

September 30th, 2026

DAY 1

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Matthew 1:1-17. How does Matthew's careful tracking of Jesus's lineage help to establish the trustworthiness of his account?
2. Read Matthew 4:1-11. Satan quotes Scripture during Jesus's time in the wilderness but he twists the meaning. How does this challenge us to study and understand Scripture correctly?
3. Read Matthew 5:17-18. What does it mean for our ability to trust the Bible that Jesus came to fulfill every detail and not abolish it?
4. Read Matthew 8:16-17 and Matthew 12:15-17. Matthew interrupts his narrative to point out the fulfillment of prophecy from Isaiah. How does this validate the accuracy of Biblical prophecy?
5. Write out this week's memory verse on a notecard or a piece of paper and post it somewhere you will see often (ex: bathroom mirror, desk, bedroom, backpack, etc).

MEMORY VERSE

"All Scripture is
breathed out by God
and profitable for
teaching, for reproof,
for correction, and for
training in
righteousness..."

-2 Timothy 3:16

I'M PRAYING ABOUT:

GOD WITH US

DAY 2

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Mark 1:1-3, Isaiah 40:3, and Malachi 3:1. How does citing Isaiah and Malachi establish the reliability of Jesus's arrival?
2. Read Mark 8:29. How does Peter's confession align with the overarching testimony of Scripture regarding Jesus's identity?
3. Read Mark 13:1-2. The fall of Jerusalem (and the Temple) occurred in 70 AD. How does Jesus's prediction demonstrate foreknowledge and prophetic truth?
4. What does it teach us about the reliability of His other teachings?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

DAY 3

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read Luke 1:1-4. Why do Luke's mentions of "eyewitnesses" and "careful investigation" matter to prove the reliability of his account of the Gospel?
2. Read Luke 4:1-13. How does Jesus's use of Scripture during his temptation in the wilderness demonstrate the authority and defensive power of God's word?
3. Read Luke 4:16-21. In what ways is Jesus claiming that the written Word is actively fulfilled in Him at that moment?
4. Read Luke 4:22-30. How did the crowd in Nazareth struggle to accept Jesus's authority?
5. Write out this week's memory verse below.

GOD WITH US

DAY 4

1. Begin your study time with prayer and read John 1:1-5. How does connecting Jesus directly to “the Word” affect how we should view the truth and authority of Scripture?
2. Read John 17:14-17. What is the difference between saying that God’s Word *contains* truth versus God’s Word *is* truth?
3. Read John 14:25-26. How does Jesus’s promise give us confidence that the New Testament accurately recorded everything?
4. Read John 2:18-22. How does the literal fulfillment of prophecy validate the Old and New Testaments?
5. Write out this week’s memory verse below.

DAY 5

1. Begin your study time with prayer. If Jesus built His life on the absolute reliability of the Scripture then how should it change the way we read and apply the Bible to our lives?
2. How do we sometimes limit God’s Word or authority based on our familiarity or skepticism?
3. Read Luke 24:25-45. What happens when Jesus “opens their minds to understand the Scriptures” and how does that apply to Bible reading today?
4. Read Matthew 24:34-35. Jesus says “Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.” Why can we trust the New Testament to be just as authoritative as the Old Testament?
5. Write out this week’s memory verse below.

September 30th, 2026 LEADER GUIDE

Weekly Bible Reading Plan

- **John 1:1-3**
- **John 1:14**
- **1 John 1:1-4**
- **Luke 1:1-4**
- **2 Timothy 3:16**
- **Deuteronomy 19:15**

Series Theme Verse

Hebrews 1:1-3 NASB | God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, **2** in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. **3** And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

John 1:1-3 NASB | In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God. **3** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. **4** In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. **5** The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:14 NASB | And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1 John 1:1-4 ASB | What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life— **2** and the life was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was manifested to us— **3** what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. **4** These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

Luke 1:1-4 NLT | Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. **2** They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. **3** Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, **4** so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.

Deuteronomy 19:15 NASB | “A single witness shall not rise up against a man on account of any iniquity or any sin which he has committed; on the evidence of two or three witnesses a matter shall be confirmed.

Ice Breaker

Activity: Tell the story

Pick someone in the group to act out a scene, or you, as the leader, can act out one. Once the person has acted out the situation, have each person write two sentences describing what happened. Then have them read their two-sentence responses to see how they compare.

Connection:

Just like a camera angle on someone's life, each camera records a different perspective, but all the cameras are on one person. Each teen's description may include or leave out different details, but each one describes what they observed from their perspective. The gospels are like this. Four different accounts record and validate Jesus' life.

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

1. What stuck out to you from the message?
2. What central messages are the gospels communicating to us? Why do you think there are four different gospels?
3. Which audience is each gospel speaking to?
4. Which picture of Jesus do you most naturally connect with — King, Servant, Savior, or Son of God?
5. Do you have any prayer requests?

LEADER GUIDE- Luke speaking

Long ago, it was promised that a Savior would come, and this promise was fulfilled and carefully documented through the eyewitness accounts of many people. The four Gospels—which literally means “good news”—are like four different camera angles capturing the life of Jesus. Each Gospel tells us about Jesus' life, His mission, and His teachings for those who follow Him.

As we approach the arrival of the promised Savior, our goal this week is to provide a high-level overview of the four Gospels, since these books record Jesus' life. When we look closely at each account, we discover that each Gospel was written for a different audience, emphasizing a unique perspective and message.

Some may claim there is no “connective tissue” uniting these accounts, but a closer examination reveals the opposite. The differences among them actually validate the authenticity and inspiration of the Gospels, showing that they are not contrived but genuine records of Jesus' life and purpose, which tells us that God's Word is trustworthy.

Keep in mind this week is different from most others because it's more about teaching the students than application. We don't want to teach it back to them in small groups; we want them to tell us what they learned from the main teaching.

1. What stuck out to you from the message?

2. What are the central messages the gospels are communicating to us? Why do you think there are four different gospels?

Leader follow-up:

- God's full character on display — [John 14:7-11](#), [Heb 1:1-3](#)
- Jesus was a real person — [John 1:14](#), [1 John 1:1](#)
- He taught with authority — [Matt 7:28-29](#), [Luke 4:32](#)
- He performed miracles — [John 6:32](#), [Matt 9:35](#), [John 20:30-31](#)
- He was crucified — [Matt 27:35](#), [Mark 15:24](#), [Luke 23:33](#), [John 19:18](#)
- He was buried — [Matt 27:57-60](#), [Mark 15:42-46](#), [Luke 23:50-53](#), [John 19:38-42](#)
- He rose from the dead — [Matt 28:5-6](#), [Mark 16:6](#), [Luke 24:5-6](#), [John 20:14-16](#)

Four different accounts validate the same core story, with different details that give us a complementary perspective. They actually become an apologetic defense for the life of Jesus. If we view this as a court case and look at all four accounts as eyewitness evidence, we will find that if all four accounts said the same thing, they would be disqualified because collusion would have taken place. The different details and perspectives help authenticate it as reliable.

Here is a good article on why God give us four gospels (they are worth the read!):

- <https://www.gotquestions.org/different-gospel.html>
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/four-Gospels.html>
- they are complementary, not contradictory
- more eyewitness accounts= stronger historical reliability

3. Which audience is each gospel speaking to?

Leader follow-up:

Here is a breakdown of each specific gospel letter and a helpful chart for reference

MATTHEW — JEWISH AUDIENCE

- **Portrays Jesus as the messiah and King of the jews (royalty)**
- **Matthew 1:1 NASB** | The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:
- **Matthew 1:23 NASB** | "Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a Son, and they shall name Him Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."

MARK — ROMANS/GENTILES (NON JEWS) AUDIENCE

- **Portrays Jesus as the suffering servant (humility)**
- **Mark 10:45 NASB** | For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.

LUKE — GREEKS/GENTILES (NON JEWS) AUDIENCE

- **Portrays Jesus as the Son of man the Savior (humanity)**
- **Luke 19:10 NASB** | For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.

JOHN — ALL PEOPLE

- **Portrays Jesus as the Son of God (divinity)**
- **John 20:23 NASB** | **31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

Gospels: Appearance of the good News

	Gospel of Matthew	Gospel of Mark	Gospel of Luke	Gospel of John
Author	Matthew: One of the 12 disciples. Jew. Tax Collector.	Mark: Ministry companion and disciple of Peter. Jew.	Luke: Ministry companion of Paul. Greek? Physician.	John: One of the 12 disciples. Jew. Fisherman.
Date Written	50's or 60's AD	Late 50's or Early 60's	Mid 60's AD	80-85 AD
Audience	Jews	Romans	Theophilus (Greeks/Gentiles)	Evangelistic
Jesus is...	The Messiah and King promised in the Old Testament. Matthew 1:1, 22	The suffering Son of God. Mark 1:1 Mark 15:39	The perfect Son of Man and Savior of the whole world. Luke 2:11, 29-32 Luke 19:10	The incarnate Son of God (both God and man). John 1:1, 14 John 20:31
Style	Highly structured, focused on Jesus' teaching.	Action oriented storytelling with the cross as the climax.	Researched and historically based, orderly account.	Simple style with profound theology. Vivid eyewitness details.

Matthew Jones, <https://koinefoundations.com>

-
-
-
4. Which picture of Jesus do you most naturally connect with — King, Servant, Savior, or Son of God?

Leader follow-up:

We each have our own favorite gospel, for whatever reason. Maybe it relates to different theology, writing style, teachings of Jesus, etc. As hard as it is to narrow one down as our favorite, as previously discussed each gospel letter highlights Jesus in different lights. This gets the teens to think through the multi-dimensional person of Jesus.

- to break this down further you could first have the teens describe each aspect of Jesus in these roles and then ask them which one they connect with most (and follow up which one they have a hard time connecting with)
- **Jesus as King**
 - He has all authority in heaven and on earth, His kingdom is eternal, He appoints ruling authorities on earth, believers are to give authority of our life to Him

- verses that relate include [Matthew 2:2, 21:5, 25:34](#)
- **Jesus as Servant**
 - He puts the need of others before Him, He heals people, He serves the outcasts and marginalized, He gives His life on the cross for all
 - verses that relate include [Mark 1:32-34, 1:41, 9:35, 10:45](#)
- **Jesus as Savior**
 - He is announced as the savior at birth, His genealogy goes back to Adam showing that He is the savior for the entire world- including sinners, Samaritans, the poor, women, and criminals (even in His last moments)
 - verses include [Luke 2:11, 4:18-19, 19:9-10, 23:42-43](#)
- **Jesus as Son of God**
 - He has always existed, many claims of being equal with the Father, the divine "I AM" statements revealing His identity as the source of all life, sent from God the Father because of God's love for us
 - verses include [John 1:1, 1:14, 3:16-17, 8:58, 10:30](#)

5. Do you have any prayer requests?

Challenge:

Hand out the homework/digging deeper.

Upcoming Events:

10/9 (Friday) | Worship Night
 10/14 (Wed) | War in the Woods
 10/16 (Friday) | High School Cedar Point

