



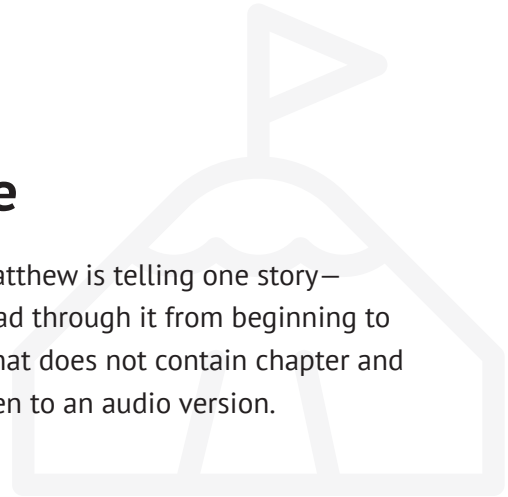
SUMMARY | Dr. Jeannine K. Brown, a popular writer, teacher, and expert on the Gospels, joins *Discover the Word* to show us how reading the Gospels piecemeal, one story at a time, may cause us to miss the point the gospel writer was trying to convey. Be part of the conversations as she takes us to Matthew's gospel and shows us how to interpret the Gospels as whole stories about Jesus of Nazareth.

This Week's Discussion Questions

1. Jesus communicates His mission in [Matthew 16:24–26](#). How is that different from what Israel was expecting from their Messiah? Is that what we expect from the Christian life today?
2. Consider a time when you experienced a “little-faith moment.” In Matthew's storyline, the disciples are described as people of “little faith” five times (e.g. [Matthew 17:19–20](#)). Where do we turn when we are struggling to trust God?
3. In what ways do we value children? In what ways are children a vulnerable part of society? How does status in the kingdom of heaven factor in Jesus' object lesson of a child in [Matthew 18:1–14](#)?
4. When you read Jesus' parable in [Matthew 20:1–16](#), do you struggle with whether or not this treatment is fair? Who do you identify most with in the story?
5. In what areas of life do you most desire status? Why is living a life focused on serving others such a struggle?

Challenge

To help you think about how the gospel of Matthew is telling one story—the story of Jesus—block out a couple hours to read through it from beginning to end in one sitting. If you can, try to use a version that does not contain chapter and verse divisions. Another option is to listen to an audio version.



Commit To Memory

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

[Matthew 20:28 \(NLT\)](#)



Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we look at how Matthew tells the story of Jesus’ life, we once again discover that following in Jesus’ footsteps means living a life of service. This path does not focus on our own place or status in the kingdom but on living outward-focused lives, serving others. We confess that it is a struggle for us.

We admit we need Your help, but we want to be those kinds of followers.

For Jesus’ sake, Amen.

