



4

Jesus in the Gospels



Key Passages

- Matthew 9:27; Mark 10:45; Luke 19:10; John 20:31

Lesson Focus

- Each Gospel tells something special about Jesus!

Lesson Overview



Come On In

Students will color the Gospel Writers Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 3 and/or play with play dough.



Circle Time

Prayer—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

God's Word—Students will learn that each Gospel writer wrote something special about Jesus.

Song—Students will sing songs to help them remember the lesson of the day. Lyrics to the songs are found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.



Activity 1: Gospel Bridge

Students will sing the new verses to the “Gospel Writing Song” as they run under the “bridge.”



Activity 2: The Gospels Say Book

Students will color and assemble a book showing what each Gospel tells us about Jesus.



Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse as they play a game and recite/sing the verse. Give them an opportunity to repeat the verse with you or after you individually.



Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



FOR THE TEACHER

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



COME ON IN

- Print one Gospel Writers Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Provide play dough if appropriate.

- Gospel Writers Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough
- Cookie cutters



CIRCLE TIME

- Print one each of two Lesson Illustrations to use during class.
- Practice the songs on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Two Lesson Illustrations



GOSPEL BRIDGE

- Gather sheets or blankets and chairs to make a bridge for the students to run under.
- Practice the verses to the “Gospel Writing Song” on the Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide.

- Sheets or blankets
- Chairs to make an adequate “bridge”
- Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide



THE GOSPELS SAY BOOK

- Print and cut out one set of four The Gospels Say Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Cut construction paper into 4¼” x 5½” pieces: yellow, red, black, and white, one set for each student.
- Cut pieces of yarn to 20” lengths (one for each student).
- Complete one book to show as an example.

- One set of four The Gospels Say Pictures for each student
- One set of construction paper pieces (yellow, red, black, and white) for each student
- Glue sticks or scrapbook adhesive
- Crayons
- Hole punch, yarn pieces, and scissors
- Lesson Flip Chart Page
- Completed book to show



MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- If you haven’t already done so, print and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards from the Resource DVD-ROM.
- Save the flashcards for use in Lesson 5.

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty



APPLYING GOD’S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Student Take Home Sheets
- Lesson Flip Chart for Review
- Snacks



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.

➤ As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children interested.



COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color the Gospel Writers Coloring Sheet as a review of Lesson 3.
- If there is time, they can play with play dough.

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons 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 Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Circle Time

In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your Lesson Flip Chart, Bible, stuffed animal for prayer time, two Lesson Illustrations, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.

PRAYER

This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his/her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.

We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today Supplication is suggested. You might proceed this way:

Today we will ask God for something. That is a prayer of supplication, or a "please" prayer. God cares about us and has promised to provide us with all we need.

The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life, and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

I'll start. Dear God, I know that you hear all my prayers, and you will give me all I need according to your perfect will. Lord could you please . . . (insert personal prayer).

Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of supplication.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.

GOD'S WORD

These first five questions will be repeated each week this quarter. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.

- ? **Does God know all things?** *Yes. Nothing can be hidden from God.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No. I cannot see God, but He always sees me.*
- ? **Can God do all things?** *Yes! God can do all His holy will.*
- ? **Where do you learn how to love and obey God?** *In the Bible alone.*
- ? **Is God's Word true?** *Yes! Every Word of God is true.*

The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark today's passage before you begin.

Bible Pass Around

➤ Before Bible Pass Around, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. *Hold up Bible. God's Word is true, and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number* *choose a number. You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity.*

We'll start right here. *Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you—remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? Let's begin.* *You may want to have the student with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it. Continue with the lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around.*

➤ When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

Refer to Lesson 3 Flip Chart. Last week we talked about the four Gospels in the New Testament. They are named after the four men who wrote them.

- ? **What are their names? Do you remember?** *Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

That's right. Let's sing the song we learned about them. *Refer to the Lesson 3 Flip Chart Page. Sing the "Gospel Writing Song."*

Good job! The four Gospels were written by these four men: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

- ? Who helped them write the truth about Jesus? Who was the Helper? *The Holy Spirit.*
- ? Who are the Gospels about? *Jesus.*
- ? Do you remember what the word *Gospel* means? We sang it in our song. *Good news.*

The Gospels were written so we could know the good news about Jesus. There is a lot to know about Him, though. And each writer wrote something a little different about Jesus. Each writer points to something special about Jesus. And as you grow up, you'll find that when you read all four Gospels together, you will get a better picture of who Jesus is!

Today, we're going to look at each Gospel and find out what special things each writer said about Jesus. We'll start with the book of Matthew. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible, and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is. Show the students where the book is. Let them look at it. Carry it around your circle.*

What do you suppose Matthew tells us about Jesus? First, let me tell you something about Matthew. Matthew was a Jew. And in Jesus's time, the Jews studied the Old Testament and knew it very well. They knew that there were men who were God's prophets. God's prophets talked about a Savior coming. They talked about Him long before He came. They also knew that this Savior would be in the family of King David. *Show Lesson Illustration 1.*

David was a good king of the Jews many, many years before Jesus was born. God had promised David that someday, the Savior would be a King from David's family. So the people knew that the Old Testament said the Savior was coming, that He would be a King, and that He would be called the Son of David!

Now let's read something from Matthew's Gospel. This is about two blind men who wanted to be healed. They heard that Jesus was nearby, so they called out to Him. Listen to what they said and what they called Him. *Read Matthew 9:27 emphasizing "Son of David."*

- ? Did you hear it? What did they call Jesus? *Son of David.*
- ? What did that mean—Son of David? *Allow discussion.*

That was a name for the Savior. Remember, God had promised King David that the Savior would be a King from his family. *Show Lesson Illustration 1 again.* Jesus was called the Son of David—the King that would come from David's family. The Jews were waiting for the Son of David to come. They knew He would be a great King. And these blind men knew it, too. They called out to Jesus, "Son of David!" *Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

Matthew 9:27

- Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them.

Mark 10:45

Matthew wrote his Gospel because he wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the King that they were all waiting for—Jesus would rule over the whole world one day. Each Gospel tells us something special about Jesus!

Refer to the Matthew portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page. Let's sing the song about Matthew's Gospel. It will help us remember what Matthew wrote about Jesus. Sing the Matthew portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

Show the book of Mark in your Bible. Let's look at the Gospel of Mark now and see what he wanted his readers to know about Jesus. Remember, Matthew wanted people to know that Jesus is the King. Now here in this verse in Mark, Jesus was talking about Himself. Listen to what Jesus said. Read Mark 10:45 emphasizing the answers to the questions.

? What did Jesus call Himself? *Re-read Mark 10:45. The Son of Man.*

Right, Jesus called Himself the Son of Man.

? What did Jesus come to do? *Re-read Mark 10:45. To serve.*

? And what did Jesus come to give? *His life.*

Yes! Jesus is God! And Jesus came to serve sinners and to give His life for sinners.

? What happened to Jesus? How did He die? *Allow discussion.*

Show Lesson Illustration 2. Jesus died a horrible death on the Cross. He came to serve us by dying for us. Jesus is wonderful! Mark called Jesus the suffering servant. Jesus was a servant to many AND He suffered while He lived on earth. Mark wanted us to know that Jesus came to serve others and give His life so sinners can be saved. Each Gospel tells us something special about Jesus.

Refer to the Mark portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page. Let's sing a song about Mark's Gospel to help us remember this. Sing the Mark portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page.

Matthew wrote especially to tell us that Jesus is the King. Mark wrote about Jesus as a servant who died for our sins—a suffering servant. Now let's see what Luke said about Jesus. *Show the book of Luke in your Bible. Listen carefully while I read. Read Luke 19:10 emphasizing "seek and save that which was lost."*

Jesus is talking about Himself in this verse! Luke wrote down what Jesus said!

? Did you hear it? What did Jesus call Himself? *Re-read Luke 19:10. Son of Man.*

? And what did Jesus say He came to do? *Re-read Luke 19:10. Seek and to save that which was lost.*

Jesus—the Son of Man, the Son of David, the King of kings—came to seek, or look for, the lost and save them!

Luke 19:10

? Who are the lost? *Allow discussion.*

The lost are sinners! *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* Anyone who does not believe in Jesus and trust Him as his or her Savior is still lost. Jesus came to seek and save the lost, right? That means that Jesus came to save sinners. Jesus is God, so when He died on the Cross, Jesus took the punishment for sinners—those who turn away from their sins, turn to Him, and believe in Him! Jesus wants to save sinners like you and me! He came to look for the lost and save them from their sins.

Refer to the Luke portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page. Let's practice the song about the Gospel of Luke now, to help us remember what Luke wrote about Jesus. *Sing the Luke portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

Each Gospel tells us something special about Jesus. *Show the book of John in your Bible.* Let's find out what John says in the Gospel he wrote. Listen carefully! *Read John 20:31 emphasizing the answers to the questions.*

John tells us two really important things here.

? First of all, who is Jesus? *The Christ, the Son of God.*

That's right. John wanted everyone to know that Jesus is the Son of God. And Jesus is the one that God sent to die for sinners and save sinners from their sin.

? What else does John tell us? What does he want us to do? *Re-read John 20:31. Believe in Jesus.*

? Why does he want us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God? *So we will have life in His name.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. John wrote his Gospel so we would know that Jesus is the Savior. Jesus is the one God promised so long ago. Jesus is the Son of God and the only one who can save us from our sins. Jesus offers eternal life to those who believe in Him. Each Gospel tells us something special about Jesus.

Now, it's time to sing the song about the Gospel of John. Ready? *Sing the John portion of the song from the Lesson Flip Chart Page.*

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. Wow! We talked about four different writers who all wrote about the same man—Jesus Christ. But the Holy Spirit helped each one of them to write something special about Jesus. As you grow up, when you read all four Gospels, you will have a better understanding of who Jesus is.

Refer to Lesson Flip Chart Page. Matthew wanted us to know that Jesus is the King—the Son of David that the people were waiting for. Mark wanted us to know that Jesus came to be a servant who would suffer and die on the Cross for sinners. Luke wanted us to know that Jesus came to look for the lost—sinners like us—and save them. And John wanted us to know that

John 20:31

Jesus is the Son of God. And if we believe in Him we will have life in His name—eternal life! Every Gospel tells us something special about Jesus!

SONG

► Turn to the Flip Chart Song Page and Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.

We did a lot of singing today. You did really well! The “Gospel Writing Song” teaches us a lot about the Bible, Jesus, and the Gospels! There is so much in the Bible to learn! One great way to really learn it is to memorize it!

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let’s practice the memory verse by singing this song. Remember, when we say “the Word” we’re talking about Jesus.

Here we go! *Sing the Memory Verse Song two or three times with enthusiasm!*

You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments. Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this Teacher Guide.



Gospel Bridge

MATERIALS

- Sheets or blankets
- Chairs
- Lesson Flip Chart and/or Song Sheet at the back of this Teacher Guide

INSTRUCTIONS

Build a bridge using sheets and chairs. Make the “bridge” as large as you can accommodate. Children will go under the bridge while singing the “Gospel Writing Song.”

Since each Gospel tells us something special about Jesus, it would be a good idea to think about what those special things are. So we’re going to play a game with the songs we sang today. As we sing the songs together, we’re going to take turns going under this bridge. So line up here by the bridge and go under it as you sing with me.

Keep singing as you go under the bridge and around to the end of the line. **Here we go.** *Start singing with verse one. Guide the children under the bridge, then around to the end of the line. Repeat all the verses as time allows.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God directed each of the Gospel writers to write the truth about Jesus. But they all said something special about Jesus. Matthew reminded us that Jesus is the King—the Son of David. Mark wrote that Jesus came to serve by dying on the Cross for sinners. Luke says that Jesus loves us so much that He came to seek the lost sinners so they can be saved. And John reminds us that Jesus is God’s Son! And when we believe in Him and turn from our sins, we can have everlasting life with Jesus!



The Gospels Say Book

MATERIALS

- The Gospels Say Pictures for each student
- One set of construction paper pieces (yellow, red, black, and white) for each student
- Crayons
- Glue sticks or scrapbook adhesive
- Hole punch, yarn pieces, and scissors
- Lesson Flip Chart Page
- Completed book to show

INSTRUCTIONS

Print and cut out one sheet of The Gospels Say Pictures for each student. Students will color the pictures then glue them to the colored construction paper: 1. Matthew, yellow; 2. Mark, red; 3. Luke, black; and 4. John, white. After coloring, help the children put the pages together, punch holes and use yarn to tie the pages together into a book.

Show completed book. This is the book we're going to make today. Each page has a picture that reminds us of the special thing that each Gospel writer wrote about Jesus. Color the pictures first then we will glue each one to a colored piece of paper. And we will help you make it into a book to take home and share with your family.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Briefly discuss each page. The first page of our book is for the 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!

The next page is for the 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.

The third page is for Luke's Gospel. It's black. These kids look really sad and lost. 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.

The last page is for the Gospel of John. It is white. And the kids look happy now! They are worshipping and praising Jesus. White reminds us that Jesus is the holy Son of God. And eternal life comes from Him alone!



Memory Verse Review and Activity

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.

MATERIALS

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Memory Verse Flashcards printed on cardstock
- Tape or poster putty

INSTRUCTIONS

Print, preferably onto cardstock, and cut out one copy of the Memory Verse Flashcards. 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 their choice. Recite the verse again. Continue to choose students to remove cards one at a time reciting the whole verse between each one.

We're going to practice our memory verse. Let's say it first. *Point to each flashcard as you say each word and have the students repeat.*

Good job! But wait! I'm going to ask one of you to come up and take one of our cards down. Then we'll have to say the verse without that card! Do you think we can do it? Of course we can. Are you ready? *Call on a student to take down one card then recite the verse together. Continue until the cards are gone.*

You may want to sing the Memory Verse Song instead of saying the verse. When finished, see if anyone can say the verse using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

? Who can tell me who "the Word" is in this verse? *Jesus!*

Yes, it's Jesus! Remember, this verse is in the Gospel of John. John especially wanted us to know that Jesus is the truth. He is God's Son. And because He is full of grace, He promises eternal life to all who believe in Him.



Applying God's Word/Snack

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart.

The first four books in the New Testament are called the Gospels. God sent His Holy Spirit to help each of the Gospel writers to write about Jesus so we can know who He is and believe in Him. *Matthew* wrote especially to tell people that Jesus is the Son of David. He is the King that God told us about in the Old Testament. *Mark* wanted to make sure people understand that Jesus came as a servant, to die for sinners. *Luke* told the good news that Jesus wants to find the lost and save them from sin. And *John* wrote that Jesus is the Son of God. And those who believe in Jesus and turn from their sin will have everlasting life through Him.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

The Gospels tell us the good news of who Jesus is. Each Gospel tells something special about Jesus. And here's an easy way to remember what those are—He is the King who came to serve, seek, and save sinners. Say that with me. *Repeat together holding up one finger for each point.* *Matthew* explained that Jesus is the promised *King*. *Mark* told us that Jesus came to *serve* us by dying on the Cross to save us from our sin! *Luke* says that Jesus came to *seek* the lost. Anyone who does not know Jesus is lost. We are all sinners, and only Jesus can save us from sin. *John* tells us that if we believe in Jesus, the Son of God, we can be *saved* and have eternal life through Him. Jesus is the King who came to serve, seek, and save sinners!

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



Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for the Gospels which tell us about Jesus.
- Praise God for giving us forgiveness of sin through Jesus.
- Pray that God will give us hearts to read, memorize, and learn from God's Word every day.

Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.

Song Sheet

JOHN 1:14

(To the tune of "Away in a Manger")

And the Word became fle-esh
(Away in a manger,)

And dwelt among us,
(No crib for a bed.)

And we beheld His glory—
(The little Lord Jesus)

The glory as of
(Lay down His sweet head.)

The only begotten
(The stars in the sky)

Of the Fa-a-ther,
(Looked down where He lay.)

Full of grace and tru-uth.
(The little Lord Jesus,)

John o-one fourteen!
(Asleep on the hay.)

GOSPEL WRITING SONG

(To the tune of "London Bridge")

Matthew, Mark, and Luke and John,
(London Bridge is falling down,)

Wrote good news, wrote good news!
(Falling down, falling down.)

Of Jesus Christ, God's only Son—
(London Bridge is falling down,)

In the Gospels!
(My fair lady!)

Matthew wrote of King Jesus,
King Jesus, King Jesus!
Matthew told who Jesus is:
The Son of David.

Mark wrote Jesus came to serve,
Came to serve, came to serve!
Mark said Jesus came to serve
And die for sinners!

Luke wrote Jesus came to look
For the lost, for the lost!
Luke said Jesus came to seek
And save the lo-ost!

John said Jesus is the Son,
Son of God, Son of God!
And through Jesus Christ alone
Can we be sa-aved!

Think of fun ways to sing. Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction. Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out! Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.