1. Read Matthew 9:9-13, 10:2-4. Who was Matthew? Who were his friends? Was he a very likely disciple? How would he have been seen by the self-righteous Jews, specifically the Pharisees?

2. Read Matthew 1:1-17. How does Matthew introduce Jesus in v. 1? Why are the references to David and Abraham significant? (See also 2 Samuel 7:8-16 and Genesis 12:3)

3. Matthew repeatedly quotes the Old Testament and refers to its fulfillment in Christ. What does this imply about his audience and his purpose in writing his gospel?

4. Notice the differences between the genealogies of Jesus found in Matthew 1:1-17 and in Luke 3:23-37. Where does each start and end? Who is included and who is not? How is Joseph described in each of them?

5. Who are the four Old Testament women Matthew included, and why would the inclusion of each be unexpected? How do these women illustrate the incredible grace of God that is found in the good news of Jesus Christ?

6. Read Matthew 1:18-22. According to v. 18, how did the birth of Jesus come about? In that day, a betrothal/pledge/engagement was as legally binding as a marriage, but the man and woman did not yet live together. Therefore, if a betrothed woman became pregnant, she was considered guilty of adultery and could rightly be stoned to death. How is Joseph described in v. 19? How did he resolve to handle the situation in which he found himself?

7. Verse 20 begins with "But"…but what happened to Joseph's plan? Instead, what was he instructed to do? Why?

8. Read 1:22-23 and Isaiah 7:14. Who was Jesus? Is he fully God, fully human or both?

9. Read 1:24-25. What did Joseph do?