



3

The Gospel Truth

Key Theme

- God used men to record His words.

Key Passages

- John 6:16–21, 21:24; Matthew 14:22–33

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Describe why the apostles wrote the Gospels.
- Explain why we can trust the Gospels more when we see differences in them.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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



Activity 1: The Gospel Truth Class Notes

Students will fill out The Gospel Truth Class Notes as you study the lesson.



Studying God's Word

The four Gospels are books that were written about the events of Jesus's life, death, and Resurrection. They were written so that we would believe. Each is different, with different details and perspectives. Their differences serve to confirm the truth of God's Word.



Activity 2: Tell Me About It

Students will take turns describing pictures and comparing details.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print one Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



THE GOSPEL TRUTH CLASS NOTES

- Print, collate, and staple the two pages of The Gospel Truth Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- The Gospel Truth Class Notes collated and stapled for each student
- The Gospel Truth Class Notes Answer Key
- One blue crayon and one red crayon (or pencils) for each student



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



TELL ME ABOUT IT

- Bring in personal photos, pictures from magazines, or books that show activities, such as a family on a picnic, people fishing, etc. One different picture for every two students.

- Pictures of activities
- Optional: 1 minute timer
- Have an assistant available to leave the room with students during this game



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW GAME (OPTIONAL)

- Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Save the cards for use in future lessons.
- This is an optional activity to use in some or all of the lessons to review the memory verse if time allows.

- Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty



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 with this background.

God has been pleased to give us the gospel, meaning “good news,” of the birth, life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ for the redemption of sinners. This news is found in the four books we know as the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

We know that all Scripture is given by the inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16). And God in His infinite wisdom ordained the Gospels to be written by men. Through Luke, God was pleased to set in order a narrative of the things seen in Christ and His life. Luke recorded his testimony from eyewitnesses and ministers of the Word so followers of Christ would know that what is heard about Jesus is certainly true (Luke 1:1–4). Similarly, John stated that he wrote his Gospel account so the reader may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing he may have life in His name (John 20:31).

As we study the four Gospels, we find that they are not identical in content or style. In fact, each is unique to the man who penned it. Consequently, each Gospel is focused on different details of Christ’s life. For example, each of the Gospels begins at a different point in the life of Jesus, and they each end in a slightly different way.

However, the three Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are similar in that they record the same basic events—although not all three men recorded each event in exactly the same way. These books are referred to as the synoptic gospels because they often take the same point of view.

The Gospel of John is very different from the other three. John included information not recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Jesus’s early ministry in John 2–4 and the account of Jesus raising Lazarus in John 11 are examples of events recorded exclusively by John. John also left certain events out of his work that the other Gospels did document. Some of the accounts John left out include the temptation of Jesus in the wilderness, the Sermon on the Mount, and the narrative parables.

All four Gospels primarily focus on the three years of Jesus’s public ministry and largely skip over the early years of His life. We have very little information about the early years apart from the birth narratives in Matthew and Luke and the trip to Jerusalem in Luke 2. After that, all of the writers jump forward to the time when Jesus was about 30 years old and entered into His formal ministry.

Many Bibles have headings indicating references to the same account in the other Gospels. For example, in the New King James Version being used to write this background, the account of the feeding of the 5,000 is recorded first in Matthew 14:13–21. The Bible has a heading at that reference where this account can be found in the books of Mark, Luke, and John. Understanding how your Bible cross-references passages can help as you continue your study of the full counsel of God’s Word.

Each of the Gospels reveals something unique about the life of Jesus Christ. The entire picture cannot be seen without seeing all four Gospels presented side by side. This is called a “harmony” of the Gospels. Your Bible may have a section or a chart—a harmony of the Gospels—that shows the events of Jesus’s life and where those events are recorded in each of the Gospels.

The Gospels are another example of God’s amazing revelation to His people. That these four unique men could each write a personal account of his Savior Jesus Christ, and that all four of these accounts would complement each other, is evidence of the inspiration of their writings through the Holy Spirit to present to His people a complete and perfect testimony.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Many skeptics point to the apparent inconsistencies in the parallel accounts in the Gospels to suggest that the Holy Spirit could not have inspired the writings or else they would be exactly the same. Well, how do they know that is the case? To make that assertion, they have to know how God thinks and how He would do things—the very thing they are denying we can know by reading the Bible. This attempt by the skeptic to discredit the authority of the Bible is simultaneously an elevation of man’s word above God’s Word as he sits in judgment over what God has revealed to us.

Stop and think about this for a moment: If you heard a news report of a car accident on the TV news, read about it in the newspaper, and then heard about it from a friend who witnessed it, would you expect the three accounts to be exactly the same? Would differences cause you to doubt the truthfulness of any one witness? For example, if one report said it happened in front of Taco Town and another said it happened across the street from the mall and your friend said it was on Third Street, would that mean there was a contradiction? Not at all if Taco Town is on Third Street right across the street

from the mall. This is analogous to the subtle differences we see in the Gospels. These subtle differences actually help to corroborate the truthfulness of the accounts. If a police officer was investigating the accident and two witnesses told about the collision in exactly the same words, he would likely think they were working together to conceal something. Matthew and Mark didn't have a meeting to decide how to tell the same story—the Holy Spirit directed their writing. When we examine the books carefully, the apparent contradictions disappear, despite the claims of the skeptics whose hearts are hardened to the truths of God.

Another irony of those who are skeptical about the truthfulness of the Gospels is the number of witnesses. Four witnesses recorded the same basic information of the life of Jesus, and we have reliable records of their initial reports. From the biblical perspective, a matter is established on the word of two or three witnesses, so the four we have in the Gospels is more than sufficient to lead us to trust what they record (Deuteronomy 19:15; Matthew 18:16). No one else from Jesus's time has such a rich historical record as that of Jesus. And no one could because it was God the Holy Spirit who directed the recording of the earthly life of God the Son who was sent by God the Father.

It did not take long for false gospels to appear and cause confusion about what was true and what was false (2 Peter 2:1). Many writers tried to take portions of the real Gospels and blend them with mystical teachings. These mystical ideas developed into what we call Gnosticism. Some of these false gospels have been popularized in movies, novels, and documentary-style films that seek to discredit Jesus as God or redefine His teaching and work in some blasphemous way. Other false gospels blended Jewish and Christian ideas, and others tried to fill in the "gaps" of the true Gospels.

One such false gospel, *The Infancy Gospel of*

Thomas, was written more than 100 years after Jesus died. This gospel reveals a young Jesus who was an infant prodigy, performed miracles, breathed life into clay birds, cursed a boy who then died, healed a man's foot, and other acts. These ideas directly contradict the true nature of Jesus we see recorded at the direction of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were directed by the Holy Spirit to record the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. And through God's providence, we have the truth of those accounts in the first four books of our New Testament. We can absolutely trust these as true regardless of the attacks that come from skeptics and regardless of the doubts that may even arise in our own minds. As we study the Scriptures, asking the Holy Spirit for wisdom, we can know the truth and be emboldened to share that truth with others.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Precious Lord, thank you for your Word and the truth of it. My understanding of how you put the Gospels together has grown. You have perfectly woven the truth about Jesus into these four Gospels through imperfect men who were eyewitnesses to the accounts they have written about—under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As you open my eyes to the truth of this Word, I realize that it was written so that I would believe! May my students walk away from this lesson with more confidence in your Word—that it is the true, inspired Word of God by which men can be saved! And may they one day believe all that is written in it. To you be all the glory, Lord!

► Because of the age and ability of 1st and 2nd graders to read and comprehend, we encourage you to read the Scriptures to the students. However, if you have strong readers, by all means have them participate by reading God's Word.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will review the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet. 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.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



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.



The Gospel Truth Class Notes

MATERIALS

- The Gospel Truth Class Notes collated and stapled for each student
- The Gospel Truth Class Notes Answer Key
- One blue crayon and one red crayon (or pencils) for each student

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We are going to read about something that happened while Jesus was on earth. And

we will read about and compare the same event from two different Gospel writers.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we compare the Gospels on our class notes today, we will see that even though the men were inspired by the Holy Spirit to write exactly what God wanted them to write, sometimes they wrote differently about what happened. Each Gospel shows us different things about Jesus. The differences actually help us believe the truth of God's Word.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

We know the New Testament is true. We learned last week that the Holy Spirit guided the Bible writers so they would write everything God wanted them to write.

► 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.

? Refer to Lesson 3 Lesson Theme Poster. **Who did Jesus promise to send to help the writers of the New Testament remember just what God wanted them to write?** *The Holy Spirit.*

? **And what did we learn about many of the writers of the New Testament?** *They knew Jesus. They were eyewitnesses.*

Many of the writers knew Jesus—they were eyewitnesses. And some of the other writers of the New Testament wrote what they learned about Jesus from the people who knew Him. What we read in the New Testament is a true account of Jesus's life! Refer to Lesson Theme Poster. Today our lesson is about the first four books of the New Testament. These books are called the Gospels.

? **Who can name one Gospel for me?** *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John. Show each book in your Bible as you continue.*

? **And another?** *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.*

? **And another?** *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.*

? **And there is one more.** *Matthew, Mark, Luke, John.*

? **Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. These four books are called the Gospels. Who knows what the word *gospel* means?** *Allow discussion.*

The word *gospel* means “good news.” These four books were written to tell about the good news of Jesus! So they are called the Gospels. They are the first four books in the New Testament. *Show the books in your Bible again.*

Two of the Gospels, the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of John, were written by two of Jesus's very first apostles. They knew Jesus, followed Him, talked with Him, learned from Him, and watched Him. They were eyewitnesses.

The other two Gospels were written by men who knew a lot about Jesus, but they had never actually lived with Him. Those Gospel writers are Mark and Luke.

Today I want to talk about why the disciples even wrote the Gospels about Jesus. The Apostle John gives us the answer.

The Gospel of John was written by the Apostle John. He was one of Jesus's very good friends. He told us why he wanted to write about Jesus. Listen as I read and see if you can tell me why John wrote this Gospel. *Read John 21:24 emphasizing the answers to the following questions.*

? **John said he did two things. What did he do? Listen while I read it again.** *Re-read John 21:24 emphasizing “testifies” and “wrote.”*

? **What is the first thing John said he did?** *Testifies of these things.*

? **John testified to these things. And then what did he do?** *John 21:24. Wrote them down.*

John 21:24

Right. John was a witness to the things he wrote about. He was one of Jesus's best friends. And John wrote down in a book—the Gospel of John—all the things the Holy Spirit helped him remember.

But why did John write this Gospel? He wanted us to know something. Listen as I read it again. *Re-read John 21:24.*

? What was it John wanted us to know for sure! *John 21:24. That his testimony is true.*

John was talking about all the things he saw happen when he was with Jesus. And he wrote all these things down in his Gospel. He wanted us to know that what he told us was true!

Discover the Truth

All the Gospel writers wrote about Jesus. They were very careful to write down what had been seen and heard about Jesus. They wrote all these things down because they wanted us to know about Jesus's life, His death, and His Resurrection. They wanted us to know that the things we read about Jesus are true! His life was real! And we can trust what the Bible tells us about Him.



► Re-read the verses or portions of the verses as necessary to help the students hear the answers directly from the biblical text.

READ THE WORD

We know the Bible is true! And the four Gospels were written by people who either knew Jesus or knew His friends. But sometimes what we read in one Gospel is not exactly like what we read in another Gospel. Let me show you what I mean. Take a look at your class notes. These pictures tell about something that happened to Jesus and His disciples. Both John and Matthew wrote about a night in a boat. They were both there when this happened.

? Do you think that what they would say about it would be the same? Since they were both there? *Allow discussion.*

We would think it would be the same. But, guess what? We are going to see that even though they were both there at the same time, what they tell us is not exactly the same. Let's take a look at what both men said happened one dark night in a terrible storm on the sea.

First I will read Matthew's version. Listen carefully. This all happened after Jesus spent the day preaching to the people. *Read Matthew 14:22–33 with enthusiasm—remember it was an awesome event!*

Matthew 14:22–33

EXAMINE THE WORD

That is what Matthew wrote about the storm at sea. Now everyone pick up the red crayon. As I read each verse again, we will mark on the class notes what Matthew said happened that night.

► Re-read the verses as necessary as you continue through the class notes.

Observe the Text

? What did Jesus make the disciples do first? *Matthew 14:22a. Get into the boat.*

That's right. Matthew wrote that the disciples got in the boat. Circle Matthew on #1. *Show example.*

? Now look at #2. What did Jesus do? Where did He go? *Matthew 14:23. Went up on the mountain to pray.*

So, Matthew told us that Jesus went up on the mountain to pray. You can circle Matthew for #2.

Now look at #3. Matthew did not tell us what city they were headed to. His Gospel said they were going to the other side. So we won't circle Matthew on #3.

? Look at #4. Let me read from Matthew again. Tell me what was happening to the boat? *Re-read Matthew 14:24. It was being tossed by the waves. The wind was blowing.*

So on your class notes on #4 you can circle Matthew. Because Matthew told us the wind was blowing.

The disciples were out on the sea. Jesus was up on the mountain. But what happened next? Listen to this now! *Re-read Matthew 14:25.*

? What did Jesus do? *Jesus went to them, walking on the sea.*

? What did the disciples think about this? Listen! *Re-read Matthew 14:26. They thought He was a ghost. They were afraid.*

Wow! Jesus walked on top of the water out to the boat during a storm! And the disciples were afraid, weren't they? Look at #5 and #6 on your class notes. You can circle Matthew's name on both of those because Matthew tells us about both of these things. *Assign a reader.*

? What's happening in picture #7? *Peter is walking on the water.*

Right! Matthew wrote that Peter wanted to walk out on the water. And Jesus told him to come! Peter left the boat and was walking on the water. But when he took his eyes off Jesus he started to sink! Now Peter was scared and he cried out. Jesus grabbed Peter's hand, and brought him into the boat. And Matthew said when they got into the boat, the wind stopped blowing!

You can circle Matthew for #7. Because his Gospel tells us that Peter walked on the water with Jesus.

? How about the last picture? What does Matthew say happened when Jesus and Peter got back into the boat? Listen to this again. *Re-read Matthew 14:32-33. The wind ceased and they worshipped Jesus.*

- ? Look at the picture for #8 and read that. *Assign a reader.* Does Matthew tell us that part of this account? *No.*

No. He doesn't mention it. So don't circle Matthew on #8 of your class notes.



READ THE WORD

Good job! Now let's go to the book of John and see what he wrote about that same stormy night. Listen as I read. Don't circle anything yet, just listen carefully and see what John says. *Read John 6:16–21.*

John 6:16–21

EXAMINE THE WORD

Observe the Text

Ok. Now everyone pick up a blue crayon. As I read these verses again, we will mark what John said happened in blue. *Re-read the verses as necessary as you continue through the class notes.*

- ? What did the disciples do first? *John 6:17. Got in the boat.*

OK. John said they got in the boat. So take your blue crayon and circle John's name beside #1. Matthew and John both said the same thing here.

- ? Now let's move on to #2. Did John mention that Jesus went up to pray? *No.* So, we won't circle John in #2.

- ? Now look at #3. Did John say which city the disciples were going to? *Re-read John 6:17. Yes. Toward Capernaum.*

Oh! John said they were going toward Capernaum. Matthew did not mention that. So you can circle John's name on #3 with your blue crayon.

- ? Look at #4. Did John say anything about the wind? Listen, I'll read what John said. *Re-read John 6:18.*

- ? What did John say about the wind? *The sea rose because of a great wind.*

There was a great wind. John talked about it, too. Circle John's name on #4.

Now listen to this from John's Gospel. *Re-read John 6:19.*

- ? What did the disciples see? *They saw Jesus walking on the water.*

- ? Should you circle John's name on #5? *Yes.*

Yes. John and Matthew both mentioned that Jesus was actually walking on the water!

- ? Does John say how the disciples felt about this big storm? *Re-read John 6:19 if necessary. They were afraid.*

They were afraid. Circle John's name on #6. Both John and Matthew told us the men in the boat were afraid.

- ? John didn't even mention Peter walking on the water when he wrote his Gospel. So what should we do for #7? *Leave it alone. Do not circle John.*
 - ? And how did John end his account about the night on the sea? Where did they end up? *Re-read John 6:21. Jesus got in the boat and the boat landed.*
- Yes! John tells us that the boat landed after the storm. Matthew didn't mention that. So let's circle John's name for #8.

DISCOVER THE TRUTH

- ? Let's think about this. Do you think the two writers were talking about the same night? *Allow discussion.*
- I definitely think they were talking about the same night. They just didn't both write the same exact things about it.
- ? Who wrote these two accounts? *Matthew and John.*
- ? Two different men wrote about the same night. Look at #1 on your class notes. Who will read that? Who told us the disciples got in a boat? *Assign a reader. Matthew and John.*
- ? That's right. Both Matthew and John say a lot of the same things don't they? Who can tell me the other things both of them wrote about in their Gospels? *Pictures #4, #5, #6. Assign students to read these from the class notes.*
- ? Great! And what did Matthew write that John did not? *Pictures #2 and #7. Assign students to read these from the class notes.*
- ? Good! How about the things John said, that Matthew didn't? *Pictures #3 and #8. Assign students to read these from the class notes.*

Some of the things we read in these Gospels about this stormy night are not exactly the same. These Gospels were written by two different men—John and Matthew. Each man wrote what he thought was important about the stormy night when Jesus walked on the water. They each mentioned different details, but we know it is all true. So we need to read both accounts in order to get the whole story!

Some people say that the differences in the Gospels prove that the Bible is *not* true. But if people wanted to write the Bible to fool others with made-up stories, they would try to get all the details exactly the same. That isn't the case with the Gospels. There are differences because different people wrote them.

➤ Have students read the different scenes from the class notes as you review the similarities and differences.

The differences that are there help us know that the Bible IS true. Because we know that different people wrote the Bible at different times. It's normal for two different people to notice different things when they are looking at the same thing. And Matthew and John did notice different things about the storm. That is why their accounts are a little bit different.



Tell Me About It

MATERIALS

- Bring in personal photos, pictures from magazines, or books that show activities, such as a family on a picnic, people fishing, etc. You could also use some past Lesson Theme Posters if available. One picture for every two students.
- Optional: 1 minute timer
- Have an assistant available to leave the room with students during this game.

INSTRUCTIONS

Students will be comparing details in the same picture. Choose one student to leave the room with an assistant. Choose another student to look at one of the pictures you brought in and tell you about the picture. Allow one minute. Questions to ask the student could be: What's happening in the picture? What special things does he see in the picture? What details does he notice?

Write down the key words he mentions either on the board or on a piece of paper—make sure it can be concealed when the other student comes back in the room. Call in the other student from the hall and allow him to examine the same picture. Write down the list of things he notices. Then compare the two lists. Repeat with two more students and a new picture.

Today we're going to play a game about the different things people notice. I'll pick two students. One of you will go into the

hall. The other will look at a picture and tell us the things you notice about the picture. I'll make a list of those things. Then, the student in the hall will come back in and look at the same picture. We'll make another list, listing the things she notices in the picture. Then we will compare the two lists to see if both of the students noticed the exact same things. We'll repeat the activity if we have time.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Some people say that the Gospels can't be true because there are differences in the details. But that's not a good reason to think the Bible isn't true because it's actually normal to have differences. We can all notice different things when we look at the same thing.

That's why all four Gospels are different from each other. Four different men wrote the accounts, and they each told what they thought was important about Jesus's life as the Holy Spirit guided them.





Memory Verse Review Game (Optional)

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.

If you find you have extra time, please consider reviewing the memory verse with your class using this activity.

MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Cards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Cards. Tape the cards in order on the wall or board as you recite the verse together. Review the verse as you point to each card. Choose a student to remove one card of his choice. Recite the verse again. You can use these cards for Lessons 1–5.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say the verse together as I place these cards onto the board. *Show each card as you*

read it, post it on the board, and have the students repeat.

Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of the cards down. Then say the verse without that card! Are you ready? *Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time reciting the whole verse between each one.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Refer to the Memory Verse Poster or the cards as you explain. Remember what this verse tells us about Jesus. Jesus is the Word. The Word became flesh—a man—and dwelt among us. We have seen Jesus's glory! Jesus is God's only begotten Son. He is full of glory, grace, and truth. He is the Savior who came to save sinners from their sins. He alone can offer forgiveness and eternal life.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

The Gospels were written to tell about the good news of Jesus and His life on earth so that we would believe in Him. They tell us about His special birth, His life, and His death—and even what He did after He rose again!

? Do you remember the names of the four Gospel writers? *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

All the Gospel writers were very careful to write down what they and others saw and heard about Jesus. And they wrote the Gospels because they wanted us to know about Jesus's life so we would believe in Him.

We also read about Jesus walking on the water. Matthew and John each had some different things to say about that night, but we could tell that

they were talking about the same event. These Gospels were written by two different eyewitnesses. And they would not have seen, heard, or experienced everything exactly the same. That is why some of the details are different.

And that explains why all four of the Gospels are different from each other. They were written by four different men. But they were all written so we would know the one true account of Jesus's life!

? Should those differences make us doubt the Bible? *No!*

No. In fact, those differences make us more certain that the Bible is true!

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Some people have doubts about the truth of the Gospels. They say if the Holy Spirit really inspired the men who wrote the Gospels, then all of them should say the same thing. We've already talked a lot about how different people will report the same thing differently.

In fact, if everyone who witnesses an event described the details exactly the same, it would seem fake.

Now I want you to think about something else. When someone says that because the Gospels are different, they can't be true, that person is not just questioning the Gospels. He is questioning the very words of the Bible!

? Whose words do we read in the Bible? Who is the Author of the Bible?
Allow discussion. God.

? Who helped all the writers to write the truth in the Bible? *God. The Holy Spirit.*

That's right! God is the Author of the Bible. God put the Gospels together just exactly how He wanted them to be. And when we read all four Gospels, we find out everything God wants us to know about Jesus's life!



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



Group Prayer Time

- Praise God that His Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible and that we have the Bible to read and study so we can know Him.
- Thank God for assuring us that the Gospels are true.
- Ask God to help us to believe in and love Jesus more and more as we learn about His life and all He has done for us.

