



MATTHEW 25

A Guide to Engaging in Matthew 25 Resources and Studies

Welcome! You have recently accepted the invitation to engage in the Matthew 25 Vision, and as a church leader you might have questions about the foundations of the invitation or the entry points into engagement. This guide is intended to invite you into this gospel work by identifying the entry points that you might consider for your faith community and to give some suggestions for the resources and studies that are available.

The invitation to the Matthew 25 Vision can be found here: pcusa.org/matthew-25.

Foundational Resources for Matthew 25

In 2016, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) committed this denomination to being a Matthew 25 church — a church living in the ways called for by Matthew 25, especially by the last part of that chapter (verses 31–46). In 2018, the General Assembly approved a plan to put that commitment into action. That plan is the Matthew 25 Vision. The Vision has three foci: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism and eradicating systemic poverty.

[Bringing Matthew 25 into Focus](#)

Bringing Matthew 25 into Focus explores a specific question: Are the three foci of the Matthew 25 Vision grounded in Matthew 25:31–46? That question has regularly been asked as people become familiar with the Matthew 25 Vision and its three foci.

Consider using this resource as mid council leaders, pastors and staff, session elders and other leaders that will be introducing the Matthew 25 invitation to faith communities. A study guide for conversation is included to guide your own exploration as a leader and engage in conversation with others. This resource explores the Scripture text and points to various sections of the *Book of Order* and *Book of Confessions*. A guide for study and reflection is included. Beginning with this study on the three foci and how to relate them to the text and our church documents is an important starting point in the Matthew 25 invitation.

[God with Us in Jesus: A Matthew 25 Bible Study](#)

This study takes a deeper dive into the Scripture and explores the full Gospel of Matthew with a special focus on Matthew 25. Consider using this study as a follow-up to **Bringing Matthew 25 into Focus** with your church leaders and as a starting point for your full faith community as they begin to engage in the invitation of Matthew 25. The resource begins with an exploration of Matthew and then works through each focus area of the Matthew 25 invitation, focusing in on the verses 31–46 and how to relate them to the ministries we are engaging in.

The study includes reflection and discussion questions, in-depth Bible study and exploration of each focus area as well as a choral reading script. This study could be used for an adult education class, small groups and other groups of leaders in your faith community. Consider taking your time with this rich resource and spreading out each of the sections into multiple sessions of your class or small group. It would also be ideal as part of a retreat with a keynote speaker and small group discussion of each section.

Bringing the resources together

These two resources can be helpful as a starting point to Matthew 25, but we recognize that many churches and organizations are already engaging in this invitation and might wonder what they can do with these resources.

- Keep the “why” in front of our faith communities. Both studies can be used to remind leaders and members of the biblical foundations for the Matthew 25 invitation. Consider using the resources in pieces or in their entirety for newsletters, sermons and leader retreats.
- There will be leadership turnover and new people coming into your ministries. It is important to remember that while these people may be excited about the work you are engaging in, they will need the foundational knowledge and tools to interpret the “why.” Consider using the studies for elder and deacon training and new member classes, and with some adaptation you could also use them for confirmation classes.
- The practice of storytelling is essential in this work. Consider pairing the God with Us study with the inspirational video stories of each of the focus areas. Focus on one area at a time beginning with the Scripture study, watching a video story and then engaging members in telling their own stories about how they have engaged in this work so far. Videos can be found here: presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25/matt-25-resources.
- Pair this Bible study with the study [Matthew 25: Prayer and Reflection](#).

Exploring more Matthew 25 resources

There are many more resources and studies around the Matthew 25 invitation created to equip and inspire your ministries. On the website you will find additional Bible studies, liturgical aids, recordings of online events, video stories, graphics and much more.

Here is a good place to begin: presbyterianmission.org/matthew-25/matt-25-resources



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