

**Matthew 21-24:
Easter plans
Household readings**

Everyone plans stuff around Easter—family catch-ups, holidays, some time relaxing. We all have ‘Easter plans’. And so does God, through Jesus. Over the next four weeks, we will spend some time looking at four passages that show God’s Easter plans, as Jesus comes to Jerusalem.

These shorts devotions will help you sit with your household each day (well, five days in the week!), and prepare your hearts and minds by looking at the passages we will be thinking through each Sunday. They should take about 10 minutes together:

- Begin each time with a short prayer, asking God to help you understand the Bible.
- Do the ‘tasks/questions’.
- Finish by praying a short ‘thank-you’ prayer to God.

Try to set aside the same time each day to spend this time together, making this a household habit!

It won’t be easy but it will be greatly rewarding!

Week 1 (starting March 14) **Matthew 21:1-17**

Day 1

- Read Matthew 21:1-11.
- Where is Jesus and what is he preparing to do?
- What happens?
- Whose plan is this?
(cf. Is.62:11; Zech.9:9; Ps.118:25-26)'
- What impact does this have on Jerusalem?

Day 2

- Read Matthew 21:12-13.
- What is Jesus' first action in Jerusalem?
- Whose plan is this?
(cf. Is.56:7; Jer.7:11)

Day 3

- Read Matthew 21:14-17.
- What is Jesus doing in the 'temple complex'?
- What impact did this have?
- Whose plan is this?
(cf. Ps.8:3)

Day 4

- Read Matthew 21:1-17.
- Pick one of the scenes to draw, and draw it...

Day 5

- Read Matthew 21:1-17.
- Pick one of the scenes from this week, and write a prayer about God's plans and your plans in response to that scene.

Week 2 (starting March 21)
Matthew 21:23-46

Day 1

- Read Matthew 21:23-27.
- Jesus is questioned—who asks it, and why?
- What is the question?
- What is the outcome?

Day 2

- Read Matthew 21:28-32.
- Jesus tells a parable—what is it?
- Who is entering the 'kingdom of God'?

Day 3

- Read Matthew 1:1-18.
- What people stand out here (look at vs.3, 5 (x2), 6, 16)
- Whose plan is Jesus talking about in Matthew 21:31?

Day 4

- Read Matthew 21:33-41.
- Jesus tells another parable—what is it?
- Who is he talking to?
- What is the conclusion?

Day 5

- Read Matthew 21:42-46.
- What is Jesus' conclusion?
- Whose plan is this? (cf. Ps.118:22-23)
- What is the outcome?
- Pick one of the scenes from this week, and write a prayer about God's plans and your plans in response to that scene.

Week 3 (starting March 28)
Matthew 22:34-46

Day 1

- Read Matthew 22:34-36.
- What is the question for Jesus?
- What is/has been the plan?
- Why?

Day 2

- Read Matthew 22:37-40.
- What is Jesus' answer?
- Where does he quote from?
- Whose plan is this?

Day 3

- Read Matthew 22:41-46.
- Jesus asks a question—what is it?
- Where does Jesus go to drive home his argument? (cf. Ps.110)
- Whose plan is this?
- What is the outcome?

Day 4

- Read Psalm 110, or Deuteronomy 6:1-6.
- Write down one thing that you are thankful about God's plans in one of these two passages.

Day 5

- Pick one of the scenes from this week, and write a prayer about God's plans and your plans in response to that scene.

Week 4 (starting April 4)

Matthew 24

Day 1

- Read Matthew 24:1-2.
- What are the disciples impressed with?
- What does Jesus say?
- Whose plan might this be?

Day 2

- Read Matthew 24:3-8.
- What is the disciples' question?
- What does Jesus warn about?

Day 3

- Read Matthew 24:9-35.
- Write down one or two impressions from this...
- What strikes you as significant in Jesus' words?

Day 4

- Read Matthew 24:36-44.
- When will all this take place?
- What does Jesus command?

Day 5

- Read Matthew 24:45-51.
- What is Jesus' question?
- What is Jesus' command?
- Pick one of the scenes from this week, and write a prayer about God's plans and your plans in response to that scene.