



# MATTHEW

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### **Bible passage - Matthew 1:1-18.**

1 This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

4 Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

11 and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.



# MATTHEW

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### **Bible passage - Matthew 1:1-18 (cont).**

12 After the exile to Babylon:  
Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,  
13 Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,  
Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,  
14 Azor the father of Zadok,  
Zadok the father of Akim,  
Akim the father of Elihud,

15 Elihud the father of Eleazar,  
Eleazar the father of Matthan,  
Matthan the father of Jacob,

16 and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of  
Jesus who is called the Messiah.

17 Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from  
David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was  
pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be  
pregnant through the Holy Spirit.



# MATTHEW

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### **Sermon notes.**

Introduction: Identity in last names

1. The Reality of the Story

2. The longing for the Ultimate Story

3. The Invitation to be Part of the Story

Conclusion: Bringing Honour



# MATTHEW

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 13 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

### Discussion questions.

1. Do you find it hard to accept that the Gospel message is primarily good news and not good advice? Why?
2. Do you resonate with Ps. RJ's premise that in all great stories is an underlying desire for it to be real? How does the gospel message address some of your desires or hopes?
3. Do you think the gospel message is too inclusive by including even the worst people?

# MARK

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020 | DANIEL WONG

### **Bible passage - Mark 1:1-11**

1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God,

2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,  
who will prepare your way” —

3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.’”

4 And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

5 The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptised by him in the Jordan River.

6 John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.

7 And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie.

8 I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”

9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised by John in the Jordan.

10 Just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

11 And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.”





# MARK

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020 | DANIEL WONG

### **Sermon notes.**

**Prepare the Way!**

1. The beginning of the Gospel about Jesus Christ (vs 1)

2. The Messenger (vs 2 - 8)

- The Mandate
- The Man
- The Message

3. The Messiah (vs 9 - 11)

**Jesus demonstrates the significance of the redemptive process!**



# MARK

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 20 DECEMBER 2020 | DANIEL WONG

### Discussion questions.

1. Knowing and understanding the role and ministry of John the Baptist, what would you consider to be easy, and what would be difficult to apply in your efforts to reach out to others?

2. John preached a message of repentance and confession. Is this still necessary now that we are in the age of grace since Jesus has died for our sins?

3. *"I baptise you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit"* (Mark 1 : 8). How would you explain the difference should someone ask you about the baptism of John the Baptist, and the baptism by Jesus?

# LUKE

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### Bible passage - Luke 2:1-21

1 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria). 3 And everyone went to their own town to register.

4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived.





# LUKE

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### **Sermon notes.**

**"A nobody who became a somebody" - We love such stories!**

1. Emperor and Empire (vv. 1 - 3)
2. A forgettable family (vv. 4 - 7)
3. Messiah to the much-maligned (vv. 8 - 18)
  - "Saviour ... Messiah, the Lord" (v. 11)
4. Reaction/Response (vv. 19 - 21)



# LUKE

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

FRIDAY 25 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR CLEM FUNG

### Discussion questions.

1. Do you ever feel like the shepherds in this story? i.e. maligned, ill-reputed, despised, written off by others?
2. Who are the people you judge and reject? (It might be subconsciously. One way you might be able to tell is that you try to avoid them.)
3. How will you respond to Jesus this Christmas? Like Mary? Like the shepherds? Like Caesar Augustus (i.e. not even notice)?



# JOHN

## GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

## Bible passage - John 1:1-18

### The Word Became Flesh

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. 11 He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. 12 Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.



# JOHN

GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

## **Sermon notes.**

### **Intro: Reflecting post-Christmas**

1. Jesus is the Word

2. The Word became Flesh

3. He dwelt among us

Conclusion: Jesus our Immanuel



# JOHN

GOSPEL *beginnings*

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER 2020 | PASTOR RJ

## Discussion questions.

1. How can we make sure that we are hearing God today?
2. How do you find comfort and hope in knowing that Jesus took on our humanity?
3. As a Christian, do you feel like you really know God and not just know about Him?