
- 2.

Love your neighbor

- 1.
- 2.

Love yourself

- 1.
- 2.

Woe Is You

OPENING QUESTION

When have you given someone a “piece of your mind”?

READ 23:1—39.

1. Who interprets the Bible for you?

- A. Nobody.
- B. I get my input straight from God.
- C. My pastor.
- D. My parents.
- E. The internet.
- F. Lots of sources—it’s hard to narrow it to one.
- G. Only SDAs.
- H. Only non-SDAs.
- I. Other.

2. Who are your religious role models?

- A. Older people.
- B. Wiser people.
- C. Service-oriented people.
- D. Spiritual people.
- E. Younger people.
- F. People who are close to me.
- G. Bible characters.
- H. I don’t really have religious role models.
- I. Other.

3. What do you tithe?

- A. None of your business.
- B. My gross income.
- C. My net income.
- D. Whatever I want, whenever I want.
- E. Justice, mercy, and faith.
- F. Spices.
- G. My time.
- H. Whatever cause I give to I consider to be my tithe.
- I. Other.

4. Which of the 7 woes do you identify with the most? Put a ✓ by the top one(s) and a - by those that don't apply to you. If it's too personal, just leave it blank:

- vs. 13 Keeping people out of the kingdom of heaven
- vs. 15 Making converts worse than Pharisees and teachers
- vs. 16 Splitting hairs for one's own advantage
- vs. 23 Majoring in minors, and missing the majors
- vs. 25 Hypocrisy: Clean outside, but dirty inside
- vs. 27 Hypocrisy: Sparking outside; dead inside
- vs. 29 Hypocrisy: Giving generational sins a positive image

5. What did Jesus mean, "Your house is left to you desolate"?

- A. Nobody was home.
- B. Everyone would be fleeing.
- C. God would leave his people.
- D. The religious leaders would lose their following.
- E. The temple would be without God's presence.
- F. Rome would destroy Jerusalem and the temple.
- G. What they had was totally empty.
- H. Jerusalem would never be inhabited again.
- I. Other.

6. Reading *Matthew 23*, what are your impressions of Jesus?

- A. Jesus can get very angry.
- B. Jesus is meek and mild.
- C. I think this is why Jesus had to die.
- D. I think this is why the leaders decided to kill Jesus.
- E. This seems so unlike Jesus.
- F. Even Jesus "lost it" sometimes (*see also Mt. 16:23*).
- G. This is another example of something the disciples won't understand.
- H. Warning precedes judgment, and judgment is coming.
- I. Other.

7. When/How does Jesus gather you under his wings like a mother hen?

8. What makes a person look spiritual on the outside? On the inside?

Get Ready, Set, Go!

OPENING QUESTION

Would you prefer to run a short sprint or a long jog?

READ **Matthew 24:1–51.**

1. What would be your response if your church suddenly ceased to exist?

- A. Devastation.
- B. Shock.
- C. Denial.
- D. Anger.
- E. I expect it.
- F. There would be other churches to join.
- G. I'd become a chaplain/counselor for those in need.
- H. I'd still have Jesus; just not the Body of Christ.
- I. Other.

2. When is the most difficult time to be on earth?

- A. Just before Christ returns.
- B. When death strikes near.
- C. Being in a natural disaster.
- D. Persecution.
- E. Right now.
- F. When God seems silent.
- G. Any time a person lives without Jesus.
- H. When hope is gone.
- I. Other.

3. When do you think Christ will return?

- A. I have a time chart that spells it out; so I know.
- B. I have no idea.
- C. I have an idea, but I'm not pushing it.
- D. We have signs so we can generally know.
- E. Soon.
- F. In my lifetime.
- G. When the character of Christ is perfectly reproduced in his people.
- H. When He chooses to return.
- I. Other.

4. How will the Gospel get to the whole world?

- A. Missionaries.
- B. A great spiritual revival.
- C. Adventist World Radio combined with 3ABN.
- D. The internet.
- E. It will take angels—more than just humans.
- F. Both CNN and Fox News are needed to reach everyone.
- G. God is dependent on us.
- H. We need persecution and natural disasters to wake up everyone.
- I. Other.

5. Why did Jesus say the generation listening would see these things?

- A. They did—the destruction of the temple in 70 AD.
- B. Jesus thought he'd be back much sooner.
- C. The Gospel spread quickly, but it was just for a short time.
- D. The Son doesn't really know; only the Father knows.
- E. These signs were for the temple's destruction; not his return.
- F. Jesus could have returned in the 1st century AD.
- G. Jesus didn't know about 1844.
- H. Other.

6. What did Jesus mean that he would return when it's like Noah's day?

- A. Only a few will be faithful.
- B. Many will be taken by surprise.
- C. Many will be taken in a secret rapture.
- D. Many will be taken in death.
- E. Things will seem to be going on like they always do; then surprise!
- F. Those who are righteous will be considered fools by the majority.
- G. A world-wide judgment and destruction was about to ensue.
- H. There would be a clear and visible warning before the BIG event.
- I. Other.

7. Are you an "Adventist"? Why?

8. What's a good thing for you to do while you wait for Christ to return?

3 Stories About Christ's Return

OPENING QUESTION

Which is the best role in a wedding? Which one is the worst?

READ **Matthew 25:1–46.**

1. What comes to mind when you think about the 10 bridesmaids?

- A. They were virgins.
- B. Why were there 10?
- C. All of them slept.
- D. Those with enough oil didn't share with those who ran out.
- E. I'm afraid I might be left out when Jesus returns.
- F. The importance of having the oil/Holy Spirit.
- G. We don't know when Christ will return; only that he will return.
- H. This tells me what I need as I wait/prepare for Christ's return.
- I. Other.

2. What do you do with "Keep watch; for you don't know the day or hour"?

- A. Study harder to figure it out.
- B. Don't ever close your eyes.
- C. Live in a constant state of anxiety.
- D. Blow it off since no one really knows.
- E. This changes my focus.
- F. This makes me wonder what "keep watch" means in practical terms.
- G. Tag team with a group of other "watchers" so you're always on guard.
- H. I'm afraid that I'll probably be lost.
- I. Other.

3. The statement "I don't know you" (vs. 12) means:

- A. I don't know you.
- B. You don't know me.
- C. Knowing about Jesus isn't the same as knowing Jesus.
- D. God has a bad memory.
- E. Miss the deadline; miss the party.
- F. You weren't really friends in the first place.
- G. We're done with the niceties; now the truth comes out.
- H. No oil/Holy Spirit = Not knowing; Know oil/Holy Spirit = Knowing.
- I. Other.

4. In the second story, why did the man entrust his money to his servants?

- A. He was a risk-taker.
- B. The man trusted his servants.
- C. To make money you've gotta spend money.
- D. He wanted to see what his servants would do.
- E. He had his wife manage the servants while he was away.
- F. He wanted to make his servants beholden to him forever.
- G. He knew their skill sets and each one's level of responsibility.
- H. Other.

5. What did the 1-talent servant get right? What did he get wrong?

Right Wrong

- Playing it safe is okay.
- Blaming someone who is bad makes a good excuse.
- The master would be fair with him.
- Keeping what you've been given is fine.
- What you do is more important than what you're given.
- Giving God what he has given us is all we need to do.
- Status quo beats taking risks.
- His master was a harsh man.

6. The parable of the sheep and goats lets us know:

- A. There will be lots of surprises when Christ returns.
- B. Most people don't notice the presence of Jesus on this earth.
- C. God already has a place prepared for his children.
- D. God already has a place prepared for the devil and his angels.
- E. What we do matters; what we fail to do matters.
- F. Jesus goes incognito a lot right now.
- G. Jesus seems to identify more with those who are marginalized.
- H. Other.

7. Are these three stories more about the kingdom of heaven now or when Christ returns?

8. What do these three parables tell you about:

- Judgment
- Celebration
- Surprise

A Night To Remember

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time when you broke a promise.

READ **Matthew 26:1–75.**

1. Why did the priests secretly plot to kill Jesus?

- A. Out-of-control jealousy.
- B. Jesus was a threat to them and their religious system.
- C. The Romans loved Jesus.
- D. Not all the priests were on board, so they had to keep it a secret.
- E. So Jesus wouldn't find out and slip from their grasp.
- F. Secretly is how they worked best.
- G. Fear of potential mass revolt.
- H. The majority of priests were actually positive about Jesus.
- I. Other.

2. Why did the disciples respond so differently than Jesus to the perfume?

- A. The disciples were conservatives and Jesus was a liberal.
- B. The perfume really was a waste.
- C. They couldn't publicly endorse the actions of this woman.
- D. Luke tells the story from another perspective (*see Luke 7:36-50*).
- E. The disciples still had no clue that Jesus was about to be killed.
- F. They were trying to make a good impression on Simon.
- G. Jesus often stood up for the marginalized, which included women.
- H. So this would be a story told for generations to come.
- I. Other.

3. Why didn't the disciples catch on that Judas was the betrayer?

- A. They were too focused on clearing their own names.
- B. When Jesus tagged Judas, the disciples thought it was fake news.
- C. Jesus kept the fact from them.
- D. The disciples weren't the sharpest tools in the shed.
- E. Judas had been part of Christ's inner circle.
- F. Christ's statement of a betrayer shocked them into confusion.
- G. Someone who had previously cast out demons wouldn't do that.
- H. Each disciple had an accountability partner.
- I. Other.

4. What is the significance of the Last Supper?

- A. It was Christ's last supper on earth.
- B. Jesus transformed the Passover celebration to the Eucharist/Communion Service.
- C. Christians would be doing it from that point forward.
- D. It reminds believers of Christ's death for them.
- E. It has become merely a ritual—a tradition.
- F. We do it all wrong; quite unlike the way it was done that night.
- G. Unless believers participate, they don't obtain salvation.
- H. Other.

5. What was Christ's struggle about that night in Gethsemane?

- A. The sins of the world coming on him.
- B. Separation from his Father.
- C. The fact his disciples kept falling asleep during Christ's great need.
- D. I really can't fathom it.
- E. The religious leaders were out to get him.
- F. The strongest battle with Satan to that point.
- G. The weakness of his humanity.
- H. Other.

6. Why did the disciples ditch Jesus (vs. 56)?

- A. To fulfil Christ's prediction that they would.
- B. They weren't ditching Jesus; they were running for their own lives.
- C. When Jesus stopped them from fighting to the death, they freaked.
- D. The mob intimidated them.
- E. The betrayal of Judas took them completely by surprise.
- F. They were a bunch of scaredy-cats.
- G. They thought it was time to play hide-and-go-seek and Jesus was "it."
- H. Other.

7. Chart Peter's emotions for the night described in *Matthew 26*.

8. What has caused you to deny Christ in the past?

You're Gonna Die

OPENING QUESTION

Describe a time in your childhood when you thought you were gonna die.

READ **Matthew 27:1—66.**

1. What suddenly made Judas so remorseful about betraying Christ?

- A. His conscience finally kicked in.
- B. The religious leaders were so despicable.
- C. The 30 pieces of silver didn't really go far enough for him.
- D. He didn't expect this would end in Christ's condemnation to death.
- E. He felt so alone.
- F. Judas just wanted to help Jesus become king, and it backfired.
- G. The Holy Spirit brought conviction on him.
- H. The devil began to torment Judas.
- I. Other.

2. What counsel would you have given Pilate?

- A. Be a man.
- B. Listen to your wife.
- C. You know better than to trust the religious leaders.
- D. The Barabbas cop-out might not work.
- E. You've done a fine job of training your Roman soldiers.
- F. Don't be so politically expedient.
- G. You're dealing with God here in the form of the guy named Jesus.
- H. The sooner you can get rid of Jesus, the better off everyone will be.
- I. Other.

3. What is so wrong about the condemnation of Jesus?

- A. Judas didn't want it to go this far.
- B. The envy of the religious leaders motivated it.
- C. Passover wasn't a good time for this to happen.
- D. Pilate knew from the start the problem wasn't Jesus.
- E. Jesus was innocent.
- F. Barabbas got to go free.
- G. Jesus didn't get a chance to defend himself.
- H. I should have been the one put on the cross.
- I. Other.

4. Why did the soldiers torture Jesus?

- A. They were just doing their job.
- B. Jesus was an outlet for their pent up frustration with Jews in general.
- C. There's no rule of law in that setting.
- D. That's what soldiers do.
- E. The devil motivated them to do this to break Christ's will.
- F. The disciples weren't present to protect Jesus.
- G. They were just having some fun with a convicted criminal.
- H. Other.

5. The sign on the cross "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews" means:

- A. Jesus was the King of the Jews.
- B. This is a mockery of Jewish impotence.
- C. It's another reminder of Rome's dominant power.
- D. This is actually an understatement; he is King of ALL.
- E. It's Pilate's passive aggressive nature kicking in.
- F. Jesus was born to die.
- G. Only Pilate rules in this part of the world.
- H. Other.

6. What is the significance of the temple curtain tearing when Christ died?

- A. This exposed the Most Holy Place.
- B. The Most Holy Place was empty.
- C. It was just a coincidence; the earthquake caused the tear.
- D. Creation reacted to the death of the Creator.
- E. They needed a new curtain anyway.
- F. The temple system ended with the death of Christ.
- G. This curtain had been in place since the wilderness sanctuary days.
- H. Other.

7. What ways could God have intervened on Golgotha? Why didn't he?

8. If you had been Simon of Cyrene, how would you have later told others the story of carrying Christ's cross?

Believe It or Not

OPENING QUESTION

What has scared you in the past.

READ **Matthew 28:1—20.**

1. Why did the two Marys go to the tomb Sunday morning?

- A. They wanted to anoint Christ's body with spices.
- B. They needed a break from being around scared disciples.
- C. It was on the way to Starbucks.
- D. They expected Jesus to be resurrected, as he had said.
- E. To check and see whether or not soldiers still guarded the tomb.
- F. They did pilates on Tuesday and Thursday; this was their day to walk.
- G. They were still in the grieving process from Christ's death.
- H. The disciples sent them.
- I. Other.

2. Why were the guards so scared?

- A. This was the second squad; they weren't as brave as the first crew.
- B. They were just coming off the night shift.
- C. The supernatural showed itself as indeed being supernatural.
- D. The earthquake did the first shaking.
- E. Their dead package they were to guard walked away, alive.
- F. The Roman seal on the tomb increased Rome's responsibility.
- G. Fear of reprisals the religious leaders might take.
- H. After what they had done to Jesus, they expected payback.
- I. Other.

3. Why did the angel tell the women do not to be afraid?

- A. That's the most common first message when angels speak to humans.
- B. They were women; they got scared easily.
- C. The earthquake already made them wobbly.
- D. This stands in contrast to what happened to the male guards.
- E. There really was no reason to be afraid.
- F. The guards were running by at the time, and they were freaked out.
- G. When a human sees an angel, it's enough to make any human afraid.
- H. The angel would protect them from any potential harm.
- I. Other.

4. What were the key messages the women were to give the disciples?

- A. Jesus had been resurrected.
- B. Tell the disciples about this SOON.
- C. You will see Jesus again.
- D. We got to see Jesus, and you didn't.
- E. There's evidence for Christ's resurrection.
- F. Jesus isn't here now.
- G. You should have paid better attention; he told you all this in advance.
- H. Other.

5. Why did Jesus show himself to the women?

- A. They were there—presence matters.
- B. They were more likely to believe.
- C. To provide additional evidence for the disciples.
- D. To counter the lie the soldiers spread.
- E. So one day women could be ordained.
- F. Jesus likes females more than males.
- G. To test others' faith to believe the word of those marginalized.
- H. Other.

6. Why did the Roman soldiers take the bribe from the religious leaders?

- A. It was good money.
- B. They were so scared they were ready to do anything.
- C. The religious leaders were very convincing.
- D. Pilate promised to not hold them accountable.
- E. The story the religious leaders came up with seemed so plausible.
- F. Many of them came to regret it later.
- G. It was all in a day's work for them; they never thought of it again.
- H. Other.

7. How much would you have to be paid to NOT tell others about the resurrection of Jesus?

8. What is your paraphrase of the "Gospel Commission" (vs 18-20)?

