INVESTIGATING AT GOD'S WORD HOME





INVESTIGATING AT GOD'S WORD... HOME

VOLUME 2 MATTHEW

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750 S. Pear Orchard Road | Ridgeland, MS 39157 601-519-8423 | www.onestoryministries.org | info@onestoryministries.org Dedicated to my children:

Victoria, Alexandra, Emmalyne, Olivia, Katherine, John Charles, Nathanael, Andrew

USING THIS TEACHING GUIDE

This series of volumes was created to help parents teach the Bible to their children at home. It's a highly interactive study which seeks to promote thought, discussion, and application as you read through the Bible together. By the time you finish all fourteen volumes, your family will investigate the entirety of God's Word. **Each lesson is divided into five sections:**

OPENING

The *Opening* gets the lesson moving with either introductory thought questions, or a reading from the Psalms or Proverbs. This section serves as a "Call to Study."

O DRILL TIME

The *Drill Time* section is an opportunity for you to quiz your children to assess their Bible knowledge. Sometimes the questions will be a review of the previous lesson. Other times the questions will cover essential Bible knowledge that all of our children should learn. Still other times the questions will be from another portion of Scripture which connects to the lesson to be studied.



The Word of the Week (W.O.W!) is designed to build the Christian vocabularies of children. Each lesson includes a W.O.W! that is either a word found in the Bible text or a theological word that is dealt with in the passage. Often times, the W.O.W! is found repeatedly in the text, serving as a lesson theme. The W.O.W! is defined and explained in this section in order for your children to gain understanding. They will be asked to listen for it in the Bible Investigation time.



The *Bible Investigation* time is the heart and soul of the lesson. Each passage of Scripture is read to your children a portion at a time, breaking it down for interactive discussion. The discussion sections include questions for your children to answer as well as other commentary on what has just been read. Application sections also appear throughout the *Bible Investigation* in order to put to work what is being studied.

The *Bible Investigation* time is also intended to teach your children how to do methodical Bible study. You will be helping them to observe, interpret, think through, and apply the Scripture.

All sections of Scripture in these volumes are from the *English Standard Version (ESV)*.

C SCRIPTURE MEMORY

At the end of each lesson, a Scripture Memory text is given that either comes from the lesson or connects to it in some way. Encourage your children to memorize Scripture each week to commit God's Word to their hearts.

Enjoy studying God's Word together as a family!

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Matthew 1:1-2:12



LESSON 1

Say: Who here was once a baby? Do you remember what it was like to be a baby? Do you remember what the day was like when you were born? **Allow answers.** Even though you don't remember much about the day you were born, your parents do! Why do you think the birth of a baby is such an exciting time? **Allow discussion.**

Babies are incredible creations! Their births bring amazing joy to parents. Pay attention to our Bible Investigation later on as we read about the birth of the most amazing baby of all time!



But first, we will move on to DRILL TIME—our regular opportunity to review something we have learned in the past. Are you ready?

Today's questions: Who was Abraham's son of promise? Who were Isaac's twin sons? Who was Jacob's favorite son? How many sons did Jacob have?

Answers:

- 1. Isaac.
- 2. Jacob and Esau.
- 3. Joseph.
- 4. Twelve.

Say: In our last volume, we learned a lot about Isaac, Jacob and Esau, and Joseph. Now, we are moving way ahead in time and in our Bibles—to the New Testament. But I don't want you to forget about Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph! Without knowing their stories, you wouldn't properly understand the stories we will learn in the New Testament. Abraham was not only the father of Isaac, he is also the father of our faith. Pay close attention and you will see how important Abraham truly is.



Remember that each lesson, we get to learn a new word! I love learning new words, don't you? Let's learn another one now.

Our W.O.W! (Word of the Week) is **IMMANUEL**. This word is actually a name. Has anyone heard this name before?

The name IMMANUEL means "God is with us." A long time ago the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 7) told the children of Israel that God would send them a sign of His love for them—and that sign would be a baby boy. And guess what God said this baby's name would be? That's right, IMMANUEL. God with us!

What a wonderful name! Who wants God to be with you? We all do, don't we? God has always been with His people but in IMMANUEL, He is with His people in a very special way.

Some of you may already know who IMMANUEL is. If you don't know, we will find out His identity today in our Bible Investigation!

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BIBLE INVESTIGATION

Introduction: As I have already mentioned, we are going to move forward in our Bibles to the New Testament. The first book of the New Testament is the Book of MATTHEW. The Book of Matthew is the first of the four GOSPELS in the New Testament. A GOSPEL is a book that brings GOOD NEWS. What GOOD NEWS will we hear in the Gospel of Matthew? Let's find out!

Read Matthew 1:1.

¹ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Discussion: Did you hear what the GOOD NEWS is? The gospel of Matthew tells us all about Jesus! He's the GOOD NEWS. And Matthew starts by telling us the GENEALOGY of Jesus. A GENEALOGY is simply a record of our familynames of our grandfathers, great grandfathers—as far back as we can go.

Listen to Jesus' GENEALOGY. Read verses 2-5.

² Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, ³ and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, 4 and Ram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, 5 and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse,

Discussion: Let's stop there for a moment. We can trace Jesus' family all the way to Abraham. Remember I told you that learning about Abraham was important! Abraham is the father of our faith because he is the great-great-great.... grandfather of Jesus! Jesus is a child of Abraham—by way of Isaac, Jacob, Judah, etc.

Application: Did you know that you have a GENEALOGY too? You can ask your parents, and they can tell you who your grandparents, great grandparents, and maybe even great-great grandparents are. You each come from a long line of people, just like Jesus did!

Let's keep reading Jesus' genealogy. **Read verses 6-11.** ⁶ and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, ⁷ and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, ⁸ and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, ⁹ and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, ¹⁰ and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josiah, ¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

Discussion: Some of these names may be familiar to you, especially King David and King Solomon. As you study more of the Old Testament in your lifetime, you will get to read more about all of these men who ended up being in Jesus' genealogy.

Let's move on. Read verses 12-17.

¹² And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Shealtiel, and Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel, ¹³ and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, ¹⁴ and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, ¹⁵ and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, ¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. ¹⁷ So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Discussion: Did you hear that? There were fourteen generations between Abraham and David, fourteen from David to the exile, and fourteen between the exile and the birth of Jesus. Isn't that interesting? Forty-two generations lived between Abraham and Jesus. That's a lot of people and a lot of time.

Now let's read about the birth of Jesus. **Read verses 18-19.** ¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

Discussion: Babies are supposed to come AFTER a man and a woman get married. But Mary became pregnant with baby Jesus BEFORE she was married to Joseph. How did this happen? [Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, since Jesus is God!] What did Joseph plan to do about this "problem." [He planned to divorce Mary.] Joseph did not understand that Jesus was given to Mary by the Holy Spirit. He thought Jesus was another man's baby. So he thought the best way to solve this problem was not to marry Mary after all.

Let's see what happened next. Read verses 20-21.

²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

Discussion: What did God do to make sure that Joseph and Mary would be married? [He sent an angel to tell Joseph

about the situation.] Joseph received some GOOD NEWS, didn't he? Why was Joseph to name this baby JESUS? [The name Jesus means SAVIOR.] Already, God was telling Joseph and Mary that Jesus would be the most special baby of all time—He would be the SAVIOR of His people.

Let's read on. Read verses 22-25.

²² All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us). ²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

Discussion: Did you hear our Word of the Week? Who was given the name IMMANUEL? [Jesus.] What does the name IMMANUEL mean? [God with us.] Remember that Isaiah prophesied about the coming of IMMANUEL many, many years before. Did Joseph obey the angel, marry Mary, and name his baby Jesus? [Yes!]

Application: Boys and girls, the name IMMANUEL teaches us that Jesus is not just the son of Mary, He is also the Son of God. Jesus is God with us! And, since Jesus was conceived by God's Holy Spirit, that also shows us that He is fully God. So Jesus is the only one who is FULLY God and FULLY man. He is the GOD-MAN. He is the one sent to save us from our sins!

Let's go to Chapter Two. Read Matthew 2:1-3.

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

Discussion: These wise men followed the stars and were looking for the birth of a new king of the Jews. Why did this disturb King Herod? [Because Herod was the king of the Jews!]

Let's see what Herod does. Read verses 4-8.

⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ " 'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.' " ⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

Discussion: Do you think King Herod really wanted to find Jesus so that he could worship Him? [No!] Where was Jesus born? [In Bethlehem in Judea.]

Let's finish our reading for today. Read verses 9-12.

⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Discussion: Baby Jesus was now in a house. What did the wise men do when they saw Jesus? [They bowed down and worshiped Him. They gave him gifts.] These gifts were truly meant for a king! The wise men knew Jesus was a king, and

they also knew not to tell Herod about Him. We'll read more about that next time.

Conclusion: Do you know that Jesus is your King? Do you know that Jesus is "God with you?" We will learn a lot more about Jesus as we continue reading the Gospel of Matthew. Think about how Jesus was born as both God and man. Think about how He was sent to save His people from their sins. Think of the fact that of all the babies ever born, the birth of baby Jesus was the most joyous occasion there has ever been!



Matthew 1:23 (ESV)

²³ "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).