9th Grade Summer Reading Study Guide: *The Gospel of Matthew*

(Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, Revised Standard Edition, Second Catholic Edition)

You are required to read the text of the Gospel itself but are encouraged to utilize the extra resources within the book to help you follow the text. These include the introduction, the footnotes, maps, and commentaries. The study questions below are intended to guide your reading and assist you in identifying the key themes, passages, and people within this story of Jesus as presented by the Apostle and Evangelist, St. Matthew.

<u>Prologue Narrative: The Ancestry and Infancy of Jesus (Ch. 1-2)</u>

1. What is a genealogy? Why do you think the Gospel begins with the genealogy of Jesus?
2. Who are the "wise men" and why did they travel to Jerusalem and Bethlehem?
3. Who is Herod?
4. Why did Jesus, Joseph, and Mary decide to flee to Egypt?

<u>Book One: John the Baptist and the Early Ministry of Jesus (Ch. 3-7)</u>

5. Who is John the Baptist? What did he say about Jesus?
6. What are the Beatitudes? How might they change the way we should think about living a good life?
7. In his Sermon on the Mount, how does Jesus relate himself to the Jewish law and prophets who came before him?
8. Are there any teachings in the Sermon on the Mount that are comforting? Any that are challenging? Any that are maybe confusing?

<u>Book Two: Jesus' Miracles and the Commissioning of the Twelve (Ch. 8-10)</u>

9. What are some miracles of Jesus? What do they have in common?
10. Who is Matthew? Why do you think Jesus called Matthew to follow him?
11. Who are the "Twelve" and what mission does Jesus give them?

<u>Book Three: Growing Controversy and the New Kingdom (Ch. 11-13)</u>

12. What does Jesus say about John the Baptist in this part of the Gospel?
13. Who are the Pharisees? Why did they object to Jesus? What about Jesus bothered or threatened them?
14. What are "parables"? Why does Jesus teach using parables? Do you see any similarities between the parables Jesus tells? Any differences?
15. What is the miracle of "feeding the five thousand"?

Book Four: Jesus Instructs Peter and the Twelve (Ch. 14-18)

16. Jesus asks his disciples, “who do you say that I am?” How does Peter respond? Why is this important?
17. What happened at the Transfiguration? What does this event reveal about Jesus?
18. What special authority does Jesus give to his Apostles in the section called “Binding and Loosing of Sins”? What does it mean to “bind and loose sins”?

Book Five: Jesus Travels to Judea and Enters Jerusalem (Ch. 19-25)

19. What is the “rich young man” looking for? What does Jesus say to him?
20. Why does Jesus travel to Jerusalem at this point? What happens during his entrance into the city?
21. What does Jesus do in the Temple in Jerusalem?
22. What does Jesus say is the greatest commandment?
23. In Chapter 25, Jesus talks about the judgment of the nations? What does he say about the “least” of the world? Why is this a surprising and challenging teaching?

Passion Week Narrative: The Suffering and Resurrection of Jesus (Ch. 26-28)

24. Jesus has a “Passover” meal with his disciples. What does he do and say at this meal with his closest friends?
25. Who is Judas? What happens at Gethsemane?
26. When Jesus is being put on trial, what is Peter doing?
27. Who is Pontius Pilate? What role does he play in Jesus’ suffering and death?
28. What are some specific ways that Jesus suffers during his “Passion”?
29. Who is Joseph of Arimathea?
30. How do Jesus’ disciples discover that he has been raised from the dead in the Resurrection? What is the resurrected Jesus’ final message to his disciples?