

Name: _____

Date: _____

God Reveals: An Introduction to the Bible
Chapter 5: Jesus and God's Kingdom Seen through the
Synoptic Gospels
Directed Reading Worksheet

Directions. Read through the chapter and fill in the missing information. All the questions run sequential to the chapter. If a true/false statement is false, correct it. Enter the missing word or words for the fill-in-the-blank questions.

Introduction: *Understanding Matthew, Mark, and Luke*

1. True or False? The three Gospels of Mark, Luke, and John share so many similarities that they are referred to as "synoptic Gospels," which means they can be "seen together."

2. Explain the "Two-Source Hypothesis."

Section 1: *Individual Characteristics of the Synoptic Gospels*

3. Recent biblical scholarship generally agrees that _____ added material to _____ with the date of the latter sometime prior to, or shortly after, the Roman _____ of the Jewish Temple in AD _____. In the ensuing years, Matthew and _____ wrote their Gospels using three sources: Mark, "_____", and their own unique sources often referred to as "_____" for Matthew and "_____" for Luke.

4. Although the author of Mark is uncertain, the _____ Church connected the Gospel with a disciple of Peter named _____. It presents a vivid, human, portrait of _____, emphasizing his deeds more than his _____. The central theme is that following Jesus often means _____ because it was likely written for a _____ audience experiencing persecution, which is why he emphasized Jesus's role as a _____ Messiah.

5. The author describes the style of the Gospel of Mark as direct in its presentation of Jesus rather than the softer view given by Matthew and Mark. Explain.

6. Briefly note what each of the following titles from Mark 8:27–34 suggest about Jesus’s identity:

“Christ” —

“Son of Man” —

“Suffering Servant” —

7. True or False? One of the important messages from the Gospel of Mark is that we have to be willing to carry the daily crosses in our lives just as Jesus did.
8. The author of the Gospel of Matthew—who may or may not have been an _____—is writing to at least two different groups: _____ who followed Jesus and Gentiles who followed _____. He underscores the link between _____ and Christianity and emphasizes this by proclaiming that Jesus Christ is “_____,” the Messiah prophesied in the _____.
9. Explain three ways that Matthew portrays Jesus as the “New Moses.”
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
10. List at least five Old Testament prophecies Matthew uses to validate Jesus’s identity as the Messiah.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
11. True or False? Matthew uses the Jewish title “King of the Jews” more than any other Gospel in the attempt to show that Christ fulfilled all God’s promises to the Chosen People.

12. Luke was the author of both the _____ and the Acts of the Apostles, who wrote for a mostly _____ audience. St. _____ identified him as a friend and travelling companion of _____. The Holy City of _____ is an important symbol in both of his works. The _____ age began there, and it's where the drama of salvation unfolded. And it's from there the _____ take the message of Christ to the ends of the _____.
13. Luke makes it two points of emphasis in his writings. Write these below.
- 1.
 - 2.
14. In the Gospel of Luke, _____ sought out those whom society considered _____ or "outcasts." Jesus's message appealed to _____ who tried to follow the Law, pray, and _____ in synagogue services. He embraced _____ and cured them. He praised _____, associated with tax collectors, and approached _____ in a way that was revolutionary in his culture.

Section 2: *The Time before Jesus's Public Ministry in the Synoptic Gospels*

15. The genealogy of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel provides several important insights. Give three of these.
- 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
16. True or False? While Matthew's Gospel opens with Jesus as an adult, Mark gives details of time both before and immediately after his birth.
17. True or False? The infancy narratives provided by the two evangelists agree on all of the following points: he was born in Bethlehem, and an angel announced his birth while Herod the Great was still king.

18. *Note the differences between the two infancy narratives of Jesus in the table below.*

Differences in Matthew	Differences in Luke

19. Explain why the “criterion of embarrassment” may be evidenced in the accounts of Jesus’s baptism.
20. While there are some minor _____ in the accounts of Jesus’s baptism, all four emphasize the significance of the event by describing the _____ of the sky, the Holy Spirit _____ like a dove, and a voice proclaiming “_____.” The Church explains that his baptism by John illustrates Jesus’s perfect _____ to the will of the _____.
21. The _____ Gospels report that Jesus went out into the desert for _____ immediately following his baptism, where he faced a threefold _____ from Satan. Matthew and Luke provide details of the temptations while _____ does not. The Letter to the _____ explains that while he never _____ in his life, Jesus underwent this testing so that he might _____ with human weakness.
22. True or False? The forty days Jesus spent fasting in the desert corresponds to the forty days Moses spent fasting on Mount Sinai and the forty years the Israelites spent in the desert before entering the Promised Land.

Section 3: Jesus's Teachings, Pronouncements, and Miracles in the Synoptic Gospels

23. The _____ of God that John the Baptist and _____ proclaimed was not a place, although some _____ at the time of Jesus had the notion that the Messiah would be a great _____ who would establish a political, _____ kingdom. Rather, the kingdom they pronounced would be established in _____, beginning with the proclamation that it was present on _____ but not culminating until the _____.
24. Both Matthew and Mark's Gospels clearly make the point that Jesus ushered in the _____ of the Kingdom of God; participation begins in our _____ and belief. To help people _____ the nature of the Kingdom of God, Jesus used _____. His _____ verified the supernatural aspect of the kingdom and his _____ and pronouncements provided details of how we are to _____ in God's Kingdom.
25. True or False? While all the synoptic Gospels include parables of Jesus, the Gospel of Luke does not.
26. Explain two central lessons the parables of Jesus teach about the Kingdom of God and include an example for each.
 - 1.
 - 2.
27. True or False? The authors of the Gospels did not simply list all the things that Jesus said; rather, they provided a narrative and context to Jesus's teachings and placed them within the course of his public ministry.

28. List the four categories of the sayings of Jesus below and briefly summarize the focus of each.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

29. The _____ worked by Jesus recognize the _____ that can be attributed to God; powerful _____ of God's Kingdom. They offer divine _____ that Jesus is the Messiah and recognize the _____ dimension of the Kingdom of God breaking into our _____. There are four types worked by Jesus: physical _____, nature miracles, _____, and raisings from the dead.

30. True or False? Jesus performed miracles when faith was present because faith was an essential component of his miracles.

31. True or False? Jesus's feeding of the five thousand is an example of a nature miracle.

32. True or False? Jesus's feeding of the multitude foreshadows the Sacrament of Baptism.

33. The Gospels describe how some people were _____ by evil spirits. When Jesus performed _____, the demons recognized him. Witnesses were _____ and wondered aloud about Jesus's authority and _____. Some _____ his exorcisms and accused him of being possessed by _____ and conducting them in the name of Satan.

34. Briefly note the three instances when Jesus brought people back to life.

35. Note the difference between the raising of people from the dead and the Resurrection of Jesus.

36. In _____, the first of Jesus's five major discourses takes place on a _____, something his Jewish-Christian audience would associate with Moses's _____ of the Law from Mount Sinai. Conversely, _____ situates Jesus's sermon on a _____, where Jesus comes down to the same _____ as Luke's Gentile-Christian audience.
37. True or False? The most notable difference between Luke and Matthew's versions of Jesus's sermon is that Luke's is more detailed and gathers Jesus's ethical teachings in one place.

Section 4: *The Passion and Resurrection Accounts in the Synoptic Gospels*

38. Write the Protoevangelium below.
39. The word "_____" when referring to Jesus, means "to suffer." The Passion _____ begin with his arrival in Jerusalem to celebrate the _____. These accounts were retold in the years of the _____ and are historically _____ events. In reading them, one can see how each author advanced the _____ of his Gospel and the needs of the _____ for which they were writing.
40. Summarize what each of the Evangelists emphasizes in his Gospel account of the Passion of Jesus.
- Matthew* —
- Mark* —
- Luke* —
- John* —
41. True or False? The synoptic Gospels all agree that Jesus ate the Passover meal with his Apostles on the day before the celebration of Shabbat, while John relates that Jesus was crucified on the day before.
42. Jesus celebrated the _____ of the Exodus prior to liberating humanity from _____ and death, connecting the Last Supper with the _____. The central part of the meal was the _____ of the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. According to the _____ Gospels, during the meal Jesus also told his Apostles that one of them would _____ him: the one named _____.

43. The _____ of Christ begins with his agony in the garden, where he prays at a place called _____. Here Jesus is betrayed and _____, and his followers flee. He faces a _____ trial before the Sanhedrin, where according to _____, Jesus outrages the leaders by acknowledging that he is the _____ and enrages them when he predicts the _____ will come in glory.
44. True or False? The synoptic Gospels do not agree that Pilate knows that Jesus is innocent.
45. True or False? In the Roman Empire, only the Roman governor could approve the use of the death penalty.
46. What was the purpose of using a footrest or support seat for the victim of crucifixion?
47. What is the Church's understanding of the significance of the inner veil of the sanctuary being torn in two?
48. The earliest written record of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ is 1 Corinthians, where St. Paul stressed the necessity of the belief in the historicity of Christ's Resurrection.
49. True or False? Jesus appeared to his disciples several times after the Resurrection, and it was these face-to-face meetings with him that transformed them from frightened and disillusioned followers into bold eyewitnesses.
50. True or False? The Gospel of John provides the most details of the Ascension of Jesus, and he uses the event as a bridge between the end of his Gospel and the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles.