

Name _____

Encountering Jesus in the New Testament

Directed Reading Worksheet

Chapter 4 *The Essential Identity and Message of Jesus*

Date _____

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.

Introduction *Mysteries of Christ's Life* (pp. 166 – 168)

1. What are two ways of thinking about the meaning of the word “mystery” and what is the connection between these two meanings?
2. True or False? Christians believe that God has revealed himself most clearly in the Twelve Apostles.
3. True or False? Jesus never forces his love on anyone.

Section 1 *Jesus' Infancy and Hidden Life Prior to His Public Ministry* (pp. 170 – 189)

4. True or False? While all four of the Gospels record details of Jesus' baptism, only the three synoptic Gospels give details of his birth and infancy.
5. If the birth and infancy narratives are primarily interested in theology rather than history, how did the stories help believers?
6. The _____ narrative in the Gospel of Matthew stresses themes from the _____ because the author himself was likely a _____ Christian who wrote for his fellow Jewish _____. He stressed that Jesus _____ the Old Testament prophecies about the _____. He accomplishes this by connecting Jesus' lineage to figures including _____ and David.
7. There are several connections between the _____ and Matthew's birth and infancy narrative. He quotes both _____, who said the Messiah would be called Emmanuel; and _____, who prophesied that he would be born in David's hometown of _____. Further, like the patriarch _____ saved his family, Jesus' foster father Joseph _____ Jesus by fleeing with the Holy Family to _____. (pp. 173-175)
8. Explain the significance of the visit of the magi in Matthew's narrative.

9. True or False? The story Matthew tells about the massacre of the innocents reminds the reader of the prophet Moses' own narrow brush with death as an infant in the Book of Genesis. (p. 176)
10. Luke portrays _____ as the Lord who came to save everyone because he wrote for a _____ Christian audience. Luke interweaves the stories of the births of Jesus and _____. Both births are announced by the angel _____ and Mary spends three months _____ John's parents. Because only Jesus has _____ origins, Luke stresses that the _____ is Jesus, not John.
11. True or False? The Benediction of Zechariah blesses God's wonderful work in which he addresses Jesus at the time of his birth.
12. In _____ narrative of Jesus' birth, Jesus is born in poverty and _____ are the first to see the baby. Jesus' poverty is also shown at his _____ in the Temple where Simeon predicts the _____ that Mary will endure. Luke's story repeats the importance of _____ in Jesus' life and a future _____ when he will again confound the learned, some of whom will plot his _____.
13. True or False? Matthew's infancy narrative ends with Jesus returning in obedience to Nazareth, an obedience that contrasts with Adam's disobedience.
14. Explain the significance of the preaching of John the Baptist.
15. True or False? The Baptisms of John took place in the Jordan River, a symbol of Jewish freedom because it was where the Chosen People entered the Promised Land.
16. What three things do all the Gospel writers emphasize about the significance of Jesus' Baptism by John?
17. What theological explanation can be given as to why Jesus, the sinless Savior, allowed John to baptize him.

18. All three _____ Gospels tell of Jesus' temptations in the _____ following his Baptism. His _____ days there recalls Israel's forty _____ undergoing a test in the wilderness while the Letter to the _____ reveals that his temptations helped him identify with _____. Unlike _____, Jesus, the New Adam, triumphed over _____ temptation.

Section 2 *Jesus the Teacher* (pp. 190 – 198)

19. True or False? Jesus quoted no one in his teaching, unlike the rabbis of his day who typically quoted important teachers to support their positions, because he himself was the authority.
20. True or False? Amen is a Hebrew word meaning "certainly" and it was a way to emphasize one's own words such at the conclusion of an oath, a blessing, or a curse.
21. Jesus taught using _____ because they are easy to _____ and they force his hearers to look at _____ in a new way. He conveyed unfamiliar ideas about God's _____ by comparing it to something that was _____ to his listeners. Their purpose is to make his hearers _____ and to find hidden layers of _____. Jesus wanted people to change their _____.
22. Summarize the lessons of Jesus' parables.
23. List the six features of the Kingdom of God.

24. Write True or False next to each of these appropriately.

- The Holy Spirit unites God's people in love with each other and with the Father and the Son until he comes again
- God the Father is more loving and merciful than we can imagine
- The Kingdom of God welcomes everyone with a special emphasis on the poor and lowly

- The only “door” into God’s Kingdom is in accepting Jesus Christ and conforming our minds and hearts to his own
- It is through the Church that Jesus remains present to humanity

Section 3 *Jesus the Miracle Worker* (pp. 200 – 208)

25. Explain how Jesus’ miracles enhance his message.

26. List the four types of miracles Jesus performed and give one example of each.

(a)

(b)

(c)

(d)

27. People had different reactions to Jesus’ _____. Some refused to believe he was the _____ of the miracle or they credited it to _____. Some were _____ he would not work miracles to satisfy their _____ or to prove he was a magician. Today, too, many _____ believe Jesus’ miracles can be explained away either by _____, psychiatry, or by understanding them to be purely _____.

28. True or False? The Church understands miracles as signs and wonders attributed to God alone.

29. True or False? While John’s Gospel uses a Greek word meaning “act of power,” to refer to Jesus’ miracles, the synoptic Gospels use a Greek word that means “work” or “sign.”

30. What two important things do we learn by thinking of Jesus’ miracles as “works and signs?”

31. Miracles reveal Jesus' _____. They demonstrate his power over _____, sickness, and over the worst evil of all, _____. They demonstrate his close _____ with God the Father and consequently, as God, his power to _____ sin. His miracles proclaim that God has _____ over sickness and the _____ it brings upon people.
32. Jesus' miracles reveal the advent of God's _____ and the end of Satan's _____. They reveal that Jesus is the New Adam who _____ God's reign over human _____. They witness to God's love and _____ such as when he cured the _____ who were despised and avoided because of their _____. His miracles were a response to people's _____, such as when he raised _____ from the dead.

Section 4 *The Paschal Mystery Is the Sum of Jesus' Mission* (pp. 210–214)

33. True or False? In his role as teacher and wonder worker, Jesus was also a sign of contradiction.
34. Explain how Jesus contradicted each of the following:
- he emphasized the spirit of the Law that moved him to heal sick people on the Sabbath
 - Jesus openly associated with outcasts
 - Jesus treated women with courtesy and respect
 - Religious leaders claimed that only God could forgive sin
35. The _____ Peter, James, and John got a glimpse of all three _____ of the Trinity in Jesus' _____: The Father in the _____, the Son in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit in the shining _____. They saw Jesus in his divine _____ in the company of _____, who gave the Law to the Chosen People, and _____, the greatest of the Old Testament _____.
36. True or False? Jesus wanted to show that the way to glory in the Kingdom of God was the way of suffering and shame.
37. True or False? At the end of his ministry Jesus traveled to Jericho, not to seize power, but to pray, to teach, and to prepare for his death and resurrection.
38. True or False? The establishment was threatened by Jesus' teachings and popularity.