

Small Group Study in the Book of Matthew
March 8, 2026

A suggested format for your group time

15 min – Fellowship

15 min – Prayer (using the four quadrants of the SG prayer sheet)

45 min – Study (see below)

Matthew 11:1-30

Passage Summary

Chapter 11: John the Baptist Questions Jesus and Jesus' Response

John the Baptist, imprisoned by Herod, sends his disciples to question Jesus about his identity. Jesus responds by highlighting his works of healing and liberation, fulfilling the prophecies of a coming Messiah. He then praises John as a great prophet while subtly hinting at John's limitations compared to the one who comes after him.

<https://biblewise.com/matthew-chapter-summaries/>

Jumpstart Questions

- What are the signs that spring is almost here? What are some signs that indicate the return of Christ may be soon? Why do some people recognize signs and others do not?
- Why do some people see a glass half full and others looking at the same glass, see it half empty? Why do you think that some people saw Jesus as a Savior and others saw a devil?

Matthew 11:1-6

- Why did John wonder whether Jesus was truly the Christ? Have you ever questioned your faith or wondered whether Jesus was really real? How did you deal with your doubt?
- What did Jesus say that would strengthen the faith of His cousin? How did the miracles confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah? (Read Isaiah 35:5-6 Prophecy declared that the Messiah would do a multitude of miracles).
- What did Jesus say about John? What was his mission?

Matthew 11:7-19

- Did the people recognize who John really was? Why do you think people have a difficult time recognizing and understanding spiritual truth? (God must open ears and eyes).
- How did Jesus describe His generation? (They were playing children's games unaware of the significance of the events happening in their midst). Do you think Jesus would say the same thing to our generation? In what ways are we playing games while remaining unaware of the spiritual events happening around us?

Matthew 11:20-24

- Why did Jesus sternly rebuke the Galilean cities? (These were places where He revealed His identity through His miracles). What would have happened if Jesus did the same miracles in pagan cities? (Tyre and Sidon).
- Why will those who have greater access to truth face a greater judgment?
- "If God does not judge America, He will have to apologize to Sodom and Gomorrah." What do you think Leonard Ravenhill meant by this statement?

Matthew 11:25-30

- Why does God hide truth from the proud but reveal it to the humble? How is the only way people can know who Jesus really is? (The Father must reveal it to them).
- What promise does Jesus give to those who recognize and receive Jesus as the Son of God and Savior of the world?

Practical suggestions:

1. Please feel free to modify any question and include other text-based questions that you might find helpful for your group to help them think through the passage - specifically questions that lead participants to make comments *based on the text* (not just to give opinions).
2. Invite group members to make other observations they see in the passage. Have them to identify the specific verse where that observation is made.
3. Ask what application can be made out of these verses that will help a person to put into practice the truths in the passage?
4. Ask for volunteers to read the various sections. **Make sure you know the person you are asking to read is comfortable doing so. Please don't just assume and put someone on the spot.*
5. Be intentional about including everyone into the conversation. Asking an 'open' question directed to a specific person who remains fairly quiet is one simple way of inclusion (in other words, a question that may not have a specific right or wrong answer). An example of an 'open' question is: *What's your favorite part of this passage? Why?*
6. Remain sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and make both ministry and teaching a priority of your group time together.