



# THE BIBLE SPEAKS

## *THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW*

A WEEKLY JOURNEY WITH  
THE LORD AND HIS WORD



**DIOCESE OF HAMILTON**

[www.hamiltondiocese.com](http://www.hamiltondiocese.com)

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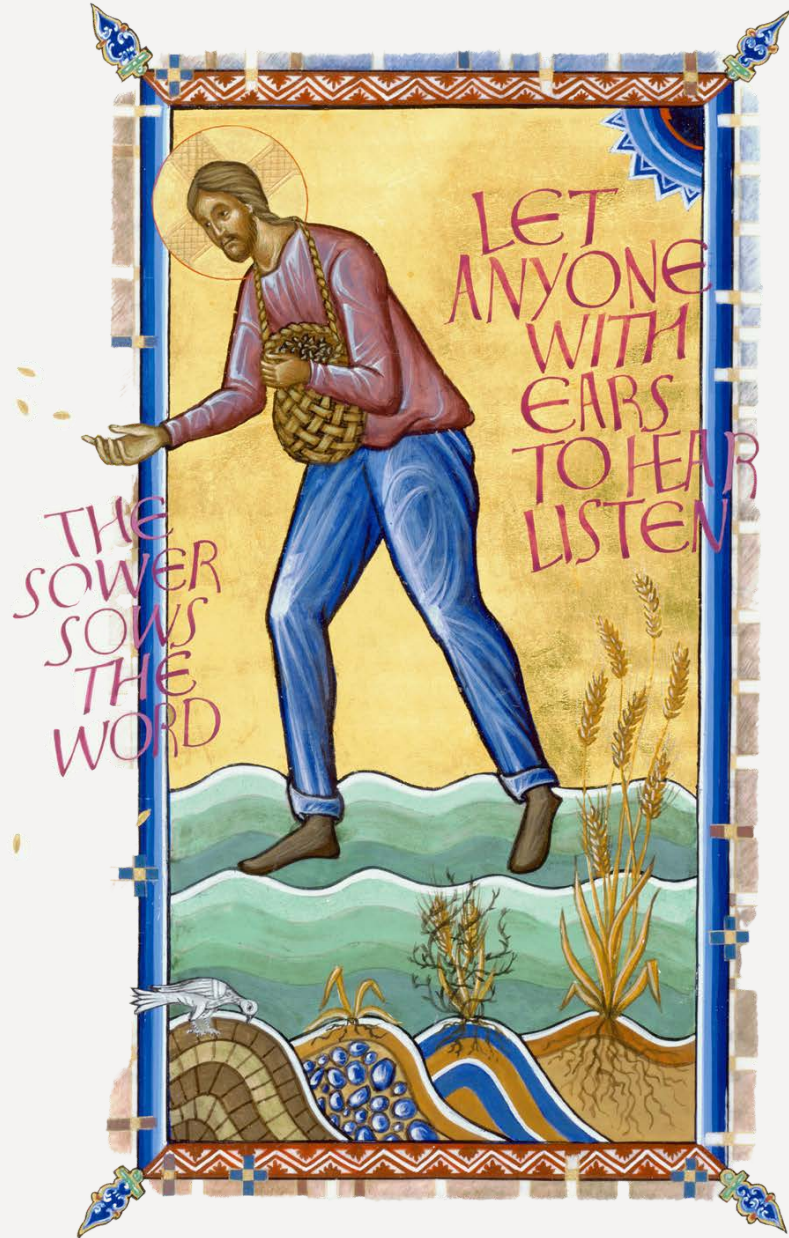


# WELCOME TO OUR JOURNEY

We are so excited to share with you this reflective guide through the **Gospel of Matthew!** You are going to have a chance to learn more about who Jesus is and experience the **LIFE CHANGING GOSPEL** in a fun, engaging, and relevant way.

As you journey through this booklet, remember to just take your time and try to open your heart reflecting on the illuminations that you see. **The purpose of these images is to bring us closer to God but specifically to open us to see the Gospel in a different way.** You can feel free to write down questions, take time to reflect or even journey with a friend, your teacher or a family member.

## ARE YOU READY?

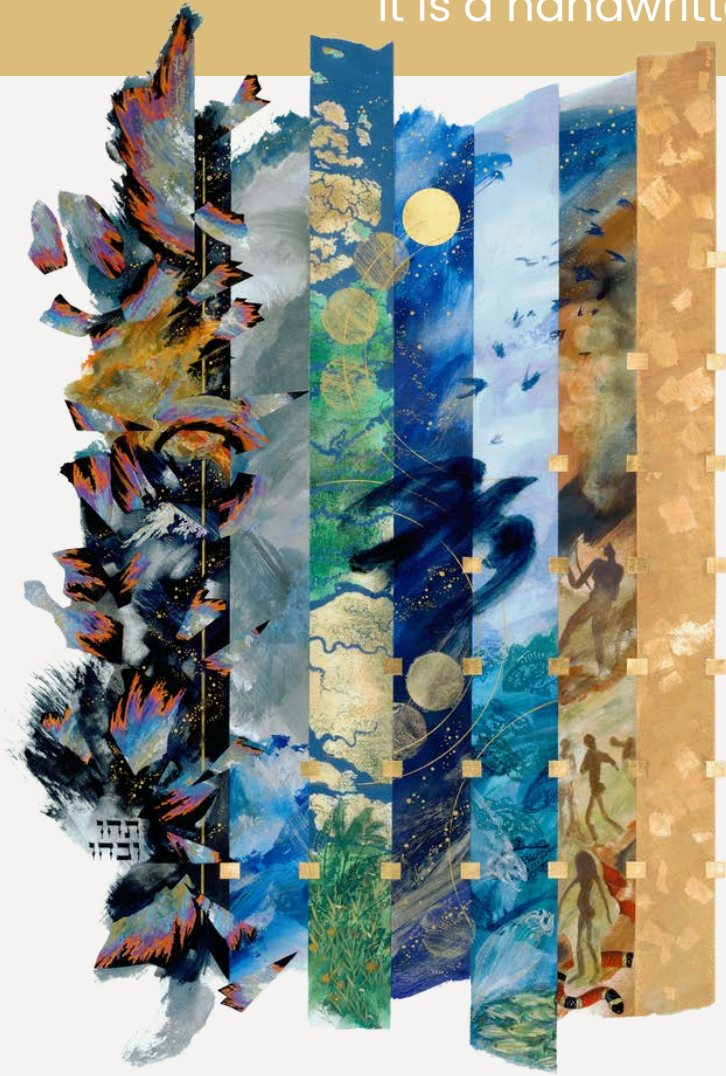


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# WHAT IS THE SAINT JOHN'S BIBLE?

It is a handwritten and illustrated bible!



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- Throughout this booklet, you will be seeing different **illuminations\*** from the Saint John's Bible, specifically from the Gospel of Matthew. We hope these illuminations help you see the beauty of the Bible and the Word of God!
- *\*Definition:* An illumination is a work of art in a manuscript (hand-written book) that uses gold to reflect light. The illuminations in The Saint John's Bible can be used as part of a meditation on the sacred text.
- It took approximately 13 years to complete The Saint John's Bible
- Each page took **7-13 hours** to write
- It is all handwritten in calligraphy
- There is 1150 pages and 160 illuminations
- Gold throughout the bible represents the presence of the divine, God's Kingdom
- Bible produced as a collaboration between the monks at Saint John's Abbey in Minnesota and British Calligrapher Donald Jackson, along with other calligraphers and illuminators.

**DONALD JACKSON**

Calligrapher

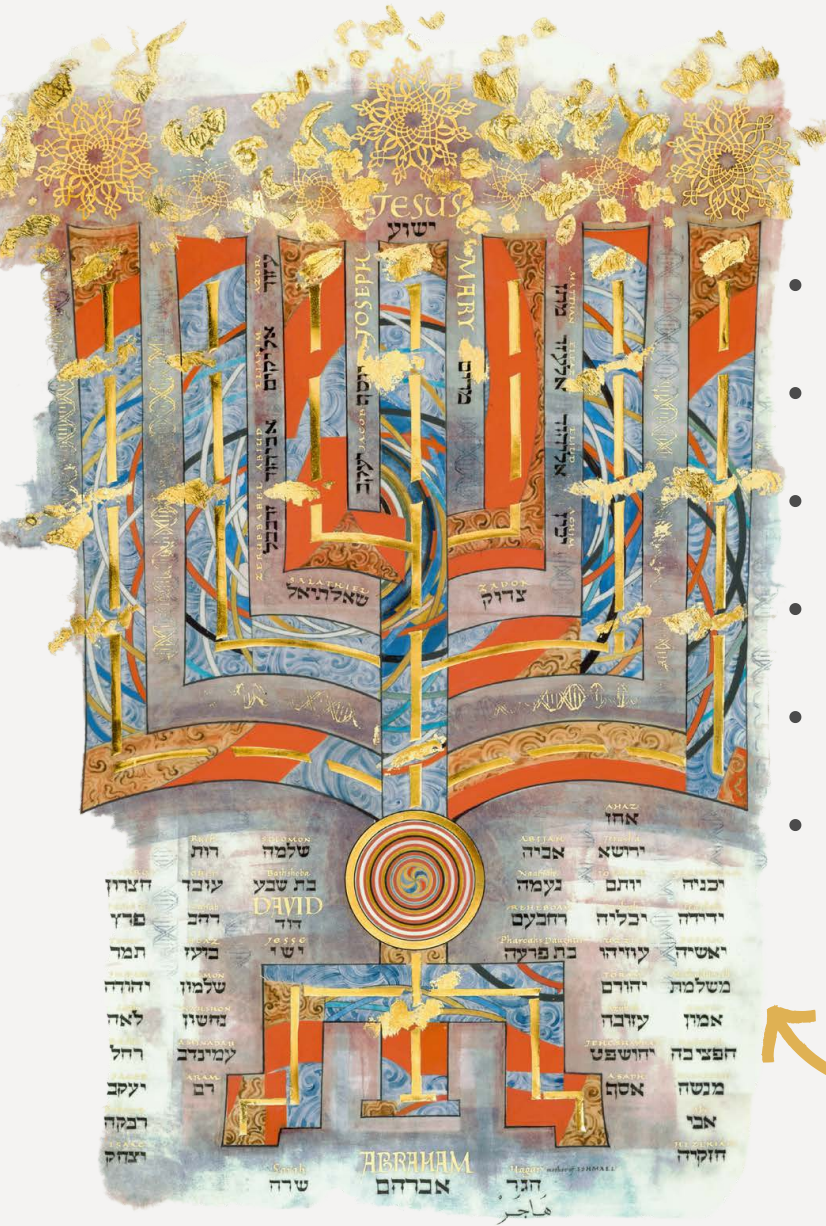
The Saint John's Bible was produced between 2000 and 2011





# WHO IS JESUS?

## WEEK ONE



### FACTS ABOUT JESUS:

- Jesus came from the Hebrew word Yeshua meaning "God is salvation."
- He worked as a carpenter under his father, St. Joseph
- His body was physically raised from the dead
- He was only 33 years old when he was crucified
- He was an important prophet in the Islamic texts
- Mary and St. Joseph were His earthly parents (you can see Mary and St. Joseph in the genealogy of Jesus in this image!)

Genealogy of Jesus, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



### ACTIVITY:

Now that you've seen Jesus' family tree, it is your turn to make your own.



### THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

Pencil, paper, family contact information



### REFLECTION:

Each family is different, how does your family tree look different from your friends around you?

Knowing facts about someone doesn't mean you know them personally. Did you know that Jesus wants to have a personal relationship with you?

Jesus wants to take away our anxieties and instead give us peace and joy!



Jesus at the Door (Jesus Knocking at the Door), by Del Parson (62170); GAK 237; GAB 65; Primary manual 6-36; Revelation 3:20



Listen to Him (Mark, Chapter 11), Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## MATTHEW 11:28

"Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

### CHALLENGE:

TAKE 5 MINUTES TO LISTEN AND REFLECT ON THE SONG. THE VIDEO ALSO SHOWS A BEAUTIFUL VISUAL REPRESENTATION OF THE MESSAGE BEING SHARED.



Scan me!



# THE BEATITUDES

## WEEK TWO



- The Beatitudes are key in how to have peace in our lives.
- If we live by them, we become peaceful and can spread that peace to others!
- **Can you see these Beatitudes in your life? Yes or no? Explain why!**

Sermon on the Mount, Thomas Ingmire, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



### ACTIVITY:

Think about people who represent the Beatitudes in your life.



### WRITE THEIR NAMES DOWN BELOW:

—  
—  
—  
—  
—  
—



# THE BEATITUDES

## MATTHEW 5:1-12

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

**1** When Jesus[a] saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

**3** "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** "Blessed are those who \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be comforted.

**5** "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**6** "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for \_\_\_\_\_, for they will be filled.

**7** "Blessed are the \_\_\_\_\_, for they will receive mercy.

**8** "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9** "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

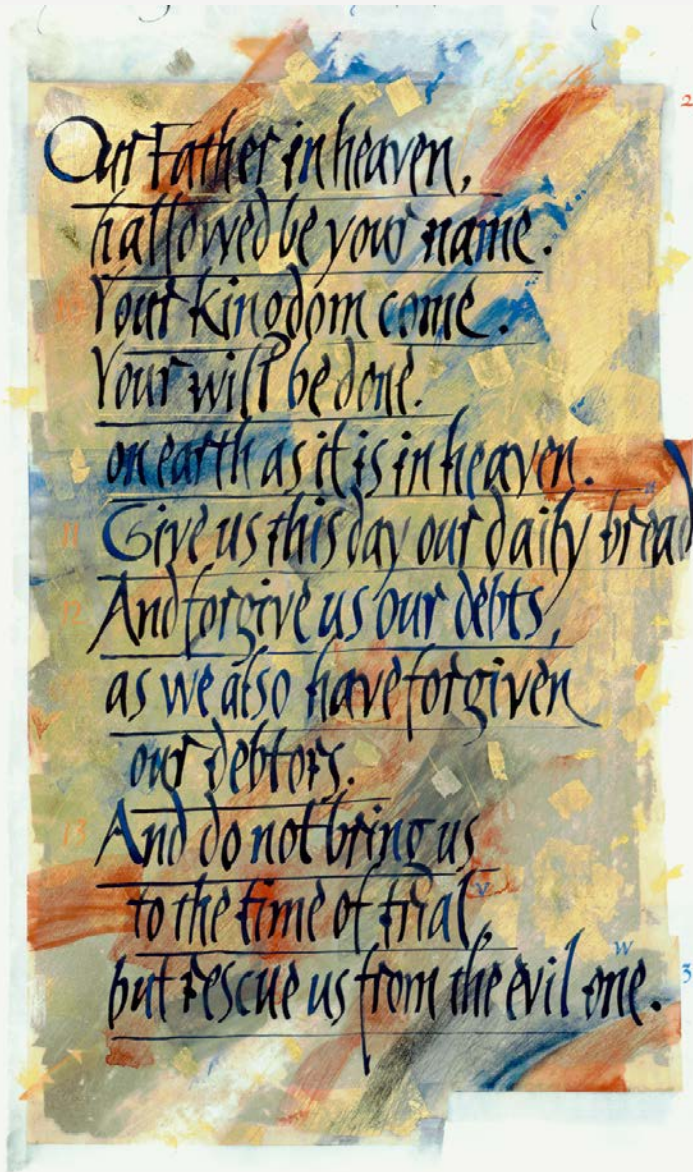
**10** "Blessed are those who are \_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely[b] on my account. **12** \_\_\_\_\_ and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



# THE LORD'S PRAYER

## WEEK THREE



- Jesus taught us how to pray.
- Every Sunday we recite the Lord's Prayer as a community. It is often one of the first prayers we learn as a child, and is often the prayer we say when we don't know what else to say.
- Often though we recite the Lord's prayer without thought or intention to the words we are actually saying.
- We invite you now to take some time to unpack the Lord's Prayer and the meaning behind the words we pray when we pray this special prayer.

Lord's Prayer, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



### ACTIVITY:

As you unpack the Lord's Prayer, consider the following questions:

- **What stands out to you?**
- **Have you ever thought about the Lord's Prayer this way?**
- **What does it mean when you say each line? What are you really saying?**
- **What questions do you have?**



# OUR FATHER

**The Our Father is a prayer Jesus taught us when He was on earth.**

**Our Father who art in heaven,**

(Jesus says "Our Father" not: "My father" so He is telling us that God is our Father too).

**Hallowed be Thy Name**

(Hallowed means Holy or Sanctified, so even the name of God is Holy.  
Do I respect the name of the Lord in my speech and in my thoughts?)

**Thy Kingdom come**

(We are praying for the Kingdom of Heaven to come to earth, but also reflecting and looking forward to Jesus' second coming)

**Thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven**

(We pray this asking for God to show us how we can be like Him and serve others.  
Am I open to God's plan for me? Do I think of God's will or my own?)

**Give us this day our daily bread**

(We are asking God to provide us the food we need, but also asking for the most important thing which is the Bread of Life (the Eucharist)!  
What do I ask God for today?)

**And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us**

(We are asking for Him to forgive us and to help us forgive those who have hurt us.  
What do I need to ask God's forgiveness for? Who do I need to forgive today?)

**And lead us not into temptation**

(We need Our Father to help guide us away from sin and towards Him  
Where am I tempted into sin? How can the Lord help me with this temptation?)

**But deliver us from evil.**

(God is our good Father and He protects us from the devil and our enemies.  
Lord, please protect me)

**Amen.**

(This means "so it be", a way of making an agreement)

Let's journey through a *Visio Divina*: “sacred seeing” — is an ancient form of Christian prayer in which we allow our hearts and imaginations to enter into a sacred image, in silence, to see what God might have to say to us.

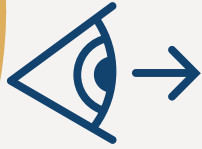


**Step 1: Listening, read this Bible passage out loud (Matthew 8:23–27)**



**Step 2: Meditating, Think about what you just read? Have you read it before? Do you understand it? Did you feel any emotions while reading?**





**Step 3: Seeing, now take a look at the illumination, Does it look like what you just read? How does it make you feel looking at the darkness and then the light?**



Calming of the Storm, Suzanne Moore, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.



**Step 4: Praying, Ask God what this means.**

# WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

WEEK FIVE

## Matthew 16: 13-22

Try this out, you can look this  
up in your bible!



Peter's Confession, Donald Jackson, Copyright 2002, The Saint John's Bible, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

## Matthew 16: 18

"AND I TELL YOU, YOU ARE PETER AND, ON  
THIS ROCK, I WILL BUILT MY CHURCH"



# SAINT PETER

## FUN FACTS:

- He is the Patron Saint of Fisherman
- He was the first Pope
- He denied and betrayed Jesus at one point
- VERY IMPORTANT NOTE: even Saint Peter denied Jesus at one point – once Peter remembered who Jesus was, He ran right back to Him and asked for forgiveness just like we should do



## PATRON SAINT:

Saints who are protectors and guiders of people and places

## SAINT:

is someone who is very close to God and shows us how to get closer to Jesus. We can ask them to pray for us in heaven.



## ACTIVITY:

Go outside and find a rock. Be creative and paint or decorate it however you would like.

# YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW HAS NOW FINISHED

## CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you for journeying with us through the Gospel of Matthew! There is still so much more for you to explore. We encourage you to keep going and to follow along with the Sunday scriptures. A great way to do this is by using the Living with Christ: *Sunday Missal for Young Catholics*