

Catechist HANDOUT

Week 12 – 1/23/2022

Topic: The Synoptic Gospels
Matthew, Mark & Luke



CATECHIST NOTES

BACKGROUND MATERIAL

- Resources in the **Catholic Youth Bible** (CYB)
 - **Gospel Comparisons** in the CYB p. 1230 (this will be useful this week and in the next lesson on the Gospel of John)
 - **Introduction to the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles** – CYB pp. 1226-1227
 - **Introduction to the Gospel of Matthew** – CYB p. 1232
 - **Introduction to the Gospel of Mark** – CYB p. 1298
 - **Introduction to the Gospel of Luke** – CYB p. 1335
 - **Introduction to the Gospel of John** – CYB 1393 (ask your teens to read this before you meet next).
- **2. Major Differences Between John and the Synoptic Gospels | Bible.org**
<https://bible.org/seriespage/2-major-differences-between-john-and-synoptic-gospels>
(geared toward catechists – read before your next class on Feb. 26).

Short YouTube videos

- **The Gospel of Mark** (5:34)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVRixfameGY>

Key Ideas for this week

- A **gospel** is an account describing the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.
- The Word Gospel means **'good news'**
The **good news** communicated in the Christian gospel - God's love for us and saving action seen throughout the Old Testament which culminates in the person of Jesus Christ sent by God to save the world.
- A Gospel is NOT a biography in the modern sense of this word; a gospel is a testimony of faith – an account of how a person or community of persons experienced Jesus as the Son of God in their lives.

Why do we have four gospels?

- To give a more complete picture of Christ
- To enable us to objectively verify the truthfulness of their accounts (this meets the Biblical standard which states judgment in a court of law was not to be made against a person based on the testimony of a single eyewitness but that two or three as a minimum number were required. See [\(Deuteronomy 19:15\)](#)).

The gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke are considered [synoptic gospels](#) because

- They are all **narrative** gospels
- There are many similarities between them that are not shared by the Gospel of John. "Synoptic" means here that they can be "seen" or "read together," indicating the many parallels that exist among the three.
 - Draw from the same source material
 - Incorporate common themes

OBJECTIVES

- The central question every Christian must answer is "Who do you say Christ is?"
- Review the material covered last week in **The Four Faces of Jesus**
- Present an overview of what we mean by the synoptic gospels.
- Help teens delve into one of the Synoptic Gospels
- Continue work on your class **"Who Is Jesus" art project due on 4/10/22.**

OVERVIEW

- 5:15-6:45pm – Small Group lesson plan/dismissal**

LESSON COMPONENTS

- Community Building**
- Shared experiences by adults and teens**
- Scripture & Prayer**
- Catholic Teaching**
- Putting Faith Into Action**
- Announcements**

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- The Gospel of Matthew

Ch. 1-13 (8:15)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NUh9Bsiee_U

The Gospel of Matthew Ch. 14-28 (7:09)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGCF3OPWN14&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR&index=2>

The Gospel of Luke Ch. 1-9 (8:16)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XIb_dCIxzo0&index=6&list=PLH0Szn1yYNecanpQqdixWAm3zHdhY2kPR

- The Gospel of Luke

Ch.10-24 (7:47)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26z_KhwNdD8

Why are the non-Canonical gospels not considered valid? By Joe Paprocki

<http://bustedhalo.com/questionbox/why-are-the-non-canonical-gospels-not-considered-valid> Some of

your teens may have heard there are other gospels that are not in the New Testament. This short article answers that question accurately and succinctly

- Why did God give us four Gospels? Short article that

may be useful to both catechists and teens.

<https://www.gotquestions.org/four-Gospels.html>

NOTE: When reviewing the key biblical terms for this week make sure your teens understand what the oral tradition was and how it moved to be a written account. Make sure teens understand that each evangelist drew from the same oral tradition but no

A. Community Building (15-20 minutes)

- Divide your class into three smaller groups. Use peers to fill in to make the groups even numbers if needed.
- Ask each group to complete the Mind Map (TH3) about what they know about Jesus in 5 minutes (Putting a time limit on them will help them focus).
Timing – use a cell phone as a timer.
 - make sure they are all ready to begin and say start
 - give them a 2 minute warning
 - stop them all at the same time
- When the time is up have each group share their maps. Catechists and peer take notes about the things each group shares with the other groups and the things that are unique to each group's list. Encourage teens to add to their mind maps insights/ideas from other groups if they want to.

DISCUSSION

1. How do we learn the things we know about Jesus? (**Family, teachers, the Bible, Faith classes, movies we seen, personal experiences...**)
2. Why do you think there was a lot of overlap in the things each group said? (**There is a common core of teachings about Jesus we have all been taught**)
3. Why do you think some groups listed things the other groups did not list?

The early Church used much the same method to write the gospels – people who knew Jesus or those who were eyewitnesses to the things Jesus said and did shared their experiences with each other and those who wanted to know about Jesus.

- Direct your teens to TH2 and review the terms they should know for this week.



Key Biblical Terms

Gospel – “*the good news*” of the revelation of God in and through Jesus Christ, proclaimed initially by him, then by the Apostles, and now by the Church (CYB p. 1744)

Evangelist – anyone who actively works to spread the Gospel of Jesus; more commonly and specifically, refers to one of the persons traditionally recognized as an author of the four gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John (CYB p. 1743)

Narrative gospel - A narrative is a report of related events presented to the listeners or readers in words arranged in a logical sequence. The focus of a narrative gospel is the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. Matthew Mark and Luke are all narrative gospels.

Oral Tradition – the handing on of the accounts and teachings of Jesus by word of mouth. The apostles and other disciples of Jesus all had stories of Jesus – things they remembered Jesus saying and doing. During their life time they shared these stories with each other and those interested in learning more about Jesus. This collection of materials is referred to as the oral tradition. As time went on, the Apostles and other eyewitnesses to the saving acts of Jesus were dying. People realized it was important to have a written record of the oral tradition.

The "Q" source - scholars have identified that Matthew and Luke shared another source in addition to the Gospel of Mark. They call this source "Q" taken from the German word *Quelle*, meaning "source"

Synoptic gospels – The gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke - these gospels can be "seen" or "read together," because of the many parallels that exist among the three.

B. Catholic Teaching (25 minutes)

- Review with your teens the material you covered in the last session from the handout **The Four Faces of Jesus**
 - How many gospels do we have?
 - Which of the gospels was the first to be written?
 - Which of the gospels was the last to be written?
 - Why do we have four gospels?
- Direct your teens to page 1230 in the CYB – **Gospel Comparisons**. Some of the information from the **Four Faces of Jesus** handout is summarized here. Ask for teen volunteers to read the entries for Mark, Matthew and Luke.

DISCUSSION

- ❖ How does knowing this background information prepare us to read these gospels?
- Divide your group into the same smaller groups you used for the Community builder. Assign each group one of the synoptic gospels. Have each group choose 6-8 stories from that gospel they feel speak to them about who Jesus is and why.
- Gather the groups together and have them share the stories they chose (i.e. we chose the Baptism of Jesus because... we chose the story of the calming of the storm at sea because...).

C . SCRIPTURE (5-7 minutes)



Luke 1: 1-4

- Invite a teen or peer to read the passage aloud, having everyone else follow along.
- What four important things does this passage tell us? (**there were a number of gospels being compiled in the Christian Community - v. 1; Luke relied on the accounts of others – v2; Luke is addressing his gospel to Greek speakers – v4; Luke is writing his gospel to assure Christians that the teachings they are receiving are authentic – v4.**)
- Who is Theophilus? (**Theophilus is a Greek name meaning "friend of God". Theophilus might have been a close friend or disciple of Luke's or Luke used the name Theophilus to indicate that his gospel was being written to all Greek speaking Christians or to all those who considered themselves friends of God).**

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one gospel includes the entire oral tradition.

If you do not have your copy of the **Four Faces of Jesus** a copy is available online one <http://3jicqr63b3wmu40dlk01tjp2yu9p-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/The-Four-Faces-of-Jesus.pdf>

If Mark's gospel is written to Gentile Christians (non-Jewish Christians) will we find a lot of references to Jewish law and teachings? Why not?

If one of Luke's themes is healing what kinds of stories will we find in Luke's gospel? If Luke is writing to Gentile Greek speaking Christians will the people Jesus points out as having great faith all be Jewish?

Point out the importance of paying attention to the details given – a lot of information can be conveyed in a very short passage.

Teens will have to check the footnote to answer this question.

A. Putting Faith Into Action (25-30 minutes)

- Continue working on your class project, "Who Is Jesus?"
 - What from today's session might be good to incorporate into our project?
 - How does what we learned tonight support our project about Jesus?
- Have the teens fill out the Let's Recap box on TH4

Announcements

1. Please make your students aware that the **IGNITE-GLOW LOCK-IN (Feb. 12-13th)** will be the next time they meet. If a student of yours has not turned in a permission form yet, make sure they know they have to turn one in by **Feb. 11th**!
2. After this, the next normal class session is **the Feb 27th HUNGER MEAL EXPERIENCE** run by Greg Kaldahl. Please meet in your classrooms first and take attendance! Emails will be sent to you with where to meet on campus and for how long the week before class.

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If you are doing a picture for your project (instead of poem, skit, rap, etc.) and you need supplies for executing your poster let Teen Faith know.

Each class will present their project to the other IGNITE group during large group on April 10.

Teen faith will be happy to store them until then. They will also be displayed to the whole parish.

LESSON PREPARATION NOTES:

Is there something I want to pick up or go over from last week's class?

My community building activity this week will be

What parts of the lesson will the Peer Ministers lead/facilitate?

Do I need anything from the Faith Office prior to class?

Other

Things I will need for class this week:

The Key Ideas/Objectives for this week are

Things I need to consult Teen Faith about
