



“People of the Book”

The Life of Christ

A Harmony of the Gospels

Prepared by Jonathan Caldwell

Syllabus

Date	Lesson	Text
Sunday, January 6	1. Introduction to the Four Gospels	Luke 1:1-4
Wednesday, January 9	2. The Birth of John The Genealogies John's Prologue	Luke 1:5-25, 57-80 Matthew 1:1-17; 3:23-38 John 1:1-8
Sunday, January 13	3. The Birth of Jesus	Matthew 1:18-2:23 Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-40
Wednesday, January 16	4. Jesus' Baptism and Temptations	Matthew 3:13-4:11 Mark 1:9-13 Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13 John 1:29-34
Sunday, January 20	5. The First Disciples, the First Sign, and the First Passover	John 1:35-3:36
Wednesday, January 23	6. Return to Galilee	John 4:1-45 Matthew 4:12 Mark 1:14-15 Luke 4:14-15
Sunday, January 27	7. Miracles and the Twelve	Mark 1:16-3:19; Matthew 4:13-25; 8:2-4, 14-17; 9:2- 9; 12:1-21; 10:2-4
Wednesday, January 30	8. The Sermon on the Mount	Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:17-49
Sunday, February 3	9. Jesus Against an Evil Generation	Matthew 8:1-13; 11:2-30 Luke 7:1-8:3 Matthew 12:22-50 Mark 3:20-35 Luke 8:19-21; 11:14-54
Wednesday, February 6	10. Jesus' Teaching on the Kingdom	Matthew 13:1-53 Mark 4:1-34 Luke 8:4-18; 12:1-23:9
Sunday, February 10	11. The Power of Faith The Limited Commission Rejection at Nazareth The Execution of John, the Baptist	Matthew 8:18-9:26 Mark 4:35-5:43 Luke 8:22-56; 5:29-39 <hr/> Matthew 9:27-38; 10:1-11:1 Mark 6:7-16 Luke 9:1-6 <hr/> Matthew 13:54-58 Mark 6:1-6 Luke 4:16-31 <hr/> Matthew 14:1-12 Mark 6:17-29 Luke 3:19-20 John 3:24

Wednesday, February 13	12. The Bread of Life Peter's Confession	Matthew 14:13-36 Mark 6:30-56 Luke 9:10-17 John 6 <hr/> Matthew 15:1-16:28 Mark 7:1-9:1 Luke 9:18-27
Sunday, February 17	13. The Feast of Tabernacles, "Light of the World", the Good Shepherd	John 7:1-10:21
Wednesday, February 20	14. Sending the 70 "On the Sabbath"	<hr/> Luke 10:1-11:13 Luke 13:10-14:35 John 10:22-42
Sunday, February 24	15. More Parables Raising Lazarus	<hr/> Luke 15-16 John 11:1-54
Wednesday, February 27	16. The Coming of the Kingdom	Luke 17:1-18:34
Sunday, March 3	17. Questions, Questions, Questions	Matthew 19:1-20:16
Wednesday, March 6	18. Faith in Jericho	Matthew 20:17-34 Mark 10:32-52 Luke 18:31-19:28
Sunday, March 10	19. The Beginning of the End	Matthew 26:6-13; 21:1-19 Mark 14:3-9; 11:1-18 Luke 19:29-48 John 11:55-12:19
Wednesday, March 13	20. Questions and Judgment	Matthew 22:15-23:39 Mark 12:13-44 Luke 20:19-21:4
Sunday, March 17	21. The Coming Destruction	Matthew 24-25 Mark 13 Luke 21:5-38
Wednesday, March 20	22. The Last Supper	Matthew 26:17-35 Mark 14:12-31 Luke 22:7-38 John 13:1-38
Sunday, March 24	23. Another Comforter / Jesus' Prayer	John 14-17
Wednesday, March 27	24. Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, and Execution	Matthew 26:36-27:66 Mark 14:32-15:47 Luke 22:39-23:5 John 18:1-19:42
Sunday, March 31	25. Resurrection and Appearances	Matthew 28:1-15 Mark 16:1-14 Luke 24:1-43 John 20:24-21:25
Wednesday, April 3	26. The Great Commission, the Ascension, and Review	Matthew 28:16-20 Mark 16:15-20 Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11

17 Periods of Bible History

1. Before The Flood	Genesis 1-5
2. The Flood	Genesis 6-10
3. The Scattering of the People	Genesis 11
4. The Patriarchs	Genesis 12-50
5. The Exodus	Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers 1-13
6. Wandering in the Wilderness	Numbers 14-36, Deuteronomy, Joshua 1-5
7. Invasion and Conquest	Joshua 6-24
8. The Judges	Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel 1-7
9. The United Kingdom	
Saul	1 Samuel 8-31, 1 Chronicles 10
David	2 Samuel, 1 Chronicles 11-29
Solomon	1 Kings 1-11, 2 Chronicles 1-9
10. The Divided Kingdom	1 Kings 12-2 Kings 17, 2 Chronicles 10-30*
11. Judah Alone	2 Kings 18-25, 2 Chronicles 30*-36
12. Captivity	Ezekiel, Daniel
13. Return from Captivity	Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther
14. Years of Silence	(Prophesy in Amos 8:11)
15. Life of Christ	Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
16. The Early Church	Acts
17. Letters to the Christians	Romans - Revelation

A Basic Outline of Jesus' Life*

- I. Years of Preparation (about 30 Years)
 - A. The Birth of John
 - B. The Birth of Jesus
 - C. The Beginning of John's Ministry
- II. The Beginning of Jesus' Ministry
- III. The Great Galilean Ministry
- IV. The Period of Retirement
 - A. The First Retirement
 - B. The Second Retirement
 - C. The Third Withdrawal, through Decapolis
 - D. The Fourth Retirement, Bethsaida
- V. The Close of Jesus' Ministry
 - A. In Jerusalem
 - B. Stories in Luke (Location Uncertain)
 - C. In Perea
 - D. Journey to Jerusalem
- VI. The Last Week
 - A. Conflicts with the Jews
 - B. The Last Supper
 - C. The Trial
 - D. The Crucifixion
- VII. Resurrection and Exaltation
 - A. The Resurrection
 - B. The Appearances
 - C. "Go Tell the Good News"
 - D. The Exaltation of Jesus

**Jesus life is regularly divided into seven periods. This outline is from Bob Waldron's book, "Sir, We Wish to See Jesus".*

Lesson 1: Introduction to the Four Gospels

Text: Luke 1:1-4

Overview:

- The four Gospels are not just four versions of the same story. Each Gospel writer had a specific goal in mind for his specific audience. This lesson will help us recognize each author's point of emphasis and audience

Questions:

1. What did Luke do in order to prepare to write his record of events?
2. To whom does Luke write?
3. To what does the phrase “synoptic gospels” refer?
4. Matthew's gospel is typically considered to be the “most Jewish.” What at the very beginning of might support that idea?
5. Mark's gospel is the shortest gospel and contains the fastest moving story of the four. Either scan the book of search a concordance for the word “immediately” in the Gospel of Mark.
6. Luke's gospel is the longest of the four and was written to a Greek audience. Whereas Matthew focuses on Jesus as the fulfillment of Jewish scripture, Luke focuses on Jesus as the savior of all mankind. Matthew's genealogy goes back to Abraham; Luke's genealogy reaches as the way back to whom?
7. John's gospel is very different from the others. His reason for writing what he did is stated very clearly in which passage?

Be Ready to Discuss:
How do we know who wrote each gospel?

Lesson 2: The Birth of John, the Genealogies, and John's Prologue

Text: Luke 1:5-25, 57-80; Matthew 1:1-17; 3:23-38; John 1:1-8

Overview:

- Galatians 4:4 says, “When the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of a woman, born under the law.” Travel in the Roman world was much easier. Greek was the common language of the day. And the new Elijah, John the Baptist, was born and ready to prepare the way.
- There are some interesting differences in the genealogies of Matthew and Luke. Matthew's makes for good discussion.
- The prologue to the Gospel of John is theologically rich and it tells us exactly who Jesus is.
- All of these things help to set the stage for Jesus life, work, and death.

Questions:

1. What is wrong with Zechariah and Elizabeth? How does this continue the story of the Old Testament?
2. This son was to live his life under what kind of vow?
3. What women are mentioned in Matthew's genealogy? What do they have in common?
4. Who are the two main markers in Matthew's genealogy? Luke genealogy goes back to whom?
5. According to the prologue of the gospel of John, what was John, the Baptist's role?
6. In summary, when we look at Jesus, the son, what do we see?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Why is John's role so vital?

Lesson 3: The Birth of Jesus

Text: Matthew 1:18 – 2:23; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-40

Overview:

- As we approach the passages concerning Jesus' birth there is much to consider.
- These sections are full of Old Testament scripture, drama, and emotion.
- One thing which might be beneficial is to put yourself in Mary's situation.

Questions:

1. From where does the quote in Matthew 1:22-23 come? Matthew 2:5-6? Matthew 2:15? Matthew 2:17-18? Matthew 2:23?
2. What is the significance of *magi* or “wise men from the east” coming to see Jesus?
3. What is the difference between Zechariah's question (Luke 1:18) and Mary's question (Luke 1:34)?
4. Mary's song (Luke 1:46-55) is often referred to as “The Magnificat.” This is Latin from the word “magnifies.” What is the main theme of Mary's song?
5. Zechariah's song (Luke 1:67-79) is often referred to as “The Benedictus.” This is Latin from the word “blessed.” What is the main theme of Zechariah's song?
6. When was Caesar Augustus emperor?
7. What is the significance of shepherds coming to see Jesus?
8. What did Mary and Joseph offer at the temple? What does this tell us about their financial status?
9. Who are Simeon and Anna?

Lesson 4: Jesus' Baptism and Temptations

Text: Matthew 3:13-4:11; Mark 1:9-13; Luke 3:21-22; 4:1-13; John 1:29-34

Overview:

- It was essential that a few things take place before Jesus' public ministry began.
- As we think about the temptations of Jesus, don't think that this is all He ever faced. Remember what the Hebrew writer says about the need for Jesus to be tempted in all points as we are.

Questions:

1. Jesus was, obviously, without sin so what was the reason for His baptism?
2. This is the first time God speaks from heaven about His son. When is the second time?
3. How did John, the Baptist, know that his cousin Jesus was, in fact, the Messiah?
4. What is the symbolism of Jesus being tempted in the wilderness for 40 days?
5. What are the three temptations with which Satan attacks Jesus?
6. How does Jesus respond to these temptations? To which Old Testament book does Jesus refer?
7. Is there a connection with 1 John 2:16 and the "lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life" in these temptations? How does this fit into Paul's theme of Christ as the "second Adam"?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Was Jesus really tempted to do these things?

Lesson 5: The First Disciples, the First Sign, and the First Passover

Text: John 1:35 – 3:36

Overview:

- There is a great lesson about evangelism in the story of the first disciples – “Come and see!”
- The Gospel of John is built on two rows of seven columns. The seven “signs” and the seven “I AM” statements. John 20:30-31 says that this is not all Jesus did but “these things are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you have life in His name.”
- The gospel of John records three Sabbaths. This is one of the main reasons we know Jesus’ ministry lasted for three years.

Questions:

1. What is John’s role in these first verses?
2. What is the first thing Jesus does to Simon? Why?
3. What convinces Nathaniel that Jesus is the Christ?
4. How public is Jesus’ first sign?
5. How many times does Jesus “cleanse” the temple? Why would I ask this question?
6. Nicodemus, like most Jews of the first century, was thinking too literally. What question of his shows this to be true?
7. Over what were John’s disciples upset?

Be Ready to Discuss:
What does the phrase “born of water and spirit” mean?

Lesson 6: Return to Galilee

Text: John 4:1-45; Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15

Overview:

- As Jesus returned to Galilee, He and His disciples had to pass through Samaria. This is unusual Jewish behavior. Most Jews would cross the Jordan then go north or south in order to avoid going through Samaria.
- Jesus understood that He had a ministry to fulfill. There was a time aspect to His work on earth. In the gospel of John, He speaks of “the time” regularly.

Questions:

1. Why did Jesus return to Galilee?
2. The woman at the well is shocked that Jesus speaks to her because “Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.” Why not?
3. Jesus often interacted with those who were not Jewish or, at least, full blooded Jews. The woman at the well; the Syro-Phoenician woman...to what does this point?
4. What does Jesus do that convinces this woman that He is more than just a man?
5. What detail explains why she was at the well in the middle of the day, by herself?
6. How will people worship when the “hour comes”? Compare to Abraham’s practice when he moved to a new location
7. The woman, the disciples, and most who heard Jesus usually assumed He was speaking about _____ (*pick one*: physical or spiritual) realities.
8. How does the woman respond to discovering who Jesus was?

Be Ready to Discuss:
What lessons about evangelism can we learn from this chapter?

Lesson 7: Miracles and the Twelve

Text: Mark 1:16-3:19; Matthew 4:13-25; 8:2-4, 14-17; 9:2-9; 12:1-21; 10:2-4

Overview:

- It is important to remember that ancient authors were not as concerned with chronology as we are today. Therefore, we will have to skip around some to keep a chronological harmony of the gospels. But you should be able to see themes in these passages.
- It is interesting to note the absolute disdain the Pharisees had for Jesus. It is similar to what we see in politics. It doesn't matter what the right does, the left will hate it. It doesn't matter what the left says, the right will disagree.

Questions:

1. What is the main point of Jesus' preaching? "Repent, for the..."
2. What commitment do James and John make to Jesus?
3. What is Jesus' purpose(s) in healing the sick?
4. Why couldn't Jesus do anything right in the eyes of the Pharisees?
5. Was David right or wrong to eat the "bread of the presence"?
6. What had the Jews done to the Sabbath?
7. Note the differences in the list of apostles.

Be Ready to Discuss:
Why did Jesus often tell others to not speak about what He had done for them?

Lesson 8: The Sermon on the Mount

Text: Matthew 5-7; Luke 6:17-49

Overview:

- There are some differences between Matthew's account of this sermon and Luke's. The simplest explanation is that Jesus was teaching the things regularly. In Matthew, He preached it on the mountain. In Luke, He preached it on the plain.
- Matthew provides the longer account. In fact, it is the longest section of straight speech in the Bible.

Questions:

1. Don Truex says that “the Beatitudes” are a “verbal polaroid” of a Christian. In what way is each beatitude connected to the one before it?
2. Jesus says that His followers have to be more righteous than the scribes and Pharisees. The remainder of chapter 5 explains how we are to be more righteous. What is Jesus' point?
3. What three religious activities does Jesus warn the people about doing to be seen by men?
4. Outline the Lord's Prayer of Matthew 6:9-13.
5. Is there a connection between the sections on “treasures on earth” and being “anxious about your life”?
6. Matthew 7:1-6 is not a condemnation of judgment but a warning against what type of judgment?
7. How does the “golden rule” sum up the “Law and the prophets”?

Be Ready to Discuss:
In the Sermon on the Mount, what part of the person does Jesus go after?

Lesson 9: Jesus Against an Evil Generation

Text: Matthew 8:1-13; 11:2-30; Luke 7:1-8:3; Matthew 12:22-50; Mark 3:20-35; Luke 8:19-21; 11:14-54

Overview:

- Much of this lesson is found in all three synoptic gospels, so there will be some repetition in the reading.
- It is important to remember that Jesus did not just perform miracles for the sake of performing miracles. They were often “signs” which pointed to a greater truth or an opportunity for Him to teach the people something about the Kingdom of God.

Questions:

1. What does Jesus mean that many from the east and west will dine with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob while the “sons of the kingdom” will be thrown out?
2. Why might John’s faith have faltered?
3. Why will it be more tolerable for Tyre, Sidon, and Sodom on the day of judgment compared to these other cities?
4. How does Jesus raise the widow of Nain’s son?
5. Compare Simon the Pharisee with the beatitudes.
6. Consider the story of Jesus casting out the demon in Matthew 12. How does further show that Jesus’ enemies are not seeking truth?
7. To what Old Testament story is Jesus referring when He references the “Queen of the South”?

Be Ready to Discuss:
In what ways do we only wash the outside of the cup?

Lesson 10: Jesus' Teaching on the Kingdom

Text: Matthew 13:1-53; Mark 4:1-34; Luke 8:4-18; 12:1-13:9

Overview:

- One of Jesus' favorite tools of teaching was the parable. Matthew 13 is the main chapter of such teaching, specifically about the kingdom.

Questions:

1. How would you define a parable?
2. List the parables of Matthew 13.
3. What is the purpose of parables?
4. What was the "leaven of the Pharisees"? Please explain.
5. Jesus is preaching eternal truths when a man interrupts Him about a familial financial dispute. How does Jesus respond?
6. In Luke 12, Jesus uses what three images to make the point that we are important, and God will take care of us?
7. If we are going to be pleasing to the Master we must know His will and be _____ for His return.
8. Does the parable of the barren fig tree remind you of anything from the prophets?

Be Ready to Discuss:

Is it fair that Jesus taught in a manner to hide truth from some?

Lesson 11: The Power of Faith; The Limited Commission; Rejection at Nazareth; Execution of John, the Baptist

Text:

1. Matthew 8:18-9:26; Mark 4:35-5:43; Luke 8:22-56; 5:29-39
2. Matthew 9:27-11:1; Mark 6:7-16; Luke 9:1-6
3. Matthew 13:54-58; Mark 6:1-6; Luke 4:16-31
4. Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:17-29; Luke 3:19-20; John 3:24

Overview:

- This lesson will cover several different stories. I apologize ahead of time for having to jump around. A harmony of the Gospels has some of this in it.
- For ease of keeping up, each section of text (1-4) will have two questions.

Questions:

1. What is present in these various miracles?
2. Jesus says it is after the departure of the “bridegroom” that the disciples should fast. Why?
3. Why is this section referred to as the “limited commission”?
4. Of what various issues does Jesus warn His disciples?
5. Why is a prophet without honor in his hometown?
6. Wouldn't performing extra signs in Nazareth help their unbelief?
7. Why was John in Prison?
8. Can you think of a way that John's death is similar to Jonathan's in the Old Testament?

Lesson 12: The Bread of Life; Peter's Confession

Text:

1. Matthew 14:13-36; Mark 6:30-56; Luke 9:10-17; **John 6**
2. Matthew 15:1-16:28; Mark 7:1-9:1; Luke 9:18-27

Overview:

- For the section on the “bread of life” discourse, John 6 will be the main passage.
- Do the disciples understand who Jesus is? Do they understand what is happening? There were so many expectations of what and who the Messiah would be, that Peter's confession of Jesus as the Son of God is a big deal.

Questions:

1. What was it that got the attention of the crowds?
2. It is easy to “get used” to these miracles. Find a way to think about what really happens in this story to help you appreciate this miracle.
3. Jesus shows that He has the power to manipulate physical matter and what else?
4. How do the people try to manipulate Jesus into feeding them again?
5. In what other stories in Jesus' life do people miss the distinction between physical and spiritual?
6. Jesus claims to be the “bread of life.” How has He just proved this?
7. Have you noticed that John's gospel does not contain an account of the institution of the Lord's Supper? Is this passage a “replacement” for those thoughts? Or is just talking about a different “eating”?
8. What is it that drives the people away?

Be Ready to Discuss:

If the Father must “draw us” to Him, does this alleviate personal responsibility?

Lesson 13: The Feast of Tabernacles, the “Light of the World,” and the Good Shepherd

Text: John 7:1 – 10:21

Objectives:

- This is a theologically rich section of John. Please read the entire section as we will not be able to cover everything in class.
- There are some things going on in the background that provide added depth for understanding what Jesus is doing. If you can, find some information about the first century celebration of the Feast of Tabernacles.

Questions:

1. Why does Jesus say He isn't going to the feast?
2. Especially in the Gospel of John, we constantly see Jesus recognizing the authority of whom?
3. Describe the various feelings that different groups had about Jesus.
4. What is the symbolism of light and darkness?
5. Why do the Jews try to stone Jesus at the end of John 8?
6. As you read John 9, note the way the blind man refers to Jesus. Do you see a progression of understanding?
7. We have already seen two “I AM” statements. “I am the bread of life” and “I am the light of the world.” John 10 contains two more and they are related. What are they?

Be Ready to Discuss:
What is the constant reference to Jesus' “hour” or “time”?

Lesson 14: Sending Out the 70; “On the Sabbath”

Text:

1. Luke 10:1 – 11:13
2. Luke 13:10-14:35; John 10:22-42

Overview:

- “There is much to do, there is work on every hand.” Jesus was preparing His apostles and disciples for the day when He would be gone, and they were told to “go into all the world” and preach the Gospel.
- In some ways, Jesus exacerbated the Sabbath issue. The Jews had so misunderstood its purpose and the laws surrounding it that Jesus aggressively pushes back to get them to see the bigger picture.

Questions:

1. What is the difference between this sending out and the earlier one in Luke 9?
2. It was tempting to celebrate their powers and abilities, but what does Jesus tell them to celebrate?
3. What passage in Peter’s epistles parallel Luke 10:23-34?
4. What is the message of the parable of the friend who comes at midnight?
5. Why were the Jews so sensitive about the Sabbath?
6. According to Jesus, why is healing on the Sabbath acceptable?
7. At what is the parable of the banquet feast hinting?
8. What is the Feast of Dedication?

Be Ready to Discuss:

Jesus was meek and mild. How do we synthesize that with His powerful stand for truth?

Lesson 15: More Parables; Raising Lazarus

Text:

1. Luke 15-16
2. John 11:1-54

Overview:

- Luke 15-16 relates more of Jesus' parables. It is important to remember that a parable (as a whole) was to teach a lesson. We must be very careful equating specific details in the parables to some issue of doctrine.
- The raising of Lazarus is the first of two climaxes in the Gospel of John. We see Jesus exercising the power of life that only God has, and from that moment on, the Jews are set on killing Him.

Questions:

1. What is the relationship between the three parables of Luke 15?
2. What is the purpose of the three parables of Luke 15?
3. What is the "unrighteous wealth" in the parable of the "Dishonest Steward"?
4. From the parable of the "Rich man and Lazarus" we often try to decipher what happens to us when we die. But what is the main point of Jesus' parable?
5. Who was Lazarus? Where did he live? To whom was he related?
6. What odd statement does Thomas make as they head to Bethany?
7. Martha claims to believe in the resurrection. What does Jesus want her to understand?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Why did Jesus weep?

Lesson 16: The Coming of the Kingdom

Text: Luke 17:1 – 18:34

Overview:

- There is a lot of applicable material in this section.
- It is important to remember that it is not just about the kingdom coming but also about our submission to the king and how we act as citizens of that kingdom.

Questions:

1. How often are we to forgive our brother?
2. When Jesus cleansed the 10 lepers, what was so interesting about the one who returned to give thanks?
3. What is “one of the days of the Son of Man”?
4. How is God like the unjust judge?
5. Did Pharisees ever do any good?
6. Why was the Rich Ruler sad after talking with Jesus?
7. What is the significance of “going up to Jerusalem”?

Be Ready to Discuss:
In what way are we to be like little children?

Lesson 17: Questions, Questions, Questions

Text: Matthew 18:21 – 20:16

Objectives:

- As a rabbi, people were regularly asking Jesus questions. Some asked question in an effort to trick Him. Some asked questions because they were seeking affirmation. But some asked questions because they knew that He had “the words of eternal life.”
- This lesson is pretty straight forward and may provide some extra time to catch up or review.

Questions:

1. It is often said that Peter thought he was being generous. How?
2. God’s intentions for marriage precede the Law of Moses. How does Jesus show this?
3. What question sparks Jesus’ teaching about keeping the commandments and selling one’s possessions?
4. Jesus says that “with man” salvation is impossible. What is His point?
5. What is the third, sixth, ninth, and eleventh hour?
6. Why did those who worked all day grumble?
7. Matthew 20:15 appeals to the master’s sovereignty and _____.
8. Do a search for the phrase “the last will be first, and the first last.” How many times is it present in scripture? What other parallel phrases are there?

Be Ready to Discuss:

If you had been able to ask Jesus as question during His ministry, what would it have been?

Lesson 18: Faith in Jericho

Text: Matthew 20:17-34; Mark 10:32-52; Luke 18:31-19:28

Overview:

- After noting the parallel stories in the synoptics, it is interesting to see this string of stories in Jericho. Often, we have individual mental snapshots of Jesus' ministry, but He had a plan and itinerary as He moved from one place to the next.
- There is always grumbling. The apostles grumble about James and John. The people in Jericho grumble at the blind beggars who ask Jesus for help. The people grumble that Jesus goes to eat with Zacchaeus. Consider the overall group of grumblers in scripture. It is a good reminder to watch our attitudes.

Questions:

1. What is the point of the constant predictions of Jesus' coming death?
2. What is the problem with the request made by James and John's mother?
3. How is Jesus the "Son of David"? What is meant by this phrase?
4. Compare Matthew, Mark, and Luke's accounts: were there one or two blind beggars?
5. Consider Luke 19:8: Is Zacchaeus claiming that he already does these things or that he will begin to do these things? Explain.
6. To what other story does the parable of the Ten Minas compare? What are the main differences?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Why is Jesus regularly finding faith outside of Jerusalem?

Lesson 19: The Beginning of the End

Text: Matthew 26:6-13; 21:1-19; Mark 14:3-9; 11:1-18; Luke 19:29-48; John 11:55-12:19

Overview:

- Jesus has already predicted His coming death and resurrection, but popular opinion is still on His side. A few things are going to cause the chief priests to become adamant about His death: the raising of Lazarus, the triumphal entry, and the cleansing of the temple.

Questions:

1. How did the woman prepare Jesus for burial?
2. Why is the “triumphal entry” such a significant event?
3. What did Jesus mean, “the stones would cry out”?
4. Is this the first or second time Jesus has “cleanses” the temple?
5. Why did Jesus assume the fig tree would have fruit?
6. Does John 12:1-8 record the same story as in the synoptics?
7. Instead of believing in the signs Jesus had performed, the chief priests decided to do what?

Be Ready to Discuss:

In what ways do we ignore the teaching of Jesus and, even, erase the evidence of truth?

Lesson 20: Questions and Judgment

Text: Matthew 22:15-23:39; Mark 12:13-44; Luke 20:19-21:4

Overview:

- This lesson will look at some of the questions posed to Jesus in an effort to trap Him. His answers would either get Him in trouble with the spiritual leaders of the Jews or with the Romans.
- There is a good application in these stories as well: the ability to respond with a soft and wise answer can turn away wrath.

Questions:

1. What happens if Jesus says, “Don’t pay taxes”? What happens if Jesus says, “Pay taxes”?
2. What Old Testament law is the Sadducees’ question based on?
3. Their targeted attacks were not working so they ask a more general question that could lead into different debates. How does Jesus answer this query?
4. Turning the tables, what question does Jesus ask the Pharisees?
5. How many “woes” does Jesus pronounce on the scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23?
6. What individual issues does Jesus attack in Matthew 23?
7. Concerning the widow’s two mites: Is Jesus condemning the giving of everyone else?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Do people today ask trick questions in an effort to degrade the Gospel?

Lesson 21: The Coming Destruction

Text: Matthew 24-25; Mark 13; Luke 21:5-38

Overview:

- This section has been discussed at length. Is it talking about Jerusalem, the end time, or both?
- I would encourage you to read all three accounts but, since Matthew provides the most detail, we will focus on it.

Questions:

1. What question(s) from the disciples sparks this section?
2. Jesus warns repeatedly of false _____.
3. To what is the “abomination of desolation” a reference?
4. What are the people to do when they see the “abomination of desolation”?
5. What apocalyptic signs will happen “immediately after the tribulation of those days”? Where else do we see those signs?
6. Matthew 24:34 shows that these things cannot be referencing the final judgment. Why not?
7. Jesus warns the disciples that these things are going to happen but on what day and in what hour?
8. How do the parables of the Ten Virgins and the Talents fit in with Jesus’ teaching about the coming judgment?
9. Is there a change in Matthew 25:31 from judgment on Jerusalem to the final judgment?

Be Ready to Discuss:

How does Jesus not know the “day and hour”?

Lesson 22: The Last Supper

Text: Matthew 26:17-35; Mark 14:12-31; Luke 22:7-38; John 13:1-38

Overview:

- This is a well-known story probably made even more famous with Leonardo da Vinci's painting. This is a story that shows the past, present, and future of the Bible. It reaches back to the Passover, it is in preparation for the events of the following day, and it sets a pattern for Christians to follow until Jesus comes back in judgment.

Questions:

1. Consider the Passover: What did the Passover celebrate?
2. What is the connection between Passover and the feast of unleavened bread?
3. Jesus tells them that one of them would betray Him and even indicates that it would be Judas. Why doesn't anyone stop Judas?
4. Was Peter willing to die for Jesus?
5. Notice Luke's addition of the dispute about who is greatest. It is possible that it was at this time that Jesus got up to wash their feet?
6. Why did Jesus tell them they had enough swords?
7. Explain the shock of Jesus washing the disciples' feet. But, on the other hand, we don't expect anything different. Why/why not?
8. How was the command to love one another a new commandment?

Be Ready to Discuss:

Why did Peter forbid Jesus to wash his feet?

Lesson 23: Another Comforter and Jesus' Prayer

Text: John 14-17

Overview:

- Jesus has predicted His coming death a number of times, but now, with his death imminent, He prepares the apostles for what will happen after His departure.
- John 14-16 contains the longest section of teaching on the Holy Spirit in the Bible.
- John 17 is Jesus' High Priestly prayer and is a beautiful section on unity.

Questions:

1. What does Philip say that seems to hurt Jesus' feelings?
2. This section contains the final two "I AM" statements. What are they?
3. Who is the "helper" or "comforter" and what would he do?
4. What happens to those who are not part of the vine?
5. Why will the world hate Jesus' disciples?
6. How does John 16:33 relate to John 1?
7. How is the world to know that God sent Jesus?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Why is John 17 referred to as the "High priestly prayer"?

Lesson 24: Betrayal, Arrest, Trial, and Execution

Text: Matthew 26:36-26:66; Mark 14:32-15:47; Luke 22:39-23:5; John 18:1-19:42

Overview:

- The events of Jesus' last night are very familiar to us. Obviously, each Gospel contains these events without much variation.
- Everything that happens in these passages is hard to read because of Jesus' innocence. In fact, Pilate declares Jesus innocent three times. But this is what made Him the perfect sacrifice, because He was innocent.

Questions:

1. Who does Jesus take with Him as He goes to pray in the Garden? Why?
2. Many of Jesus' public confrontations have been with the Pharisees. Notice who comes to arrest Him. Who are they associated with?
3. Who cuts off the ear of Malchus? Why does only John tell us that?
4. How does the council mock Jesus?
5. Who accuses Peter of being with Jesus?
6. Does Judas try to right his wrong?
7. The chief priests accuse Jesus of blasphemy. To what do they change the charge when they take Jesus to Pilate?
8. How do the soldiers mock Jesus?
9. How do the Gospels describe Jesus' execution?

Be Ready to Discuss:
Describe Jesus' demeanor through these events.

Lesson 25: Resurrection and Appearances

Text: Matthew 28:1-15; Mark 16:1-14; Luke 24:1-43; John 20:24-21:25

Objectives:

- There is a lot of different information in the gospels concerning the resurrection accounts.
- Matthew and Mark are pretty similar. Luke adds the episode on the road to Emmaus. John adds the story of Thomas and the breakfast by the sea.

Questions:

1. Who went to the tomb? When? And for what reason?
2. What was the guard supposed to tell people happened to Jesus' body?
3. What seems to be the problem with Mark 16?
4. How many angels were at the tomb?
5. Only Luke records the events on the road to Emmaus. What does Jesus use to explain what has happened over the past few days?
6. When did the two disciples finally recognize Jesus?
7. When Jesus first appears to the apostles, who is missing?
8. When out on the sea, when does Peter recognize Jesus?

Be Ready to Discuss:

The first witnesses to the resurrection are women. How does this testify to the truthfulness of the story?

Lesson 26: The Great Commission and the Ascension

Text: Matthew 28:16-20; Mark 16:14-20; Luke 24:44-53; Acts 1:1-11

Objectives:

- The culmination of all Jesus endured and the resurrection is not just that Jesus came back from the dead. The culmination is that His disciples tell everyone they meet about it!
- Thinking in human terms: Imagine the relief of Jesus and the Father as Jesus ascends back to His rightful place. It is done. God's great plan from before the earth began has been completed by His holy and obedient Son.

Questions:

1. With His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus has shown Himself to be the savior of mankind and the Son of God. Because of this, what does Jesus say has been given to Him?
2. What are the apostles to do with this information?
3. According to Mark 16, what signs would accompany the apostles as they carried out their mission?
4. Why are the apostles the perfect men to carry out the great commission?
5. Why is the ending of Luke so similar to the beginning of Acts?