

## God's Big Ideas

### The Gospel of Matthew – Key themes with Bible verses

#### *The eras of promise and fulfilment*

...so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." (Matthew 4:14-16)

#### *The kingdom of heaven*

[Jesus said], "As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons." (Matthew 10:7-8a)

#### *The identity of Jesus*

[The angel said, "Mary] will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins"... "Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:21,23)

#### *The death and resurrection of Jesus*

While Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside by themselves and said to them on the way, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified, and on the third day he will be raised." (Matthew 20:17-19)

#### *The return of Jesus*

[Jesus said,] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father in heaven. On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' Then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; go away from me, you who behave lawlessly.'" (Matthew 7:21-23)

#### *The Holy Spirit*

[Jesus said,] "if it is by the Spirit of God that I cast out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you... whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come." (Matthew 12:28,32b)

#### *Israel and the Gentiles*

Jesus said to [the chief priests and elders], "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is amazing in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces its fruits." (Matthew 21:42-43)

#### *Discipleship*

[Jesus said,] "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished." (Matthew 5:17-18)

#### *The church*

[Jesus said,] "But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one

in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah.”  
(Matthew 23:8-10)

*Mission*

And Jesus came and said to [the eleven disciples], “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”  
(Matthew 28:18-20)

Bible quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition.