

**Digging Deeper**

# THE GOSPEL OF **MATTHEW**

## **STUDY GUIDE**

This book contains daily devotional readings, a prayer journal and individual study plans designed to help quizzers get the most out of their Bible Quizzing experience.  
A great companion to the *Digging Deeper Review Questions Book*.

Exclusively from  
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# DIGGING DEEPER SERIES

## **STUDY GUIDE:**

# **THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW**

Produced for ACME Quiz Products  
by iDEA Publishing Company

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# Committed To My Success

*It is my desire to make this year in quizzing successful in every way: in competition, understanding of the Word, and a closer walk with God.*

*To achieve this, I commit myself to the following study plan:*

*\_\_\_\_\_*  
*(Study plan 1, 2, or 3; learn memory verses, memorize text, daily devotions, etc.)*

## *A Cloud of Witnesses:*

*As parent, I commit myself to actively support and encourage my teen's study of God's Word. I will do what I can to help with study at home and will attend at least one quiz meet this year.*

*signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_*

*As coach, I commit myself to be prepared for quiz practices and to foster an environment where quizzing and learning God's Word are enjoyable.*

*signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_*

*I realize that anything worthwhile takes effort. I commit myself to do my best to follow through on my study plan. I allow myself to be accountable to my parents, my coach, and to God. I am thankful that they love me and want me to succeed in this area of my life.*

*signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_*

## Overview Of The Digging Deeper System

The *Digging Deeper Series* of study aids was designed specifically for Teen Bible Quizzing. Using these tools will help you get the most out of quizzing – both in gaining knowledge, and in helping you put that new knowledge into practice (the ultimate goal of your study).

This Study Guide is the cornerstone of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes daily devotionals, three levels of daily study plans, and a devotional journal. It is the foundation of an effective study plan and for helping you make a daily walk with our Lord Jesus a reality. In this book, you will be challenged to think about the Word, and then put your newfound insights into action.

The Review Questions book is an integral part of the *Digging Deeper* system. It includes all of the review questions needed to complete any of the three levels of study plans in this *Study Guide*. There are about 500 unique questions for each of the three levels and there are 1000 additional questions included as supplements. In total, the *Review Book* has about 2500 questions – plenty for a thorough coverage of the material.

The QuizMaster computer software has become the standard for effective question study and review. Like the *Review Questions* book, it too contains each of the questions from the *Study Guide's* three study plans, and a significant number more. In fact, it contains the largest collection of questions that we offer. Featuring many tools for question study, review, and printing, it is a wonderful tool for those who have a computer, and invaluable for helping the coach prepare study material for practices.

Help your quizzers learn their quotes and watch them soar. Our Quote System includes flashcards with the memory verse on one side and the reference on the other, an audio CD with each verse read aloud, and a booklet with study plans and techniques, prejump lists, progress chart, and more.

And finally, the Dramatized Audio CD will bring the text to life. Also tied to the daily study plans of the *Study Guide*, each character in the text is read by a different dramatic voice. The more senses you involve in the learning process, the better you learn; and being able to hear the Word dramatized is a big help in retaining the Scripture. This CD is especially useful for auditory learners and younger quizzers.

We pray that your study of God's Word this year will be a rewarding adventure, full of new insights and challenges, and that you will take the time to let God change you – not only your mind, but your heart as well.

May you grow in the knowledge and understanding of God's grace.

**Your friends at ACME Quiz**

## Getting The Most Out Of Bible Quizzing

Often you will hear people say that “learning God’s Word and applying it to your life” is the most important goal of Bible Quizzing. But sometimes it is hard to see this goal being realized when so much emphasis is put on the competitive aspect of quizzing. This is not really anyone’s fault. Available study material has been mostly centered on learning questions (for example, question books, lists, concordances, etc.). And because practices are rarely long enough, it is hard to spend a lot of time digging into the Word.

The only way, really, to accomplish this goal of knowing God more fully through his Word is to spend time in personal devotion and prayer. And that is where this *Study Guide* comes in. As you follow the daily study plans to help you learn the material, you will also be reflecting on the Scripture in daily devotions. Each day’s devotional parallels the material that you are quizzing on, so it will be more relevant to you. If you are going to have a daily quiet time with God, doesn’t it make sense to base your devotions around the material you are quizzing on?

The devotionals have been designed to encourage reading, reflection, journaling, spiritual growth, and a strong heart of prayer. Let’s look at each of these disciplines in more detail:

### Reading

Each day’s devotional has a brief story to lead you into thinking about Scripture and its application to your life. Just as Jesus often taught in parables, the short stories will make the Scripture relevant with insights from today’s world.

### Reflect

Following the reading of the scripture passage and the introductory story, the devotionals encourage you to reflect and begin to think about how the Word can be relevant in your life.

### Journal

Journaling is a wonderful way to help the Word take root. By putting your thoughts on paper, you will be able to chart your progress and growth. You will be challenged to dig deeper, seeking God’s direction for your life. Don’t skip over this activity in your devotions.

### Grow

This is your opportunity to “DO”, and not just “LEARN”. James says, “Do not merely listen to the Word... do what it says.” In this part of the daily devotional, you will be challenged to do just that – take the seed planted in you and grow closer to God as you do his will and become what he created you to be.

### Pray

Each devotional is summed up with a simple prayer. Make that prayer the cry of your heart. Tell God how much he means to you and seek his face. Then watch as his Spirit comes alive in you.

This year, take quizzing to a whole new level as you explore what God has in store for you!

## Choosing Your Study Plan

Before you jump into studying, it is a good idea to take stock of your resources – to come up with a plan. This Study Guide includes three study plans suited for most skill levels. The one you choose will depend upon a number of factors: your skill and experience, your circumstances, your support system, and your desire. Let's look at these briefly by asking you some questions.

Skill and Experience: Do you know how to take a study plan and follow through with it? What kind of grades do you get in school? Have you ever quizzed before?

Circumstances and Available Time: Sometimes, but not always, older quizzers know how to make better use of their time. Do you have plenty of time to study? Do you have a job after school? Are you home-schooled? Quizzing takes time, and you want to take stock of the time that you have before you commit to any plan of study.

Support System: Think about your support system – your family and friends. Are they usually an encouragement, or a discouraging force? Will they help you reach your study goals, or will they drag you down? You want to be surrounded by people who will encourage you and are committed to your success.

Desire and Motivation: This is probably the most important factor in achieving success in quizzing. Are you self-motivated, or do you require someone to “push” you? Can you focus on a goal, or do you start things, but never finish them? Are you quizzing because you want to, or because your parents told you that you must... or because your friends are doing it?

The way you answer these questions should influence the decision you make about a plan of study. Let's look at the different study plans in this *Study Guide*:

Level 1 Study Plan (“Contributor”): By following this plan, you will be a consistent contributor to your team at quiz meets. You will gain a solid understanding of the material and should have a good idea of how to answer most questions. In addition to the time it takes to do your devotions, this plan is designed to take about 30 minutes a day.

Level 2 Study Plan (“Top-20” Quizzer): This plan is designed to help you finish in the Top-20 in your district. By following it, you will have a solid knowledge of the material and should be able to answer almost any question. If you add memory verses to this study plan, you should finish in the Top-10 in your district. Commitment is about 45 minutes a day.

Level 3 Study Plan (“National-level” Quizzer): This plan requires the greatest amount of daily study time, but will provide the greatest rewards. Following it should help make you a “national level” quizzer. You will want to supplement this plan with memory verses, or possibly memorization of the entire text. Commitment is about 60-90 minutes a day.

There is not any “best” plan, only the plan that is best for you. You may want to sit down with your coach to supplement your study plan with additional study activities. Room in the daily study plans has been left to write in these activities each day.

After you have chosen a plan, make sure that you fill out the “Committed To My Success” certificate on page 2 and have a parent and coach sign it. Then photocopy it and put it on your refrigerator to remind you of what great things are ahead as you learn God's Word this year.

## Understanding The Daily Study Plans

All three of the daily study plans work the same way: each starts with a short devotional, and then lists specific steps to follow. To the left of each step is a check box () to check when you finish that step.

Careful thought has gone into providing a balance of new material and review of old material. By the time you finish your study plan, you will have gained a solid understanding of the material through systematic study and review. Let's look at a sample week's Level 3 plan for Chapter 7:

Sample Daily Plan	Explanation of what to do for each step of the study plan.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 6 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:1-13 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:1-13 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 1. Study the daily devotional and see what God wants to teach you this day. To get an overview of the material, read chapter 7 twice, listening to the audio CD (if you have one). Then read again with repetition. Next, using <i>The QuizMaster</i> software, or a review questions book, study all of the Level 1, 2 and 3 questions for 7:1-13. Finally, if your coach gave you an additional study task, do that.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:14-24 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:14-24 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 2. Start with your devotions, then read chapter 7 twice (again using your listening CD, if you have one). Then read with repetition 7:14-24. Use <i>The QuizMaster</i> to study all of the Level 1, 2, and 3 questions for 7:14-24. And finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 7 (2x) <input type="checkbox"/> Read w/ reps 7:25-53 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: ALL 7:25-53 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 3. Do devotions, read and listen to chapter 6 twice, read with repetition 7:25-53, and study ALL Level 1, 2 and 3 questions from 7:25-53. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 1-4 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 1-4 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 4. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 1-4, and then review 40 questions from chapters 1-4 using the QuizMaster software or a review question book. (Note that the first part of each week covers new material, then you review older material the last few days.) Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.
<input type="checkbox"/> Daily devotions <input type="checkbox"/> Read / listen to ch 5-7 <input type="checkbox"/> Qs: 40 from ch 5-7 ①②③ <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Day 5. Do devotions, read and listen to chapters 5-7, then review 40 questions from chapters 5-7. Finally, do any additional task your coach assigned.

As you get into the year, you will notice that each week's study plan has a good balance of new and old material. Review is critical if you are going to learn the material well.

Study questions to complete the daily study plans can be found in one of two sources: *The QuizMaster* computer software or the *Digging Deeper Review Questions* book. Both are available from ACME.

Level 2 uses questions marked with a ① or a ② in the *Review Questions* book, or the Level 2 collection in *The QuizMaster*. Level 3 study sessions require questions marked with a ①, ②, or ③, or the Level 3 collection in *The QuizMaster*.

Additionally, Level 3 plans often suggest "Reading with reps". Repetition reading is a method of study where you read one verse, then read that verse and the next, then 1-3, 1-4, and 1-5. After five verses, you start a new pattern 6, 6-7, 6-8, 6-9, and then 6-10. After the second group, Reread 1-10. Then start the next group: 11, 11-12, 11-13, 11-14, 11-15 and then 1-15. Continue in groups of 5 until you have covered all the material. Note: this is only one reading method; you should work with your coach to pick a method that is best for you.

Finally, don't worry if you miss a day. These study plans were designed for five days of study each week, so if you miss a day, you can easily make it up on another day. Just do your best to follow the plan, keeping your practices short, and not combining them. What you learn will stick with you much better if you develop this consistency.



# **DAILY DEVOTIONS & STUDY PLANS**

## Level 1 Plan

### Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: ALL ch 1 ❶
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1
- Qs: 50 from ch 1 ❶
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2
- Qs: ALL ch 2 ❶
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2
- Qs: 50 from ch 2 ❶
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Qs: 100 from ch 1-2 ❶
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Level 2 Plan

### Day 1

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: ALL ch 1 ❶❷
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 2

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 1 (2x)
- Qs: 75 from ch 1 ❶❷
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 3

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: ALL ch 2 ❶❷
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 4

- Daily devotions
- Read / listen to ch 2 (2x)
- Qs: 75 from ch 2 ❶❷
- \_\_\_\_\_

### Day 5

- Daily devotions
- Qs: 150 from ch 1-2 ❶❷
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Matthew 1-2: Jesus the Baby

*"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus,[a] because he will save his people from their sins. (1:21) — NIV*

### Day 1: A Dysfunctional Family

**Reading:** Matthew 1:1-17

As we begin our study of God's Word as recorded in the book of Matthew, we are reminded that God can use ANYONE and ANY CIRCUMSTANCE. As Matthew pens the genealogy of Jesus, he records the reminder that Jesus' family tree includes many "less-than-ideal" candidates. For instance, we see the name Perez, a man who was conceived when his mother pretended to be a prostitute because she was childless. Her own father-in-law solicited her services and Perez was the result of that wicked act. We see the name Rahab: she was a woman, a prostitute and a Gentile—three good reasons for her to be left off of Jesus' genealogy list. We are reminded that Solomon was born of Uriah's wife. In mentioning this Matthew is pointing out that this ancestor of Jesus was a direct result of David's sins of adultery and murder.

Time and space do not permit an in-depth study of each dysfunctional member of Jesus' family tree. The point is that God took these flawed people and these circumstances that often went against his will for his people and he used them to accomplish his perfect purposes. If he can bring about the Savior of the world in such a manner, he can surely use ANY surrendered person to accomplish his purposes and advance his Kingdom!

**Reflect** Are you allowing God to use you or are you held in bondage by your past sins or your present circumstances?

**Journal** Write in your journal a list of all the reasons you believe God cannot use you. Be as specific as you can. If there are sins on the list, confess them. If there are concerns on the list, cast them upon the Lord. When you feel at peace about your list, tear it up and throw it in the trash. Thank God for forgiveness and redemption!

**Grow** Pray that God would use you in whatever way he desires. Be sure to allow the Spirit to point out any sin that may be separating you from what God wants to do in your life. Repent and confess, then accept God's forgiveness!

**Pray** *"Lord, I long to be used by you. I feel so unworthy and inadequate. I thank you for loving me and placing value on me. Help me this Quizzing year to hear from you. I surrender to all you have for me this year. Speak to me and direct me, I pray. Amen."*

### Day 2: What's Your Reputation?

**Reading:** Matthew 1:18-24

Reputations are an important part of life. A good reputation is important to people who are seeking to get ahead in life. Job applications generally ask for references, also known as people who can attest to the reputation of the applicant. When we shop online, we often look for a feedback rating (or a seller's reputation) before we purchase from them. When politicians start their mud-slinging tactics in an election year, they often attack the reputation of their opponent. In fact, it seems the more "good" a person is or the more uprightly a person tries to walk, the more important their reputation is.

Joseph, according to Scripture, was a righteous man. He was a man who followed the Jewish law and upheld it the best that he could. The fact that Mary, his bride-to-be, was pregnant before they were married meant one of two things—either HE had broken the Jewish law and would experience punishment, or else Mary had been with another man and he would experience great shame. Either way, he could expect his reputation to be shot if he stayed with her. Yet in a dream, God told Joseph that her pregnancy was actually of the Holy Spirit. This word from God was enough to convince him to stay with Mary and take her home as his bride.

Is God's desire for you more important to you than what others think of you? Joseph risked his righteous reputation to follow God's plan. But God was with him. And the wonderful truth of the Christmas story is that God is with us! God loves us! God is for us! And as Paul declares in Romans 8:31 "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

**Reflect** How much do you care about what other people think? Is this a stumbling block for you?

**Journal** In your journal, write the reasons why your reputation is important to you. Are they self-serving reasons? Does God play into the picture at all?

**Grow** Pray that God would turn your desires more toward pleasing him than pleasing others. Ask that he would give you the courage to follow him, no matter what others may think or say.

**Pray** *"God, thank you for the example of Joseph, whose greatest desire, despite the shame and embarrassment he felt, was pleasing you and following your commands. Help me to be like him. I pray my reputation will be one that turns others toward you! Amen."*

# SPIRITUAL GROWTH JOURNAL

*Getting God's Word from the HEAD to the HEART*

**Date**

**I'm listening Lord...**

1/1

James 1:22 — "Don't merely listen to the Word... do what it says." Lord, help me, as I study your Word this year, to allow it to go beyond my mind to my heart. I'm listening...