

The Four Gospels

Gospel—from the Greek word *evangelion*, meaning “good news,” refers to (1) Jesus himself; (2) the message of salvation Jesus proclaimed; and (3) the written record.

What? Four accounts of the good news God accomplished in Jesus written by different authors, each with a unique slant

When? Scholars date the writing of the four Gospels as follows:

Mark: AD 65–70

Luke/Matthew: AD 75–90

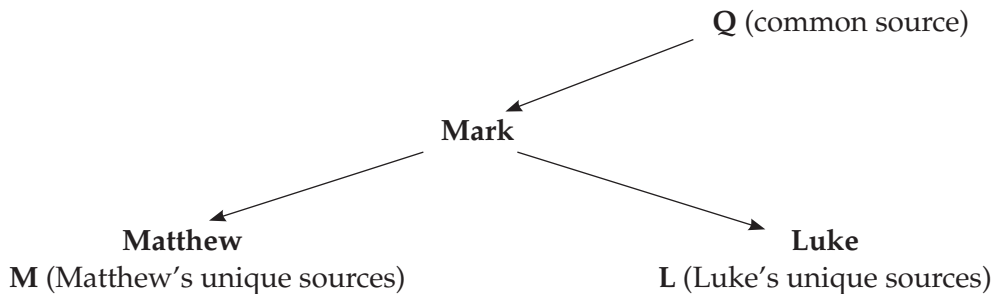
John: AD 90–100

Who? Four evangelists (proclaimers of the good news). Tradition attributes Matthew and John’s gospels to two Apostles, but most likely later disciples edited final versions of these accounts. Mark was Peter’s interpreter. Luke was a Gentile and a companion of Paul.

How? The evangelists drew on stories and sayings of Jesus as well as accounts of his Passion, Death, and Resurrection. They relied on the memories of eyewitnesses who had been with Jesus, especially the Apostles. Mark, the first author, combined his sources to relay the good news of Jesus Christ, Son of God and Savior. Luke and Matthew drew on Mark, as well as a source common to them known as Q (*Quelle*, German for “source”) and material known uniquely to each.

Matthew, Mark, and Luke are known as the synoptic Gospels because of their many similarities when we compare them. Scholars outline their relationship this way:

Source Theory for the Origin of the Synoptic Gospels



Name _____

MIRACLES OF JESUS

Listed below are five major miracles of Jesus. Read about each miracle from Scripture and then respond to each question.

The Ten Lepers—Luke 17:11–19

How did Jesus perform this miracle?

What were the reactions of the lepers?

What did Jesus say about this wondrous deed?

Paralytic at Capernaum—Matthew 9:1–8

How did Jesus perform this miracle?

What did Jesus mean to teach by this wondrous act?

What was the reaction of the people present?

Raising of Lazarus—John 11:1–45

How did Jesus perform this miracle?

What was the reaction of the people present?

What did Jesus say about this wondrous deed?

Walking on Water—Mark 6:45–52

How did Jesus perform this miracle?

What was the reaction of the people present?

What did Jesus say about this wondrous deed?

Blind Man at Jericho—Luke 18:35–43

How did Jesus perform this miracle?

What was the reaction of the people present?

What was the reaction of the cured man?

Name _____

Who's **Who?**

Identify to which group each statement refers. Mark **S** for Sadducees, **P** for Pharisees, and **Z** for Zealots.

1. _____ Wealthy upperclass.
2. _____ Advocated the violent overthrow of Rome.
3. _____ Connected with the Jewish priesthood and Temple.
4. _____ Tolerated Roman rule, because it let them stay "on top."
5. _____ Rejected Temple worship.
6. _____ Did not look for (believe in) a Messiah.
7. _____ Anticipated the Messiah would be a military leader.
8. _____ Advocated strict observance of Jewish Law.
9. _____ A movement, not a sect.
10. _____ Believed in the oral tradition of Jewish elders who interpreted the Law.
11. _____ Believed they were the way God would save Israel.
12. _____ Might be labeled terrorists today.

Name _____

Paul's Journeys

Group 1 – First Journey

Acts 13:1–6, 13–15, 42–52; all of Chapter 14

Group 2 – Second Journey: Part 1

Acts 15:36–41; all of Chapter 16

Group 3 – Second Journey: Part 2

Acts 17:1–22, 32–34; 18:1–22

Group 4 – Third Journey

Acts: 18:23; 19:1, 21–41; 20:1–8, 36–38; 21:1–8

Read the referenced Scripture passages assigned for your group and come prepared to answer the following questions:

- What happened to Paul on this journey?
- What places (cities, countries) did he visit?
- Did anyone accompany him on the journey? If so, who? What troubles did he face?
- How did he deal with problems he encountered?
- What did he preach about?
- Given your reading, how would you characterize Paul?
- Why do you think Paul was willing to take on the troubles and hardships of preaching the Gospel?

Name _____

THE CHURCH—First Steps

1. **Acts 1:8.** Who called the Apostles to spread the good news to the “ends of the earth,” and who will help them do just that?

_____ and _____

2. **Acts 2:1–4.** What event initiated the Apostles’ Palestinian mission, and what gift did they receive enabling them to set off on their mission?

_____ and _____

3. **Acts 2:17–18.** Who speaks out in the Spirit, and on whom does this person say God will pour out the Spirit?

_____ and _____

4. **Acts 3:1–9.** What did Peter do to show he was filled with the same Spirit as was Jesus?

5. **Acts 5:33–39.** What was Gamaliel’s advice to the Jewish council regarding the followers of Christ?

6. **Acts 6:1–6.** What controversy prompted the Apostles to appoint deacons? And why couldn’t the Apostles handle the work they handed on to the deacons?

7. **Acts 8:1–3.** Did the Church in Palestine escape persecution?

8. **Acts 9:1–19.** Which of these nineteen verses best explains why Paul’s conversion marked a decisive turning point for the mission of the Church?

9. **Acts 11:15–18.** Why did Peter decide to baptize Gentiles (Cornelius and his family)?

10. **Acts 11:25–26.** By what name did the members of the early Church come to be called and where did the name first surface?

_____ and _____

Name _____

FOLLOWING THE WAY OF JESUS . . .

Imagine yourself as a member of a tiny Christian community. The Church is so young that you are not yet even called Christian. Instead, when people refer to you, they call you someone who is following the way of Jesus. Suppose a neighbor who is not a follower asks you about your belief and way of life. How would you respond?

Neighbor: Who is this Jesus you follow, and what is so important about him?

Neighbor: What does this business about Jesus' death and Resurrection have to do with you? What does it mean for you?

Neighbor: How are this Jesus' teachings helpful to you?

Neighbor: Is it difficult to be a follower of Jesus? How?

Neighbor: What is that "Lord's Supper" you share, and why is it so important?

Neighbor: What do I have to do to become a follower?

Neighbor: Are there lots of rules to follow? If so, what are they?

Name _____

Teenage Lifestyle

What's your lifestyle like? Plot on the graph how many hours per week you spend in each of the lifestyle possibilities listed below.

