

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Characters and Events of Matthew

Use the following reading guide for the Gospel of Matthew to read and record major characters and key events.

The Kingdom of God Proclaimed (Mt 3–7)

**major characters:**

**key events:**

Christian Discipleship Proclaimed in Galilee (Mt 8–10)

**major characters:**

**key events:**

Opposition to Jesus Grows (Mt 11–13)

**major characters:**

**key events:**

Jesus the Christ and his Church (Mt 14–18)

**major characters:**

**key events:**

Journey to and Ministry in Jerusalem (Mt 19–25)

**major characters:**

**key events:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Living the Sermon on the Mount

Evaluate how you are living some of the teachings that Jesus gave us in the Sermon on the Mount (Mt 5–7). In your journal, write a sentence or two giving an example of how you are either putting a particular teaching into practice or a specific way that you can improve in that area of your life.

- **Anger:** Do you easily and properly deal with anger by not letting it fester within?
- **Sexuality:** Do you respect your own sexuality and that of others? Do you exercise self-discipline in thought and action?
- **Oaths:** Are you a truthful person?
- **Forgiveness:** Do you forgive others when they hurt you? Do you avoid grudges?
- **Enemies:** Are you courteous to everyone, including those whom you do not particularly like?

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## The Church

The three meanings of Church are inseparable. The Church is a liturgical assembly, a local community, and the universal community of believers. The Church is:

- a community that reaches out to other people (Mt 28:19–20);
- a community of believers (Rom 12:4–8);
- a forgiving community (Lk 19:10);
- a community founded by Christ on Peter and the Apostles (Mt 16:15–19);
- a loving community (Mt 25:31–46);
- a Eucharistic community (1 Cor 10:15–17);
- a community willing to suffer (Mt 5:10–12); and
- a community of faith as taught by the Apostles (Acts 4:1–4, 33).

Rate your own parish or school community to see if it lives up to this description of the Church and those described above. Mark according to this scale:

**+** The description fits.

**—** The description does not fit.

**?** I am not sure.

What standards should the Church have for membership? How would Jesus answer this question? How are each of the criteria listed above essential to an understanding and definition of Church?