

God Milk
The Gospel Truth!
(2 of 10: Breakfast)

Crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation.

I Peter 2:2

These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

John 20:31

Find It

How many books? 66. 39 + 27...memory aid $3 \times 9 = 27$

Open Bible in middle—Psalms is longest book (elsewhere if lots of study notes at back); open second half—Matthew, first book of NT. Locate Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

[handout: *Bible divisions*]

“Gospel Truth”

euvangelion = good news

death-burial-resurrection ***I Corinthians 15:1-5***

Mark 1:1

four witnesses

[Irenaeus, about AD 180 “It is not possible for the Gospels to be more in number than they are nor again to be fewer. Since there are four regions of the world in which we live, and four universal winds (and the church is scattered over all the earth), and the gospel is the ‘pillar and support’ {1 Timothy 3:15} of the church and the spirit of life, it is fitting for the church to have four pillars, blowing out everywhere immortality...” *Against Heresies* 4.11.8 (EF *ECSpeak* 2 p41)]

Matthew: Jewish Gospel.

Jesus is the promised Messiah/Christ (*Matthew 16:16*)

Starts with genealogy (Matthew 1:1-17)

Many OT quotations and references to Jesus fulfilling what was spoken by the prophets (as in *Matthew 1:17*)

Mark: Roman Gospel.

Jesus is the Son of God (Centurion *Mark 15:39*)

Shortest of the 4—more action & less talk

Jesus' power (miracles) and authority (in dialogue)

Luke: Greek Gospel. Gospel of Certainty (*Luke 1:1-4*)

As a doctor, Luke focuses on Jesus' compassion toward the sick & poor. Also includes more about women than the other gospels.

More of a chronological history, and includes historical context of God's promises to Israel.

John: Gospel for all. Gospel of Belief (*John 20:31*)

miracles are called "signs" and are sometimes the occasion for detailed teachings

language is the simplest of the four gospels, but ideas are often more challenging

[handout: *John's Sevens*]

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
birth/childhood	1-2		1-2 <i>1:30-33 name Jesus</i>	
baptism	3-4	1 <i>1:9-12</i>	3-4	1
ministry & teaching	3-20 <i>9:35 teaching, preaching, healing</i>	1-10	4-19	1-12
parables	13,18,21-22,25 <i>13:34-35</i>	4,12	14-16,18-20	
last days	21-28	11-16	19-24	
12-21				
last supper	26:17-30	14:12-26	22:7-38 <i>22:15-16 next supper</i>	13
death	27:32-56	15:21-41	23:26-49	19:16-37
burial	27:57-66	15:42-47	23:50-56	19:38-42
resurrection	28	16	24	20-21 <i>24:44-49 fulfill, witnesses</i>

Transition

The Old Testament begins with **creation** and continues with God's **covenant** with his people—his faithfulness even when they are unfaithful. There are many passages which point to **Christ**, but it is in the New Testament that the Gospels tell of his life and teachings. Next week, we look at Acts, which tells of the beginning and growth of the **church**. Later we'll see the **completion** of all things in Revelation.

Further Study *Choose one or more of these suggestions to get a better sense of Gospel teaching in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.*

Read “The Sermon on the Mount” in Matthew 5-7 and choose some part of this teaching to focus on in your life the coming week.

Use a concordance to look up the occasions when something Jesus did is said to “fulfil” the words of an Old Testament prophet in the gospel of Matthew. Meditate on the power of God, the beauty of his plans, and his trustworthiness.

Read Mark chapter 1 and meditate on each of these events at the beginning of Jesus’ ministry.

Read Luke 14-16 for some of the parables of Jesus. Which ones resonate most with you? What lesson will you take from one of these stories to help you this week?

Use a concordance to look up “pray” in the Gospel of Mark to see on what occasions Jesus prayed and what he said to his disciples about prayer.

Look at each of the Seven “I Am” statements in John [from handout]. Praise God for each of these characteristics. Consider what each of these aspects of Christ means to you, and give thanks to God for his presence in your life.