



# 4

## Jesus in the Gospels

### Key Theme

- God wants us to study His Word.

### Key Passages

- Matthew 1:1; 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 Review Sheet and reciting the verse to a friend or to the class.



### Activity 1: Jesus in the Gospels Board Work

Students will help complete the board work during 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: Jesus in the Gospels Book

Students will complete a book to keep as a reminder of each Gospel's description of Jesus.

# 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
- Pencils



### JESUS IN THE GOSPELS BOARD WORK

- Print and cut out the 16 Jesus in the Gospels Board Work Signs from the Resource DVD-ROM. Distribute signs to the students. Each student should have at least one sign.
- Keep the Lesson Board Work Chart for your use.

- 16 Jesus in the Gospels Board Work Signs
- Lesson Board Work Chart
- Tape or poster putty



### STUDYING GOD'S WORD

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

- Student Take Home Sheets



### JESUS IN THE GOSPELS BOOK

- Cut yellow, red, black, and white construction paper in fourths. Each student will get one each of the four colors.
- Print and cut out the Jesus in the Gospels Book Pages from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student (four pictures). Keep the teacher guide for your use
- Complete one book to show as an example.
- If time allows, students can cut the colored paper and book pages for themselves during class.

- Four pieces of colored paper (yellow, red, black, white) for each student
- Four Jesus in the Gospels Book Pages for each student
- Supplies: Scissors, glue sticks, pencils, crayons or markers, hole punch or stapler, yarn
- Sample book
- Jesus in the Gospels Book Teacher Guide



### 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
- 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.



# 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 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.



## Jesus in the Gospels Board Work

### MATERIALS

- 16 Jesus in the Gospels Board Work Signs
- Lesson Board Work Chart
- Tape or poster putty

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Print and cut out the 16 Jesus in the Gospels Board Work Signs. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Each student should have at least one. If you have more than 16 students, make duplicates of some of the signs. Students will put the signs on the board during the lesson. Print the Lesson Board Work Chart as a guide for placing the signs on the board.*

We will be completing a chart on the board as we study the Bible passages today. Each of these signs is numbered. When I call your number, you will add your sign to the board.

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the chart on the board, we will see that each one of the four Gospels shows us 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.*

► 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.

Yes. These four different men either knew Jesus very well and carefully wrote down the things they saw and heard about Him, or they talked with people who were eyewitnesses to Jesus's life. God inspired these four men through the Holy Spirit to write the Gospels so the world would know the truth about Jesus—how He lived, how He died, and what happened after He died.

We read about something that happened in the Bible last week. Both Matthew and John wrote about the same event—we found it in both of these Gospels.

? What was the event we read 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 water.*

Right. Matthew told things about that stormy night that John didn't tell. But we know they are both God's Word. And when we read both of these Gospels, we got a better 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 are not exactly the same. But that was God's plan. Each writer wrote about Jesus—who He was and how He lived—in a different way, including different events. So as we study all the Gospels, we will have a better understanding of Jesus.

? Let's start with the Gospel of Matthew. Who has the picture of Matthew? It is sign #1. Come and put it up on our board. *Allow the student to attach the picture appropriately according to the Lesson Board Work Outline, then return to his seat.*

Matthew probably had the Jews in mind when he wrote his Gospel. Matthew was a Jew. He knew that the Jews were waiting for their Messiah to come. He also knew that the Old Testament Scriptures said that the Messiah would be a Jew. And He would be a king from the family of King David. Well, Matthew didn't waste any time explaining this in his Gospel. He got right to the point. Listen as I read the very first verse in Matthew's Gospel. *Read Matthew 1:1.*

## Matthew 1:1

### EXAMINE THE WORD

#### Observe the Text

? What kind of book does Matthew 1:1 say it is? *Re-read Matthew 1:1 if necessary. A genealogy.*

? What is a genealogy? *Allow discussion.*

Genealogy is a big word for the study of a family. It tells who was a part of the family—parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc.

**Genealogy:**  
the study of a  
family tree.

? Who is this genealogy about? *Re-read Matthew 1:1. Jesus.*

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. Notice the name Son of David. This name was a title for the eternal King and Messiah who had been promised in the Old Testament. So Matthew started with a genealogy to show that Jesus was part of the family of King David.

? Who has sign #2? What does it say? *Jesus is the Son of David.*

Come and put your sign on the board under Matthew's picture to show that Matthew wrote about Jesus as the "Son of David."

Matthew called Jesus the Son of David so the Jews would know that He was the promised King and Messiah—the Savior who would die for sinners!

? Who has sign #3? Come and put it on the board here with sign #2. What does it say? *Jesus is the promised King.*

? And who has sign #4? What does it say? *Jesus is the promised Messiah.* You can bring that to the board and put it up.

*Refer to the signs on the board. Matthew called Jesus the Son of David. He was the promised King and Messiah.*

Very good. Now let's take a look at the next Gospel—the Gospel of Mark.

? Who has sign #5? It has Mark on it. Come and put it on the board for us. *Put Mark alongside Matthew. Refer to Lesson Board Work Chart.*

Mark was a friend of the Apostle Peter, and Peter was one of Jesus's very best friends. So Peter may have been the one who told Mark all about Jesus and His life! God used Mark to write this Gospel and show something else special about Jesus. Let's find out what that was.

We'll start by reading three verses from three different places in the Gospel of Mark. Listen carefully for a word that is used in all three verses. Ready? *Read Mark 1:41, Mark 6:34, and Mark 8:2 emphasizing "compassion."*

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

? Did you hear it? What word is repeated in each of these verses? It says something about Jesus. What word is it? *Compassion.*

? That's right. It must be important since Mark repeated it so much. But what does compassion mean? *Allow discussion.*

Compassion is showing kindness, concern, or care for others. Have you ever seen someone who was feeling sad or who was hurt, and

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

**Mark 10:45**

you wanted to cheer them up or help them? You were showing compassion.

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 toward them.

? Who has sign #6? What does it say? *Jesus is compassionate.* Bring it up and put it on the board for us. *Allow student to put it under Mark on the board.*

Mark showed us something else about Jesus. We can read about it in Mark 10:45. Listen while I read that. *Read the verse emphasizing “but to serve.”*

? Jesus is called the “Son of Man” in this verse. Why did Jesus, the Son of Man, come to earth? I’ll read the verse again. Listen now! *Re-read Mark 10:45. He came to serve.*

Wait a minute. Think about this: GOD became a MAN and came to earth to SERVE others—not to BE served.

? Who has sign #7? What does it say? *Jesus came to serve, not to be served.* Bring it up and put it on the board for us. *Allow student to put it under Mark on the board.*

? Now, there’s more to this verse. Listen to it again. *Re-read Mark 10:45 emphasizing “to give His life.”*

? What did Jesus give? *His life.*

? How did Jesus give His life? How did He die? *He died on the Cross.*

That’s right. Jesus—who is God—came to earth as the Son of Man and was fully human so He could serve and suffer for sinners. Mark called Jesus the suffering Servant because He came to serve sinners by suffering on the Cross for their sins.

? Who has sign #8? What does it say? *Jesus was the suffering Servant.* Bring it up and put it on the board for us. *Allow student to put it under Mark on the board.*

*Refer to board.* Very good! So Mark wrote to show Jesus was the compassionate, suffering Servant. He came to serve, and He was willing to die on the Cross for sinners.

? And now we have Luke. Who has sign #9? Who is that? *Luke.* Come up and put it on the board for us. *Allow student to put the picture on the board according to the Lesson Board Work Chart—next to Matthew and Mark.*

What did Luke tell us about Jesus? Let’s start with Luke 19:10. Listen carefully while I read. What does it say about Him? *Read Luke 19:10 emphasizing the answers to the following questions.*

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

? What does the title “Son of Man” tell us about Jesus? *Allow discussion.*

**Luke 19:10**

? It means Jesus, while being fully God, was also fully man. He was known as the Son of Man. Who has sign #10? Can you read it? *Jesus is the Son of Man—yet fully God. Allow student to attach it to the board.*

Luke often called Jesus the Son of Man. Luke wanted us to remember that Jesus came to earth humbly, as a man.

? And Luke tells us why Jesus, the Son of Man, came. Listen and tell me why He came. *Re-read Luke 19:10. To seek and to save that which was lost.*

? 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.

? Who has sign #11? What does it say about Jesus? *Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Bring it up and put it on the board under Luke. Allow student to attach it to the board.*

? Jesus came to seek and save the lost. Who did He come to call? Listen as I read another verse in Luke. *Read Luke 5:32 emphasizing “sinners to repentance.”*

? Who did He come to call? *Jesus came to call sinners to repentance.*

? Who has sign #12? Can you read that for me? *Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Will you bring it up and put it on the board? Allow student to attach it to the board.*

? What is repentance? What does it mean? *Allow discussion.*

Repentance means turning away from sin. It means we are truly sorry for our sins, and we don’t want to sin any more.

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

Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong? And then when you saw how much it hurt or disappointed your mom or dad, you felt really bad because you hurt them?

Well, it’s kind of the same way with God. Sinners who truly repent are sorry for their sins because they know 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. And that’s what true repentance is—really and truly turning away from sin because it matters to God, who loves you. And Luke wanted us to know that is one reason Jesus came. To call sinners to repentance.

Now we’re ready to look at the fourth Gospel—the book of John!

? Who has sign #13? Who is that? *John. You can put it on the board now. Allow student to attach it to the board according to the Lesson Board Work Chart.*

Luke 5:32

**Repentance:**  
turning away  
from sin.

## John 20:31

What does John say about Jesus? I am going to read John 20:31. Listen carefully! *Read John 20:31 emphasizing the answers to the questions below.*

- ? Who did John want his readers to believe in? *John 20:31. Jesus.*
- ? What did John want us to believe about Jesus? Who was Jesus? *Re-read John 20:31. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.*
- ? Ah! Here is another name for Jesus. What is it? *Re-read John 20:31. 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!

- ? Who has sign #14? Will you read it? *Jesus is the Son of God yet fully Man. Will you bring it up to the board? Allow student to attach the sign to the board.*

OK. So John wanted people to believe that Jesus is the one sent from God, the Christ, the Son of God.

- ? But why? What does believing in Jesus Christ give sinners? Listen again. *Re-read John 20:31. Life in His name.*

That's right! John knew that Jesus was the Christ, the Savior, and the Son of God. And he knew that only Jesus can give eternal life!

- ? Who has sign #15? What does it say? *Jesus brings eternal life. Come and put that on the board for us. Allow student to attach it to the board.*

Now I'm going to read one more verse. This verse is actually part of a prayer that Jesus prayed to God the Father. He explains that eternal life comes by knowing someone. Listen so you can tell me who gives eternal life. *Read John 17:3.*

- ? Who does Jesus say brings eternal life? Who do we need to know? *Know God and know Jesus Christ.*
- ? That's right. We are to know the one true God. And who did the one true God send to earth? *Re-read John 17:3 emphasizing "Jesus Christ whom you sent."*  
Yes! John knew that eternal life would come through Jesus Christ, whom God had sent. And Jesus is the only way to get to God and to heaven.
- ? Now who has sign #16? What does it say? *Jesus is the ONLY way. Would you bring that up and put it on the board? Allow student to attach the sign to the board.*

### Discover the Truth

*Refer to board.* Good job! There were four Gospel writers. They all wrote about Jesus. And when we read all the Gospels, we get a better idea of who Jesus is! We need all four Gospels to find that out!





# Jesus in the Gospels Book

## MATERIALS

- 4 pieces of colored paper for each student (yellow, red, black, white)
- Four Jesus in the Gospels Book Pages for each student
- Scissors
- Glue sticks
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers (if time permits to color the pictures)
- Hole punch or stapler
- Yarn
- Completed sample book
- Jesus in the Gospels Book Teacher Guide

## INSTRUCTIONS

*Cut yellow, red, black, and white construction paper in fourths. Each student will get one each of the four colors. Print and cut the four Jesus in the Gospels Book Pages for each student. Have students complete the book pages by filling in the blanks then glue the pictures onto the colored paper as follows: Matthew, yellow; 2. Mark, red; 3. Luke, black; 4. John, white. Put the pages together, punch holes, and use yarn to tie the pages together into a book. You may want to staple the pages to save time.*

We've been reading how God used each Gospel writer to show us Jesus in a different way. The book we're going to make will help us review what we learned. First, complete each page by filling in the blanks using the board work or the Lesson Theme Poster. *You may want to complete these pages together as a class.*

*Show sample book. When you are finished, glue the Matthew picture on the yellow paper like this. Then the Mark picture goes on the red. Luke goes on black. And John goes on the white paper. When the pages are all ready, we'll punch some holes in them and put them together with the yarn. You may just want to staple the pages depending on the time you have.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

*Discuss each page using this script. Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster or the board work.*

**Page 1. Gospel of Matthew.** It is yellow with a crown on it. Yellow reminds us of gold! And a crown reminds us of a king. Jesus is the King!

**Page 2. Gospel of Mark.** It is red and has a cross on it. Red reminds us of the blood that Jesus shed when He died on the Cross for sinners. Jesus was a suffering servant.

**Page 3. Gospel of Luke.** It's black. Black reminds us of sin. We are all sinners. And we are all lost without Jesus. But Jesus came to seek and save the lost from sin.

**Page 4. Gospel of John.** It is white. White reminds us that Jesus is the holy Son of God. And eternal life comes from Him alone!





# 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 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. Continue until all the cards are gone. 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.*

Now I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of the cards down. Then we'll 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. According to this verse what is Jesus? The Word.*
- ? **What did He become?** *Flesh.*
- ? **With whom did He dwell?** *Us.*
- ? **What is He full of?** *Grace and truth.*

Keep working on memorizing this verse!



# Applying God's Word

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*Refer to the board work.* 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 when we study 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, yet fully God. 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. Eternal life with God in heaven comes through Jesus Christ alone. Jesus is the **ONLY** way!

## GOD’S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Together, the Gospels show us a more complete picture of Jesus. When we read them we get to know Him better. And the Bible says eternal life comes from knowing Jesus. But, we have to be careful. Because knowing **ABOUT** someone is different from *knowing* them, isn’t it?

? For instance, would you say that 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* Him!

They wanted us to know that Jesus is the Promised One, sent by God, who came to save all of those who would believe. The Bible says that we are all sinners! Since God must punish sin, 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 of sin that we deserve. You see, when Jesus died, He took the punishment for sinners. His death offers new life to everyone who believes. New life comes only from believing in Jesus, turning away from our sins—repentance—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.



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



## Group Prayer Time

- Praise God for the four men who wrote the Gospels.
- Thank God for the salvation He offers to all who believe in the Jesus of the Bible.
- Ask God to help us study His Word so we can know Jesus more and tell others all about Him so their lives will be changed, and they will have eternal life with God.

