

**Group 22 – Year 1- Preview Sheet**  
**Session: St. Matthew’s Gospel-**  
**The Keys to the Kingdom**  
**Instructor: Rev. Romeo Pavino**

Here are some helpful resources for studying Gospel according to St. Matthew — especially with a focus on the theme of the “Keys to the Kingdom” (Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven, from Mt 16:18–19).

**Before the session.** Read the following materials:

- Haydock’s Catholic Bible Commentary — A classic traditional commentary. For Matthew 16, it delves into the “keys” passage and interprets the keys as authority over the Church, governance, binding/loosing sins, etc.

<https://www.studylight.org/commentaries/eng/hcc/matthew-16.html>

- Online article: Desiring God — “What Are the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven?” by Pastor John Piper — a Protestant / evangelical reflection, but very helpful linguistically and conceptually: it examines what “binding and loosing” might mean, how “keys” function metaphorically, and how this might apply to Christian life and community.

<https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-are-the-keys-of-the-kingdom-of-heaven>

- The Gospel of Matthew (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture) by Curtis Mitch & Edward Sri. A YouTube video that summarizes this material is available:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-U0vRhbb04U>

Reference materials for a more in-depth look at the Gospel of Matthew:

- The (online) “Sources for Gospel of Matthew Bible Study” list — This blog-post collects a variety of Catholic resources (ancient commentary, Church Fathers, modern commentaries, etc.) helpful for studying Matthew.  
<https://happycatholic.blogspot.com/2019/09/sources-for-gospel-of-matthew-bible.html>
- The Gospel of Matthew by R. T. France (NICNT series) — Widely considered one of the best single-volume commentaries on Matthew. It gives deep historical, linguistic, and theological insight — useful for understanding the broader Gospel context in which “keys to the kingdom” appears.
- A Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew by Craig S. Keener (1999) — Strong on social-historical background, helps to understand the cultural and Jewish context of Jesus’



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audience. Good for seeing how the “keys” idea fits in first-century Jewish / early Christian frameworks.

- **\*\*Matthew (International Critical Commentary)** — 3-volume set by W. D. Davies & D. C. Allison for a deep, thorough, and scholarly analysis of every verse, background, textual issues. Less devotional, more critical / academic. Best for advanced study or research.
- **The Gospel of Matthew (Catholic Commentary on Sacred Scripture)** by Curtis Mitch & Edward Sri — A very readable and reliable Catholic commentary. It pays attention to historical context, Jewish roots, Church tradition, and theological meaning. It also highlights the Kingdom-of-Heaven theology in Matthew and therefore helps when reflecting on what the “keys” signify in the context of Church authority and communion.