

Matthew 25 Challenge

A unique challenge to help Mill City live out Jesus' calling Matthew 25

The Matthew 25 challenge is a week-long discipleship tool that encourages those who participate to step out of their comfort zones. During this one week experience you will receive a daily text challenges including one daily challenge, impactful stories of children around the world, prayer points for families, and engage elements like 360-degree videos and activities.

Here are some additional resources beyond what you'll receive via the texts:

Monday food for thought Dinner Challenge

Using the questions below, have a conversation during your Matthew 25 Challenge rice-and-beans dinner.

Questions

1. What did you eat today? What are you eating now?
2. How do you feel about eating this simple meal tonight?
3. Can you remember a time when you felt REALLY hungry? How long did you have to wait to eat? What did it feel like?
4. How can we share our food with others or help make sure they have enough to eat?

Now spend some time praying for those who are hungry today.

Say a prayer from your heart for every child who is hungry today. Pray for organizations, groups, and people who help hungry families get the food they need.

Tuesday Got Water? Dinner Challenge

Many people have to walk - sometimes more than four miles each way- to get the water they need. Every day. More than once a day.

Activity: **Walk a mile in their shoes**

1. Fill one container of water appropriate for the age/strength of each person in the family.
2. Have a friend drive a mile away and park with those containers.
3. Walk to the location where your friend is parked.
4. Then walk back home with the filled water containers. (If you have small kids, take along a wagon in case they can't make it)

Questions

1. How did it feel to carry water for one mile? What would it be like to walk four miles?
2. Could you do that two or three times every day? What other activities would you have to give up?
3. What would a chore like this keep you from doing if you were a farmer, a shop owner, or a mom with kids to take care of?

Now spend some time praying for people who don't have clean water close to home.

Wednesday Hard choices, distant dreams - Displaced families and refugees

More than 65 million people have been forced from their homes around the world by things like war and disasters.

Questions

1. How is going on a vacation different from being a displaced person?
2. Have you ever been a new kid at school, or started a new job? If so, what did it feel like? If not, how do you think it would feel to be a stranger in a new place?
3. Why would it be hard to be a refugee?
4. Can hearing new people's life stories help you understand them? Why is it important?
5. What are some ways we can help the displaced, homeless, or refugee families in our neighborhood?

Spend some time praying for these families.

Pray that displaced families will be able to stay together, find safe shelter, and recover from whatever caused them to leave home. Pray that their needs will be met.

Thursday Hand up - Wear it again

We take our clothes for granted and have more than enough to wear. But for people in some communities getting new clothes doesn't happen very often. Clothes are just an example of all the things we have that would be too expensive or considered extras to other people.

Activity: **A Giving Sacrifice**

Have every family member go through their closet and find a few nice things to give away - good toys, clothes, etc. Go together and give these to a local charity. Take it up a notch by having everyone give some of their own money to buy things like shampoo, socks, and blankets, and give those away, too.

Questions

1. Did anyone notice you wore the same clothes today? What did they say, and how did you feel about it?
2. How do we buy clothes? Where does the money come from?
3. Having money to buy things you need is important. What are other things families need to buy every week or month?

Spend some time praying for people who can't afford to buy the things they need like clothes.

Pray that kids and families who don't have what they need (food, clothes, soap, plates, etc) will be able to get them. Pray for parents who can't find jobs but want to provide for their families' needs.

Friday Care through Prayer

All the needs we learned about this week can be a heavy burden - but Jesus shares our burdens so it helps to lift all the needs we care about to him in prayer. We can also ask him how he wants us to help those who need it.

Activity: **Prayer Walk**

Take a 30-minute prayer walk. As a family, walk around your neighborhood or school, praying as you walk.

Questions

1. What is the most surprising things you learned this week?
2. Who is Jesus talking about when he says “the least of these” in Matthew 25?
3. How does your family care for “the least of these” - the hungry, those without clean water, the strangers, the sick, and this who are in prison?
4. What else can your family do for people in need?