

*growing  
together*

GROUP GUIDE

WALK IN GRACE: MATTHEW 21-28  
FOR WELL-WATERED WOMEN

“IF THERE IS SO MUCH *blessing* AND JOY EVEN IN A SINGLE ENCOUNTER  
OF BROTHER WITH BROTHER, HOW *inexhaustible* ARE THE RICHES THAT  
OPEN UP FOR THOSE WHO *by God's will* ARE PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN THE  
DAILY FELLOWSHIP OF LIFE WITH *other Christians!*”

—DIETRICH BONHOEFFER, *LIFE TOGETHER*

Last Spring I felt the ache for something *more*. I peered around the recesses of my heart and sought out idols—usually when I have a constant longing for more, it means that I’ve elevated my love or need of something above my need for God. But what I found wasn’t an idol; it was an ache. I was lonely, but it wasn’t simply friendship I missed. It was fellowship with other women digging deeply into the Word of God together.

Of course, in today’s circumstances, this was not an easy ache to fill. But instead of ignoring it, I got creative. What if I could study God’s Word not through a church-sponsored Bible study, but with a couple of other women meeting in the home of a friend? I asked around, and as restrictions eased, we were able to meet together weekly, early one morning before any of our kids woke up. What a difference it made! Instead of complaining about how everything was different, we gathered around the one thing that always remains the same—God and his Word. On the firm foundation of his unchangeability, we found a sure footing for friendship in a difficult season.

God made us to live in fellowship with each other. The local church plays an essential role in that fellowship, but as a body of believers, we are the living church. If your church isn’t large enough for women’s programming or is not open in this season, you can still walk in community with women in your local context.

This guide aims to help you root yourself deeply in God’s Word by studying alongside another woman. All you will each need to know exactly how your meetings will work is a copy of the Walk In Grace Matthew 21–28 Journal and this document. I know it can feel awkward—the fear of her “no” may keep you from reaching out—but God has created us for fellowship. We are not meant to do this alone. If you can muster up the bravery to simply ask one other woman, that’s all that is required.

Once you’ve found one (or five or ten!) other women who want to study God’s Word with you, encourage each woman to print out this guide for your time together. You don’t have to be the leader—no one does. The guide will lay out what questions to discuss during your time together and also prompt you in prayer for one another. If you want to take it a step further each week and have a time of specific prayer requests, feel free to do so. Each meeting can be completed in 30–45 minutes depending on how many women are meeting together, creating the opportunity for moms with kids to meet while their kids play or for working women to meet during lunch.

If you’ve felt lonely or adrift without the usual experience of church this past year, it’s time to do something about it. Take a moment and pray—who does God want you to ask to study his Word together?

I’m so excited for you. I know that every time I open up God’s Word with another woman, our friendship grows as we grow closer to God.

*always growing. Maggie*

# *ideas for meeting together*

1. MEET ON FRIDAY AFTERNOONS AT A COFFEE SHOP WHEN MANY PEOPLE FINISH WORK EARLY

2. MEET ON YOUR OWN TIME USING A MESSAGING APP SO EVERYONE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE TOGETHER AT THE SAME TIME

3. MEET IN THE MORNING AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE

4. MEET AT A LOCAL PARK AND LET YOUR KIDS PLAY TOGETHER AS YOU OPEN GOD'S WORD

5. MEET ONLINE

6. MEET ON SATURDAYS OR SUNDAYS WHEN WORK ISN'T A HINDRANCE OR HUSBANDS ARE AVAILABLE TO WATCH KIDS



# week one

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer, asking God to prepare your hearts and minds to learn from his Word.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** Share any initial observations or questions you had about these chapters with the group.

**Day 2:** Review what you learned about the context of Matthew in your study of chapters 1–7 and chapters 8–20. How has knowing more about the full context changed the way you read this book?

**Day 3:** What repeated words or themes did you circle in Matthew 21–28?

**Day 4:** Have each person in the group share what theme(s) she has recognized this week in her repetitive reading of Matthew 21–28. How do these relate to the themes of Matthew 1–20?

**Day 5:** Share your outline of these final chapters with each other. (Remember, there are no wrong answers!)

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY PSALM 119:34 FOR EACH OTHER:

Lord, help us to understand the truth found in Matthew 21–28 over the next several weeks.

Let us love and obey your Word with our whole hearts. Amen.

# week two

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 2, day 4.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** Why is it significant that Jesus enters the city of Jerusalem in this passage? (See Ps. 48:1–2).

**Day 2:** In what ways had the temple in Jerusalem become “a den of robbers”? (See Mal. 3:1–4; Jer. 7:9–11; Isa. 56:7). How and why does Jesus cleanse, or purify, the temple?

**Day 3:** How might Jesus’ cursing of the fig tree be related to the cleansing of the temple? What or whom is Jesus cursing (see Hos. 9:10) and why?

**Day 4:** As Jesus calls out the religious leaders for their hypocrisy and disobedience, what unlikely people does he commend and why?

**Day 5:** What does it mean that Jesus is the “cornerstone”? (See Ps. 118:22–23; Acts 4:11; 1 Pet. 2:4–8).

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY FOR EACH OTHER:

Lord, we come to you crying, “Hosanna in the highest!” We praise you for your salvation and your glorious grace. Continue to open our eyes and reveal yourself to us as we study your Word together. Amen.

# week three

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 3, day 3.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** What are the major themes of this parable? What kinds of people does the king invite?

**Day 2:** Why and how do the religious leaders plot against Jesus as the Gospel of Matthew unfolds?

**Day 3:** Why do Jesus' questions to the Pharisees in verses 43–45 silence all further questions from them?

**Day 4:** In what ways are the scribes and Pharisees failing to lead and demonstrating hypocrisy? Why isn't God pleased with their good intentions and hard work?

**Day 5:** How are the warnings in this passage relevant to more than just the religious leaders of Jesus' day?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 22:37–40:

Lord, help us to love you with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Thank you, Lord, for loving us first and for saving us. Amen.

# week four

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 4, day 2.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** What is Jesus' tone in these final verses of chapter 23 as he pronounces judgment?

**Day 2:** According to this passage, what must happen before the end comes?

**Day 3:** What is Jesus' primary warning to his disciples in this passage? According to the verses you read, what will the second coming of Jesus Christ be like?

**Day 4:** From these verses, what does it mean to "stay awake" and "be ready" for Christ's return?

**Day 5:** How can disciples of Jesus "watch" for the coming of the bridegroom, and why is it important?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 24:35:

Lord, we praise you that your Word will never pass away! We thank you for your firm foundation of truth on which we can stand for all eternity. Thank you that even when heaven and earth pass away, we will be with you forever! Amen.

# week five

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 5, day 2.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** How does this parable fit into the surrounding context of awaiting Christ's return? What does it mean to be a steward?

**Day 2:** According to this passage, who are the sheep and who are the goats? What important details about the end does Jesus add to his teaching in this passage?

**Day 3:** What does the word "anoint" mean, and how is it demonstrated in this passage?

**Day 4:** In this passage, what do the disciples call Jesus (v. 22) and what does Judas call him (v. 25)? Why is this significant?

**Day 5:** Why is it significant that Jesus' death coincides with Passover? Why do we, as followers of Jesus, continue partaking of the Lord's Supper today?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 26:26-28:

Thank you, Lord, for giving your body to be broken for us. Thank you, Lord, for pouring your blood out for our salvation. You are our perfect sacrificial Lamb, and we long to live our lives for your glory! Amen.



# week six

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 6, day 3.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** Where do Jesus and his disciples go in this passage, and why? In what manner does Jesus approach the Father in this passage?

**Day 2:** How does Jesus respond to his betrayal and arrest in this passage? How do his disciples respond, and why?

**Day 3:** Of what crime do the religious leaders accuse Jesus of, and what sentence does he receive?

**Day 4:** Contrast Peter's words and actions in this passage with Acts 2:14–41 and 1 Peter 2:21–25. Combine what you know of Peter through Matthew's Gospel with these accounts and discuss the Lord's work in Peter's life.

**Day 5:** Does Judas seem to display true repentance in this passage, or something else?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 26:39:

Lord, just as Jesus prayed in the garden, we also pray for your will to be done in our lives. We trust that you know what is best and your will is always right. Give us the faith to walk forward, placing our hope in you alone. Amen.

# week seven

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 7, day 4.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** Why does the crowd call for the release of Barabbas instead of Jesus?

**Day 2:** Discuss the specific ways Jesus is then mocked, humiliated, and mistreated in this passage.

**Day 3:** Share the key words you chose to write down that describe Jesus' crucifixion.

**Day 4:** What is the significance of the day and time of Jesus' crucifixion coinciding with the sacrifice of the Passover lamb?

**Day 5:** What happens after Jesus' death? What is significant about these things?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 27:54:

Lord, let us be filled with awe and wonder in response to your power. Let us never grow tired of praising you for sending your Son for our salvation. Thank you for tearing the veil so that we could come into your presence. Let us never take it for granted. We love you, God. Amen.

# week eight

## PRAYER

Have one woman open in prayer using the prayer she wrote in the Be Still and Know section on week 8, day 2.

## DISCUSS

**Day 1:** How do the actions of Joseph of Arimathea honor Jesus, and how does this fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 53:9?

**Day 2:** Though they had succeeded in crucifying Jesus, what do the religious leaders now fear? According to this passage, what is their proposed solution, and how does Pilate respond?

**Day 3:** Who are the first witnesses of the resurrection? What instructions does the angel of the Lord give them, and how do they respond?

**Day 4:** How do the religious leaders respond to the guard's report of Jesus' resurrection, and how does this response contrast the response of the women in yesterday's passage?

**Day 5:** What specific commands does Jesus give his disciples, and what promise does he make to his followers as he sends them into the world? How does this encourage you personally?

Before you wrap up for the week, share your summaries as well as something new you learned about God or the gospel this week. Then share how you can apply that truth to your daily life.

## PRAY TOGETHER FROM MATTHEW 28:19 – 20:

Lord, we long to follow your Great Commission. Be with us as we go and make disciples of all nations. Help us to faithfully teach others of your words and your commands. Thank you for never leaving us or forsaking us. We are waiting for your return with great anticipation! Amen.