



MATTHEW

STUDYING THE LIFE OF JESUS

God Directs our Steps

Proverbs 16:9 says “The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps”. I am often amazed at how God aligns things that we did not plan. Recently many of the things that Pastor Sweatt has preached on Sunday morning have aligned perfectly with what we are studying in Rooted - things like the deity of Jesus, the Gospel that He came to bring, and John the Baptist’s role in all of it. God is clearly making an emphasis of these topics to our teenagers. Please pray that the Holy Spirit would work in their lives through the preaching and teaching they hear at church. - Bro. Stephen

Please Pray for Us!

Colossian 4:3

Due to the passages we have studied in Matthew recently, the Gospel has been clearly presented to our teens. Please pray that those who have not received salvation would heed the Spirit's call and be saved, and that those who have been saved would deepen and build upon their faith.

What's coming up?

- 2/4 - Growth Groups
- 2/11 - Growth Groups
- 2/16 - Sledding Activity
- 2/18 - Growth Groups
- 2/25 - Growth Groups

A peak into March



- 3 /4 - 3/6 Hoxies away at the Wilds Youth Workers Conference, we will still have growth groups on 3 /4
- 3/7 - LBC Youth Rally

Colossians 2:6-7 “Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, ROOTED and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.”



What Have We Been Studying?

We are now fully emersed in our study through the Gospel of Matthew. Our goal in this study is to specifically observe the life and ministry of Jesus. In recent weeks we focused on topics like:

- Matthew 11 presents a situation in which John the Baptist, the same man who baptized Jesus, questioned whether Jesus was actually the awaited Messiah. We all doubt at times, it is a natural element of being human. But Jesus' reaction to John gives us a wonderful example of how we should handle our doubt. Jesus pointed John to the source of truth, Jesus himself, and scripture. There is no better response to our doubt than focusing on Jesus, and meditating on His word.
- Matthew 12 & 13 both challenge us to consider where our hearts are in accordance to Jesus, and how do we listen to his teaching? Do we believe in him as Lord? Do we respect his authority and listen with intent to obey him? These are questions we all should consider.

Scripture Memory

This year we have been memorizing a number of Bible verses that explain the gospel. So far we have memorized and are working on:

- Romans 3:23 “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”
- Romans 5:8 “But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
- Romans 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- Romans 8:1 “There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ.”

We encourage you to practice these verses with your teens at home and ask them to explain them!

Conversation Starters:

Want to discuss the things we have been studying with your teen? Here are some great conversation starters:

- Jesus confronted the Pharisees about the evil in their hearts? What are some things that come from a pure heart? See Matt. 12:33-37 and Psalm 19:14.
- What is a parable?
- Jesus used a parable of a sowing and spreading seeds to show the spiritual state of people. Who is the one that is considered good soil? Are you good soil?