



# 4

## Jesus in the Gospels

### Key Theme

- God wants us to study His Word.

### Key Passages

- Matthew 1:1, 9:27, 21:9; Mark 1:41, 6:34, 8:2, 10:45; Luke 5:32, 19:10; John 17:3, 20:31

### Objective

Students will be able to:

- Describe how Jesus is portrayed in each of the Gospels.



## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will practice the memory verse by working on the Memory Verse Puzzle and reciting the verse to a friend or the class.



### Activity 1: Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes

Students will fill out the Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes as you study the lesson.



### Studying God's Word

Four Gospels written by four men—and all showing something unique about who Jesus is. Jesus is revealed in *Matthew* as the Jewish Messiah and promised King; in *Mark* as a suffering servant; in *Luke* as the Son of Man and friend of sinners; and in *John* as the Son of God, the Christ who alone brings eternal life.



### Activity 2: Name That Gospel

Students will play beanbag toss as they determine which Gospel is being described.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Puzzle from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Puzzle for each student



### JESUS IN THE GOSPELS CLASS NOTES

- Print the Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes for each student
- Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### NAME THAT GOSPEL

- Print one Name That Gospel Teacher Guide from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Print one set of four Name That Gospel Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM. Print on cardstock if possible.

- Name That Gospel Teacher Guide
- Four Name That Gospel Cards
- Masking tape
- Beanbags



## Memory Verse

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages listed above along with this background.

When we talk about “harmony” in the gospels, we are referring to the reality that the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, although different in many details and style, work in tandem to give the testimony of Jesus Christ and make up one account, as God ordained, to reveal who Jesus is, what He did, why He did it, how He did it, when He did it, and what He is still to do.

With that in mind, let’s explore each of the Gospels and consider what they teach us about Jesus.

We’ll start with the tax collector, Matthew (whose name was changed from Levi). At Jesus’s simple words, “Follow me,” Matthew “left all, rose up, and followed Him” (Luke 5:27–28). As an apostle, Matthew became one of Jesus’s closest friends. It is believed that as Matthew wrote his testimony of Jesus, he may have had his fellow Jews in mind. And the writing style of this author suggests that Matthew wanted to convince his Jewish brothers that Jesus truly was the Messiah and the King promised from the throne of David (Matthew 1:1, 1:6). In fact, Matthew quotes from the Old Testament—the Scriptures so familiar to the Jews—more than 60 times, revealing how Jesus was the fulfillment of these prophecies (e.g., Matthew 1:22–23, 2:5–6, 2:15).

As we move on to the Gospel of Mark, we learn that Mark was a companion and spiritual son to one of the Lord’s closest friends, Peter (1 Peter 5:13). Like Matthew, Mark had his own personal style as he wrote of the life of Christ under the direction of the Holy Spirit. He does not quote as often from the Old Testament, leading some to believe this Gospel was written not only to the Jews but to the Gentiles as well. As we harmonize this Gospel with the others, we see that Mark focused on Jesus as a suffering Servant—revealing more of what He did and recording less of what He said. Mark sums up this theme of “suffering Servant” when he tells us that even the Son of Man, the King of kings, the Lord of lords, did not come to be served, but to serve. And in that service, He would ultimately suffer and give His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

The Gospel of Luke and his “orderly account” of the life of Christ is the next Gospel we will explore. Luke was a physician and a close companion to the Apostle Paul. He wrote this book to the “most excellent Theophilus” (Luke 1:3). It is believed that Theophilus may have been a dignitary of some sort—perhaps from

Rome. It is also believed that Luke was a Gentile—not a Jew. These opinions fit well with the theme of Luke’s book, presenting Jesus as the Redeemer of humanity. Jesus is often referred to in this Gospel as the Son of Man, a title He used for Himself more frequently than any other name.

One verse that sums up the essence of the Gospel of Luke is Luke 19:10: “for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.” This verse reveals Christ as Man in human flesh who consistently sought out sinners that they might be saved. We witness this in the account of the despicable tax collector and sinner Zacchaeus (Luke 19:5), in the miraculous healings (Luke 6:8, 7:10), and in Jesus’s willingness to raise the dead (Luke 7:13–15). Not only did Jesus seek out sinners, but also Luke portrays Jesus as one who repeatedly showed compassion to women (Luke 7:13), to Samaritans (Luke 10:33), and to children (Luke 18:15–16). And in the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus paints a picture of the loving, compassionate Father who is eager to welcome repentant sinners and forgive the humble heart that willingly turns away from sin and to God (Luke 15:11–32).

That brings us to the Gospel of John. As mentioned in Lesson 3, the Gospel of John is very different from the three Gospels already mentioned here. John clearly cites his reason for writing this Gospel: “but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). This verse states John’s two-fold purpose—to encourage his readers to believe in Jesus and to present Jesus as the Son of God—fully God and fully man. Throughout his Gospel, John repeatedly makes his plea to his audience to believe in Jesus (John 1:7, 3:16, 5:24, 6:29, 11:25–26.) Also, John presents Jesus as the eternal God, describing Him as the Word who was in the beginning, who was with God, and who was God—the very Word who became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 1:14).

What a beautiful testimony these four unique accounts of Jesus Christ are as they communicate God’s revelation to man. By the power of the Holy Spirit, who inspired these books, we have the history of Jesus Christ, the God-Man, presented through a tax collector (Matthew), a Jewish friend (Mark), a Gentile doctor (Luke), and a Jewish fisherman (John). Only God could have sovereignly woven these lives together with the life of Christ to bring about this amazingly accurate and life-changing account. To Him alone be all the glory for His Word and the redemption it offers all who believe.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

God knew what He was doing when He directed the writing of the Gospels. You might be thinking that is one of the most obvious things you have ever heard. But when you really dig into the differences of the four Gospels, God's wisdom becomes evident. As you read above, each of the Gospels has a slightly different angle on the life of Christ. In a sense, each is written to bring the message of the gospel into a context that makes sense to different people with different backgrounds and different cultural practices—both Jews and Gentiles (Acts 26:22–23).

The Apostle Paul explains this approach in 1 Corinthians 9:19–23:

For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law [Jews], to those who are without law, as without law . . . that I might win those who are without law [Gentiles]; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.

Paul was willing to approach Jews, Gentiles, and the weak with the gospel message delivered in a unique way to each unique group so they could relate to and better understand what was being taught. He did this without compromising his own conscience toward the holy God he served and without compromising the core gospel message of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus (Acts 20:21).

An example of the same gospel message to different audiences is illustrated for us in the book of Acts by Peter and Paul. Both of these men boldly proclaimed the hope of reconciliation in Jesus, but in different ways. In Acts 2, we have a record of a proclamation of the gospel message given by Peter on Pentecost. Luke, the author of Acts, described what happened during this Jewish festival in Jerusalem. Although the people listening to Peter were from many different nations, they all shared the same religious heritage—belief in and knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures (Acts 2:7–11). Consequently, Peter's message included many

passages from the Old Testament writings. Peter did not need to explain ideas like sin and judgment because his audience was familiar with these ideas. When he talked of the prophet Joel and the patriarch David, he didn't need to offer an introduction—Peter knew his audience was familiar with these men and the Old Testament accounts he preached from (Acts 2:16–39). Peter was living in and preaching to a Jewish culture. And he presented the message of repentance and faith in Christ in light of that context.

Paul, on the other hand, in the message he preached to the Greeks at the Areopagus (Acts 17:22–24), knew his audience did not possess knowledge of the Old Testament Scriptures. So, Paul started this message from the beginning, explaining who God is: that there is but one God who created the world and everything in it, that this God determines the events of the world, and that He is the only God worthy of the praise and honor of all men. Paul recognized that those listening to this message had not heard of God's judgment or the Resurrection of Jesus (Acts 17:22–31). And he had to lay that foundation before calling his hearers to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

As we tell others about Jesus Christ and the Bible, it is important to know what their foundation in the Scriptures is. What have they heard? What is their frame of reference when it comes to the gospel? This will help us to better understand where to begin as we proclaim the life-giving good news of Jesus Christ.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Sovereign Lord, thank you for the beautiful testimony of these four unique accounts of Jesus. I am filled with joy as I see how your sovereign hand guided these men to write their accounts perfectly in order to harmonize with each other. How can I help but praise you again for your holy Word and for using sinful man to write it down. Seeing your hand at work in this way helps me grasp the bigger picture that is always going on around me. Your will is being done, and you allow me to do my small part by being obedient to you, as your Spirit guides me. I pray that as I teach this lesson, my students will be inspired to move from just knowing about you, to knowing you as Lord and Savior.



## COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Puzzle using the puzzle piece shapes as clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a friend or to the class.

*This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided a worksheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.*



## REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes

### MATERIALS

- Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes for each student
- Jesus in the Gospels Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Students will complete the notes during the lesson.*

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. We'll finish it together.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that each writer of the Gospels shows something different and wonderful about Jesus Christ, our Savior.



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson 3 Lesson Theme Poster. In our last lesson, we learned that God used four men to write four Gospels.*

- ? Who wrote these four Gospels? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.*
- ? Who were these Gospels written about? *Jesus.*

Yes. And Matthew and John knew Jesus very well and carefully wrote down the things they saw and heard about Him. They were eyewitnesses

► Use the New Testament History Poster included with your teacher kit as you teach the lesson. Emphasize that Jesus ministered only 3 years and He lived only about 35 years. Yet His life changed the world forever and brought eternal life to all who believe.

to Jesus's life. Mark and Luke got their information from other apostles, who were eyewitnesses.

God moved these four men to write the Gospels by the power of the Holy Spirit so the world would know the truth about Jesus—how He lived, how He died, and what happened after He died.

We read about one event in two different Gospels last week.

? What event did we look at in Matthew and John? I'll give you a hint, it had to do with a boat, the sea, and a storm. *Jesus walking on the water.*

Right. And Matthew told things about that stormy night that John didn't tell. But between both of the Gospels, we got a more complete picture of what happened!

Today we are going to take a quick look at each of the four Gospels, written by four different men, and see what each one tells us about Jesus. Remember, because these were four very different men writing, the Gospels will not be the same. And that was God's plan. Each writer wrote about Jesus—who He was and how He lived—in a different way, including different events.

Let's start with the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew probably had the Jews in mind when he wrote his Gospel. Matthew knew that the Jews were waiting for their Messiah to come, and that He would be from the throne of David. The Messiah would be a Jew.

## Matthew 1:1

Look at your class notes. The Scriptures we will be reading today are printed on there. Will someone read Matthew 1:1 for us? *Choose a student to read the verse from the class notes.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

Does that verse seem strange to be studying? There's a reason we started with it. Let's see what Matthew wants us to know about Jesus from this verse.

#### Observe the Text

? What kind of book does Matthew 1:1 say it is? *A genealogy.*

? What is a genealogy? *Allow discussion.*

Genealogy is a big word for the study of a family. A genealogy can go back a few years or hundreds or thousands of years, and it tells who was a part of the family—parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. Matthew starts off by telling his readers that this is a genealogy.

? Who is this genealogy about? *Jesus.*

**Genealogy:** the study of who is part of a family.

Matthew wanted to show his readers something important about Jesus's family.

- ? How does Matthew describe Jesus in this verse? *The Son of David, the Son of Abraham.*

That's right. Circle "Son of David" and "Son of Abraham" on your class notes. *Help the students to circle the phrases on their class notes.* These names were very special to the Jews. The names "Son of David" and "Son of Abraham" were titles for the eternal King and Messiah who had been promised in the Old Testament.

Now will someone read Matthew 9:27 from the class notes? We are going to jump to a day when two blind men were crying out to Jesus as He passed by them. Notice what they call Jesus in this verse? *Assign a reader.*

Matthew 9:27

- ? What did these two blind men call Jesus as they cried out to Him? *Son of David.*

Yes. Remember, the Jews knew that the title "Son of David" would refer to the coming, promised, Messiah and eternal King. Circle that name for Jesus, "Son of David," in Matthew 9:27 on your notes. *Help students to circle the phrase on their class notes.*

Let's move on to Matthew 21:9. You will see that people again were crying out to Jesus. Listen to what they were calling Him. Will someone read Matthew 21:9 for us? *Assign a reader.*

Matthew 21:9

- ? What did they call Jesus? *The Son of David.*

Circle the name "Son of David" in Matthew 21:9. *Help students to circle the phrase on their class notes.*

- ? And what did we say that name meant to the Jews? When they heard someone called the Son of David, who did they think it was? *The eternal King—the Messiah God had promised.*

- ? Take a look at your class notes. Will someone read #1? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Messiah, King.*

- ? And how about #2? Someone read that please. How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. David.*

## Discover the Truth

God directed Matthew to write this Gospel account about Jesus. Matthew called Jesus the Son of David a lot. That's because the Jews knew that the title "Son of David" meant the Messiah and the eternal King. This Gospel was written to show the Jews that Jesus WAS the Messiah God had promised in the Old Testament.

God promised David in the Old Testament that his throne would be established forever through someone who would be a part of his family—a part of his genealogy. Matthew made it clear by what he wrote that Jesus was the King and Messiah promised—the King who came to redeem His people from their sin.



## READ THE WORD

Now let's look at the next set of verses on your class notes from the book of Mark. Mark was a friend of the Apostle Peter, and Peter was one of Jesus's very best friends. God used Mark to write this Gospel and show something else about Jesus. Let's find out what that was.

Mark 1:41, 6:34, 8:2

We'll start in Mark by reading these three verses: Mark 1:41, Mark 6:34, and Mark 8:2. They are on your class notes. Listen for a word that is used in all three verses. *Choose students to read these verses.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

? There is a word repeated in each of these verses. It says something about Jesus. What word is that? *Compassion.*

Underline the word "compassion" in each of those verses.

? What does compassion mean? *Allow discussion.*

Compassion is sympathy, kindness, concern, or care for others. Compassion is showing tenderness and love to other people.

Jesus had compassion. He loved people and wanted to help them. God wanted Mark to tell readers that Jesus cared about people and had compassion towards them.

? Take a look at #3 on your class notes. Who can read that for us? How will you complete that sentence? *Assign a reader. Compassion.*

Mark showed us something else about Jesus. We can read about it in Mark 10:45. Let's read that. *Choose a student to read the verse.*

? OK. What is Jesus called in this verse? *The Son of Man.*

Son of Man was another title used for Jesus. It tells us that Jesus, though He was fully God, was also fully man. Circle "Son of Man" on your class notes in Mark 10:45. *Have students circle Son of Man.*

? Why did Jesus, the Son of Man, come to earth, according to Mark 10:45? *He came to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many.*

Can you imagine it? God, the Son of Man, the Lord of lords, the King of kings became fully human and came to earth to serve others—not to be served Himself. Mark referred to Jesus as the suffering servant.

**Compassion:**  
sympathy,  
kindness,  
concern, or care  
for others.

Mark 10:45

- ? And what else does this verse say about Jesus? Why else did He come? It is at the end of that verse. *To give His life as a ransom for many.*
- ? So what does that mean? That Jesus came to give His life as a ransom? *Allow discussion.*

A ransom is something you pay to free a person who is kidnapped or imprisoned or enslaved. Before a person can be set free, a ransom is paid. The only ransom acceptable to God for the forgiveness of our sin was the blood of a perfect man. So Jesus came to give His blood to pay a ransom. He paid the debt—He suffered and died—for those who would believe in Him. The payment Jesus had to make for sinners was His very own life! That is why Jesus came to earth as the Son of Man—fully human—so He could suffer for and serve sinners. He was a perfect, suffering servant who died to offer eternal life to all who would turn away from their sins and put their trust in Him.

**Ransom:** something you pay to free a person who is kidnapped, imprisoned or enslaved.

- ? Will someone read #4 on the class notes for us? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Suffering, die.*

## Discover the Truth

God inspired Mark to write about Jesus. He showed us that Jesus was compassionate toward people. He loved them and wanted to help them. Mark also showed us that Jesus, the Son of Man, came not to be served but to serve. Jesus had to suffer and die.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus is shown to be a compassionate, suffering servant who loved people and was willing to die so that everyone who believes in Him could be saved.



## READ THE WORD

So Matthew wrote to show that Jesus was the promised Messiah and eternal King! Mark wrote to show that Jesus was the compassionate, suffering servant who was willing to die on the Cross for sinners. And now Luke. What did Luke tell us about Jesus?

Let's start with Luke 19:10. This verse makes Luke's purpose very clear.

Luke 19:10

- ? Will someone read that for us? *Choose a student to read the verse.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? What is Jesus called in this verse? *The Son of Man.*
- ? What does the title Son of Man tell us about Jesus? *Allow discussion.*

Circle the name “Son of Man” in Luke 19:10. Luke often called Jesus the Son of Man. The name Son of Man means that, though Jesus was fully God, He was also fully man. He came to earth humbly, as a human. *Have students circle Son of Man.*

- ? And why did Jesus, the Son of Man, come? *To seek and to save that which was lost.*
- ? What or who would that be? Who are the “lost” in this verse? *Allow discussion.*

The lost are sinners—people like you and me! Jesus came to seek out the sinners and to save them.

Luke 5:32

- ? Luke repeats this in Luke 5:32 when he recorded what Jesus Himself said about it. Will someone read that? *Choose a student to read the verse.*
- ? Why did Jesus come? Who did He call? *Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.*
- ? Who can tell me what Jesus meant by repentance? *Allow discussion.*

Repentance means turning away from sin in sorrow or shame. It means we are sorry for our sins, and we don’t want to sin anymore.

- ? Why would sinners want to turn away from their sins? Why would sinners be sorry for their sins? *Allow discussion.*

Sinners who truly repent are sorry for their sins because they understand that God hates sin. And if they sin, they offend God. They turn away from their sins because they love God! And they want to please God. They want to be obedient to God.

### Discover the Truth

Luke tells us that Jesus is the Son of Man—He was fully man AND fully God. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came to call sinful men to repentance. He wanted sinners to turn away from their sins. This is the message of the gospel. Only then can Jesus save them.

- ? Someone read #5 on your class notes. How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Man.*
- ? And #6? How will you answer that? *Assign a reader. Seek, save.*
- ? And #7? Who will read that for us? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Sinners.*



### READ THE WORD

John 20:31

And we are ready to look at the last Gospel—John! We’ll start with John 20:31. Someone read that for us. It is on your class notes. *Assign a reader.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Who did John want his readers to believe in? *Jesus.*
- ? What did John want us to believe about Jesus? Who was Jesus? *Jesus is the Christ, The Son of God.*
- ? Here is another name for Jesus. What is it? *Son of God.*

Yes. John called Jesus the Son of God. This does not mean that Jesus is God's son like you boys are sons to your dads. No. This means that Jesus is God in human form! John wanted us to know that Jesus was sent by God and Jesus is God! Circle that name for Jesus in John 20:31. Jesus is the Son of God—Jesus is God! *Have students circle Son of God.*

- ? Also in John 20:31. What does believing in Jesus Christ give sinners? *Life in His name.*

John knew that Jesus was the Christ and was the Savior to sinners. John knew that Jesus Christ WAS the Son of God! And he knew that Jesus alone can give eternal life. John wanted his readers to believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God!

- ? And John said this again. Someone read John 17:3. *Assign a reader.*
- ? What is eternal life according to this verse? What are believers to know? *Know God and know Jesus Christ.*

Yes! John really wanted his readers to believe in Jesus. John knew that was the only way sinners could have life—eternal life.

- ? Now go to #8 on your class notes. Will someone read that? What is the answer? *God.*
- ? And #9 on your class notes? Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Believe.*
- ? And #10? Will someone read that? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Eternal.*

### Discover the Truth

Good job! John wanted his readers to know Jesus—to believe in Him, and to know that God sent Him. John knew that Jesus was God, and that we can only get to heaven and have eternal life forever by knowing God and believing in Jesus Christ.



John 17:3



# Name That Gospel

## MATERIALS

- Name that Gospel Teacher Guide
- Four Name That Gospel Cards (printed on cardstock)
- Masking tape
- 2–3 beanbags

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Divide the class into 2–3 teams. Tape the cards on the floor. Tape a line on the floor at an appropriate distance from the cards. As you read the descriptions of the Gospels from the teacher guide, students on each team will toss the beanbags onto or close to the correct Gospel name. Closest beanbag gets a point. Repeat questions if time allows.*

We've been reading how God used each Gospel writer to show us Jesus in a different way. This game will help us review what we learned. You may use your class notes if you need help figuring out which Gospel is which.

As I read the description of the Gospel, each team will toss a beanbag onto the name you think it goes with! Whoever is the closest to the correct answer gets a point. So don't give the answer away! *Play the game.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

The Gospels were written by different people. Each Gospel tells us about Jesus—what Jesus did and who Jesus was. But not every Gospel is exactly like the others. God inspired each writer to write some different things about Jesus, in different ways. And when we read ALL the Gospels, we get a complete picture of what God wanted to show us about who Jesus was and what He did.



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster.* Today we compared the four Gospels. The authors of each one wrote the truth of Jesus's life. But each Gospel is different from the others. Each Gospel shows us something different and special about Jesus. And with all of the Gospels we see Jesus in a more complete way!

**Matthew** started with a genealogy and called Jesus the Son of David. That's because he wanted the Jews and all readers to know that Jesus is the Messiah God promised in the Old Testament and that He is the eternal King—the King who came to redeem His people from their sin.

**Mark** showed a compassionate Jesus who loved people and wanted to help them. Mark also wrote that Jesus was a suffering servant who suffered death on the Cross so sinners could be saved. Jesus came to serve others—not to be served.

**Luke** showed that Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, was fully human. Jesus came to call sinners like you and me to repentance. He came to earth to seek and save the lost!

**John** is the last Gospel. It was written by Jesus's close friend, John. He wrote so that his readers would know that Jesus is the Son of God. John wanted his readers to believe in Jesus. John knew that sinners can have eternal life with God in heaven forever through Jesus Christ alone. Jesus is the **ONLY** way! John wanted us to know that God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Together, the Gospels show us a more complete picture of Jesus. Jesus was everything the Gospel writers wrote . . . and more. If you read all the Gospels, you would sure know a lot about Jesus's life.

- ? Did Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John write the Gospels so people would know about Jesus? *Yes/no.*
- ? They did. But there is a little more to it. Knowing *about* someone is different than knowing them, isn't it? Do you know *about* Abraham Lincoln? Or do you *know* him? *Allow discussion. Know about.*

The men who wrote the Gospels didn't want us to just know *about* Jesus. They wanted us to *know* Jesus. You see, Matthew and John knew Jesus personally. They were friends of His. They were taught by Him! And Mark and Luke were friends of the apostles.

The Gospel writers wanted us to know that Jesus is the Promised One, sent by God, who came to save those who would believe. Because of the sin of Adam who was created 4,000 years before Jesus was born, all humans are born with a sin nature. We are all sinners! Since God must punish sin, and everyone sins, we all face a future of death and separation from God.

But Jesus's life changed everything. The Gospels were written so that we would **KNOW** Jesus and know that there was a way to be saved from the punishment we deserve for our sin. You see, when Jesus died, He took the punishment for sinners. His death offers new life to everyone who believes.

The Bible says that we can become new creations in Christ and have eternal life with Him! That eternal life comes from believing in Jesus, turning away from our sins, and turning to God.

Jesus came to seek and save the lost. He called sinners to repentance. Jesus died on the Cross so that sinners—like you and me—could be forgiven.

Jesus told us He is the way, the truth, and the life, and it is ONLY through Him that we can get to the Father.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

Do you know Jesus the way the Gospel writers wanted you to know Him? Everyone who believes in the Jesus of the Bible, everyone who is sorry for sinning, everyone who turns away from sin and believes and trusts in Jesus Christ will be saved. That's the message that the Holy Spirit reveals to readers through the pages of the Gospels.



### MEMORY VERSE

**John 1:14** And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for the four men who wrote the Gospels and the way He wove their lives together with the life of Jesus to sovereignly bring about this amazingly accurate and life-changing account.
- Thank God for the salvation He offers to all who believe in the Jesus of the Bible.
- Ask God to help us know Jesus and to tell others about Him so their lives will be changed and they will have eternal life with God.