

PETE BUMGARNER MINISTRIES

**A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION
FOUNDED OCTOBER, 1984**

THE GOSPELS

STUDY GUIDE



THE GOSPELS

SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Matthew, Mark, and Luke are often called the synoptic gospels.
 - 1. Synoptic means taking the same point of view. It comes from the word “synopsis,” which is a brief outline or general view of a subject or written work.
 - 2. In the Greek, gospel is defined as a good message. Each of these writers gives a summarized account of Jesus’ ministry from his perspective.
- B. Matthew, Mark, and Luke give similar accounts of the physical life and ministry of Jesus; John focuses more on the supernatural person of Jesus.
- C. The author of Matthew is believed to be Matthew the son of Alphaeus. He was a tax collector when Jesus asked him to become a disciple. Matthew was selected by Jesus as one of the twelve apostles. (Matthew 9:9-13)
- D. The author of Mark is believed to be “John Mark,” who went with Barnabas and Paul on a missionary journey. He was not one of the twelve apostles. (Acts 12:12, 25; Acts 13:5)
- E. The author of Luke is believed to be Luke the physician and traveling companion of Paul. He gave a documented account of the events surrounding the life of Jesus to an individual named Theophilus. He also is credited with writing the book of Acts to the same man. Luke was not one of the twelve apostles. (Acts 1:1; Colossians 4:14)

- F. The author of John is believed to be John the “beloved” apostle, who was the son of Zebedee and Salome and the brother of James. He is also credited with writing the three epistles of John and the Revelation. Jesus called John and James the sons of thunder. John was selected by Jesus as one of the twelve apostles. (Matthew 10:2; Matthew 27:56; Mark 3:17; Mark 15:40; John 21:7)

II. MATTHEW

- A. In chapter one, the genealogy of Jesus is traced from Abraham, through Solomon, to Joseph, thus revealing His royal lineage. There are fourteen generations from Abraham to David, fourteen generations from David until the Babylonian captivity, and fourteen generations from the Babylonian captivity until the birth of Jesus. Verses eighteen through twenty-five tell of the circumstances surrounding Jesus’ birth. (Matthew 1)
- B. In chapter two, we are told that Herod was king when Jesus was born. This chapter also tells of the wise men who came looking for Jesus; their conversation with Herod; their encounter with Jesus; God’s warning to them about Herod; the angel of the Lord warning Joseph to leave Bethlehem; Joseph’s flight to Egypt with his family; Herod’s massacre of the male children two years old and under; Joseph’s return from Egypt with his family after the death of Herod; and Joseph and his family settling in the city of Nazareth. (Matthew 2)
- C. In chapter three, John the Baptist is introduced. John speaks of One coming after him Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. Verses thirteen through seventeen tell of Jesus’ baptism in water. (Matthew 3)
- D. In chapter four, Jesus is led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. After overcoming the temptations, Jesus leaves the wilderness and begins His earthly ministry. He calls Peter, Andrew, James, and John to be His disciples. Jesus goes about Galilee teaching, preaching, and healing. (Matthew 4)
- E. In chapter five, the beatitudes and similitudes are recorded. Jesus states that His mission is to fulfill the law. In this setting, Jesus teaches about murder, adultery, divorce, oaths, retaliation, and love. (Matthew 5)

- F. In chapter six, Jesus continues His teaching, talking about charitable deeds, prayer, fasting, and riches. Verses nine through thirteen record what is sometimes called the model prayer. (Matthew 6)
- G. In chapter seven, Jesus continues His teaching by giving instructions on judging, receiving from God, treatment of others, two ways of life, discerning the difference between true and false prophets, and access into God's kingdom. He also tells a parable of two builders. The people are astonished at His teaching. (Matthew 7)
- H. In chapter eight, Jesus leaves the mount from where He has been teaching and cleanses a leper; afterwards, He heals the centurion's servant, Peter's mother-in-law, and many others. Jesus also gives some insight into discipleship. He calms a storm and delivers a demoniac. (Matthew 8)
- I. In chapter nine, Jesus forgives and heals a paralytic. In verse nine, Matthew is called to be a disciple. Later, Jesus and His disciples are questioned about their association with sinners and their failure to fast. Jesus heals a woman of a hemorrhage and raises a ruler's daughter from the dead. He heals two blind men and a mute. Jesus goes to various cities teaching, preaching, and healing. Verses thirty-seven and thirty-eight declare the harvest to be greater than the laborers. (Matthew 9)
- J. In chapter ten, Jesus empowers and sends His twelve disciples to cast out devils, heal the sick, and preach the gospel of the kingdom. Verses two through four name the twelve apostles. Verses five through forty-two give insight into the apostles' commission and its ramifications. (Matthew 10)
- K. In chapter eleven, Jesus resumes His teaching and preaching, after commissioning His disciples. While in prison, John the Baptist seeks confirmation that Jesus is the One for Whom he is looking. Jesus confirms John's belief by recounting what God has done through Him. After John's disciples leave, Jesus declares the greatness of John the Baptist and refers to him as the Elijah that is to come. Jesus reveals both John's rejection and His own by their generation. He rebukes Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum for not repenting after seeing the mighty works of God performed by Him. This chapter concludes with an invitation to come to Jesus. (Matthew 11)

- L. In chapter twelve, the Pharisees confront Jesus about His disciples' desecration of the Sabbath. He counters their accusations by declaring Himself to be the Lord of the Sabbath. He also heals a man on the Sabbath, which disturbs the Pharisees even more. They plot to kill Jesus, but He escapes. Isaiah's prophecy is being fulfilled through the life and ministry of Jesus (Isaiah 42:1-4). Later Jesus casts the devil out of a man, but the Pharisees accuse Him of operating by the power of the devil. Jesus replies to them in the form of a parable and warns them of blasphemy. The scribes and Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign, but He refuses their request, declaring that the only sign they will get from Him is the sign of Jonah. This chapter concludes with Jesus placing relationships in their proper perspective. (Matthew 12)

- M. In chapter thirteen, Jesus speaks in parables, using the parable of the sower, the parable of the wheat and tares, the parable of the mustard seed, the parable of the leaven, the parable of the hidden treasure, the parable of the pearl of great price, the parable of the dragnet, and the parable of the householder. When He arrives in His own country, He is rejected by those who know His family. Their unbelief prevents Him from doing many miracles. (Matthew 13)

- N. In chapter fourteen, the account of John the Baptist's death is given. After John's death, Jesus miraculously feeds over five thousand people, walks on water, and heals many people. (Matthew 14)

- O. In chapter fifteen, Jesus and the Pharisees dispute over Jewish tradition. Jesus declares that their mouths and hearts are not in agreement, then He reveals how a person is defiled. Jesus goes to Tyre and Sidon and delivers the Canaanite woman's daughter when she believes His words. Jesus leaves and goes to the mountain where He heals many others. He also miraculously feeds over four thousand people. (Matthew 15)

- P. In chapter sixteen, the Pharisees and Sadducees once again ask Jesus for a sign. He gives the same reply to them that He gave to the others. Jesus warns His disciples against the doctrine of the Pharisees. At Caesarea Philippi, after being questioned by Jesus, Peter receives the revelation that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus declares that He will build His Church and that Hades will not overpower it. He also speaks about the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Jesus tells His disciples what awaits Him at Jerusalem, but Peter opposes Him and receives a strong rebuke. Jesus declares that those who desire to become His disciples will have to deny themselves and follow Him. This chapter concludes by announcing the soon arrival of God's kingdom. (Matthew 16)
- Q. In chapter seventeen, the transfiguration of Jesus is recorded. Jesus heals an epileptic boy whom His disciples fail to deliver. He teaches His disciples the importance of faith. He tells them of His coming betrayal, death, and resurrection. When brought into question about taxes, Jesus sends Peter fishing. Peter retrieves money from a fish's mouth and pays both his and Jesus' taxes. (Matthew 17)
- R. In chapter eighteen, a dispute arises among Jesus' disciples concerning who is the greatest. Jesus measures greatness by humility. Jesus warns against offending. He speaks a parable about a lost sheep, and gives instructions concerning an offended brother. This chapter concludes with instructions on forgiveness. (Matthew 18)
- S. In chapter nineteen, Jesus gives instructions on divorce and remarriage. He speaks of the difficulty rich people have submitting to God's kingdom. He tells of the rewards that can be expected by those who forsake all to follow Him. (Matthew 19)
- T. In chapter twenty, Jesus tells the parable of the laborers who were hired at different times, yet received the same wages. He once again warns His disciples of His imminent death. When confronted by James and John's mother about her sons positions in His kingdom, Jesus makes it clear that the objective should be serving, not being served. This chapter concludes with the healing of two blind men. (Matthew 20)

- U. In chapter twenty-one, the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem on a donkey is recorded. He cleanses the temple and curses a fig tree. The religious leaders confront Jesus, questioning His authority to cleanse the temple. He challenges their question with a question they cannot answer. Jesus tells a parable about two sons and a parable about a vineyard that had been entrusted to unfaithful men. (Matthew 21)
- V. In chapter twenty-two, Jesus speaks a parable about a wedding feast; afterwards, He is confronted by some Pharisees and Herodians who question Him about taxes. The Sadducees who try to trap Jesus with a hypothetical question are subdued by His reply. Jesus reveals the two greatest commandments. This chapter concludes with Jesus questioning the Pharisees about Christ, the son of David. (Matthew 22)
- W. In chapter twenty-three, Jesus describes the scribes and Pharisees; afterwards, He rebukes them. This chapter concludes with Jesus' lamentation over Jerusalem. (Matthew 23)
- X. In chapter twenty-four, Jesus predicts the destruction of the temple. In answer to His disciples' question, Jesus tells of the events that will occur in the end times. He tells of the gathering together of His elect. He speaks a parable about a fig tree. He declares that His coming will be like the days of Noah; people will go about their usual routine and miss His coming. This chapter concludes with the illustration of two servants. (Matthew 24)
- Y. In chapter twenty-five, Jesus presents the parable of the ten virgins, the parable of the talents, and tells of the judgment of the nations. (Matthew 25)
- Z. In chapter twenty-six, the religious leaders plot to kill Jesus; Mary anoints Jesus for His burial; Judas betrays Jesus; the Passover meal is prepared and eaten by Jesus and His disciples; communion is instituted; Jesus foretells Peter's denial of Him; Jesus, Peter, James, and John go into the Garden of Gethsemane, where Jesus fervently prays as the disciples sleep. Jesus is betrayed and arrested, false witnesses testify against Him, and Peter denies Jesus. (Matthew 26)

- AA. In chapter twenty-seven, the religious leaders take Jesus to Pilate, requesting His death. Judas is sorrowful for his betrayal of Jesus and kills himself. Jesus is examined by Pilate, whipped, then led to Golgotha, where He is crucified. Various phenomenon occur at Jesus' crucifixion and death. Jesus is buried, and guards are stationed by His tomb. This chapter also tells us of the dead saints coming out of their graves after Jesus' resurrection. (Matthew 27)
- BB. In chapter twenty-eight, we discover that an earthquake occurred and an angel rolled the stone from the opening of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and others find the tomb of Jesus empty and see the angel, who tells them to go and tell Jesus' disciples that He will see them in Galilee. Jesus appears to the women who have come to His tomb. Jewish leaders bribe the guards to lie about the resurrection. Later, Jesus appears to His disciples. The book of Matthew ends with Jesus giving the great commission. (Matthew 28)

III. MARK

- A. In chapter one, John the Baptist is introduced as the forerunner of Jesus, who went about baptizing repentant people in water. He also baptizes Jesus. After His baptism, Jesus goes into the wilderness for forty days, where He is tempted by the devil. After John is put into prison, Jesus comes to Galilee preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. In verses 16-20, Jesus calls some to be His disciples. The latter portion of this chapter tells about Jesus casting out a devil, healing Peter's mother-in-law and many others, and cleansing a leper. (Mark 1)
- B. In chapter two, Jesus heals a paralytic man who is let down through the roof. He calls Matthew to be a disciple and receives criticism from the religious people, but He declares that the sick need the physician. He tells them the parables of the cloth and wineskin and defends His disciples when they pick and eat grain on the Sabbath. (Mark 2)
- C. In chapter three, Jesus heals the paralyzed hand of a man on the Sabbath. The Pharisees and Herodians plot to kill Him, but He escapes. Multitudes follow Jesus, and many receive their healing. Jesus selects twelve disciples to be His apostles. He is accused of being out of His mind. Some scribes from Jerusalem attribute His power to Beelzebub, but He responds by telling them the parable of a divided house. He warns them against blasphemy. This chapter ends with Jesus declaring that His relatives are those who do the will of the Father. (Mark 3)

- D. In chapter four, Jesus teaches by using the parable of the sower, the parable of the lampstand, the parable of progression, and the parable of the mustard seed. This chapter concludes with Jesus calming the sea. (Mark 4)
- E. In chapter five, Jesus delivers a violent man from demons; the demons enter a herd of swine and cause them to drown. He also heals a woman who is hemorrhaging and raises Jairus's daughter from the dead. (Mark 5)
- F. In chapter six, Jesus is rejected in His hometown. He commissions the twelve apostles for ministry. Herod orders the death of John the Baptist. Over five thousand people are supernaturally fed by Jesus. He walks on water and heals many people at Gennesaret. (Mark 6)
- G. In chapter seven, Jesus is confronted by the scribes and Pharisees because his disciples are violating a tradition of the elders. Jesus tells them that their traditions violate God's Word, and that a man is not defiled by what he eats. Jesus also heals a SyroPhoenician woman's daughter and a deaf and dumb man. (Mark 7)
- H. In chapter eight, Jesus supernaturally feeds over four thousand people. The Pharisees ask Jesus for a sign, but He refuses to amuse them. Jesus warns His disciples to beware of the "leaven" of the Pharisees. He heals a blind man. Peter gets the revelation of Jesus as the Christ; later, Peter is rebuked for trying to prevent the will and purpose of God. This chapter concludes with Jesus revealing the cost of true discipleship. (Mark 8)
- I. In chapter nine, Jesus is transfigured. After coming down from the mountain, He delivers a man's son from the power of a demon and tells His disciples about His imminent death. This chapter concludes with a warning against offenses. (Mark 9)
- J. In chapter ten, Jesus is questioned about divorce and remarriage. When people are rebuked for bringing their children to Jesus, He declares that to enter the kingdom of God, one must come as a child. Jesus reveals the difficulty rich people have submitting to God's kingdom. He also reveals the reward for total commitment to Him. Jesus tells His disciples of His soon coming death and teaches that serving is better than being served. This chapter concludes with the healing of Bartimaeus. (Mark 10)

- K. In chapter eleven, Jesus enters Jerusalem riding a donkey. He curses a fig tree and cleanses the temple. He declares the power of pure faith and the necessity of forgiveness. When His authority is questioned, Jesus counters by asking the religious leaders a question they cannot answer. His response silences the opposition. (Mark 11)
- L. In chapter twelve, Jesus uses a parable to reveal the hearts of the religious people. They become angry and attempt to kill Him. Later, some of the Pharisees and Herodians unsuccessfully try to trap Jesus with a question concerning taxes. Some Sadducees unsuccessfully use a hypothetical situation to refute resurrection. Jesus reveals the greatest commandments, then questions the religious leaders; afterwards, He exposes the hypocritical scribes. This chapter concludes with a concise teaching on giving. (Mark 12)
- M. In chapter thirteen, Jesus reveals the signs of the end time and tells of the assembling of the elect. This chapter concludes with a parable of a fig tree and an exhortation to watch and pray. (Mark 13)
- N. In chapter fourteen, the Jewish leaders plot to kill Jesus. Mary anoints Him for His burial, and Judas plots to betray Him. His disciples prepare the Passover meal. Jesus predicts Peter's denial of Him. Jesus goes to Gethsemane to pray and Judas betrays Him. The Jewish court tries Him, and Peter denies Him. (Mark 14)
- O. In chapter fifteen, Pilate tries Jesus, then has Him beaten and crucified. This chapter concludes with the burial of Jesus. (Mark 15)
- P. In chapter sixteen, the resurrection of Jesus is declared. First, He appears to Mary Magdalene. Afterwards, He appears to two others; then, He appears to the eleven. This chapter concludes with the great commission. (Mark 16)

IV. LUKE

- A. In chapter one, Luke states his purpose for writing these facts and to whom these facts are written. The birth of John the Baptist is announced by the angel Gabriel while Zacharias is ministering in the temple. Because of his unbelief, Zacharias is struck dumb until John is delivered and named. The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and declares that she will become pregnant and give birth to Jesus. Mary visits Elizabeth, who is now pregnant with John the Baptist. At the greeting of Mary, Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit. Later, Elizabeth gives birth to John the Baptist and Zacharias prophesies about John's future ministry. (Luke 1)

- B. In chapter two, the account of Jesus' birth, His circumcision, Simeon's prophecy, and Anna's inspired word are documented. After these events occur, Jesus and His family return to Galilee and live in Nazareth. At the age of twelve, Jesus goes with His family to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover feast. Unknowingly, Jesus' family leaves Him in Jerusalem, where he spends three days in the temple listening to the teachers and asking them questions. After His parents find Him, He returns with them to Nazareth, where He increases in wisdom, in stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2)

- C. In chapter three, we are introduced to John the Baptist's ministry. John speaks of One coming after Him Who will baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire. When John confronts Herod the tetrarch about marrying his brother Philip's wife, he is put into prison. Before going to prison, John baptizes Jesus. Verses twenty-three through thirty-eight trace the lineage of Jesus from Joseph through Nathan, the son of David, to Adam. (It is believed by many that this lineage is Mary's rather than Joseph's.) (Luke 3)

- D. In Luke, chapter four, the account of Jesus' temptation by the devil is given in verses one through thirteen. After the temptations, Jesus returns to Galilee in the power of the Spirit and teaches in the synagogues. He goes to His hometown, Nazareth, and on the Sabbath enters the synagogue and reads from Isaiah 61:1-2. After reading the scripture, He sits down and says, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." He speaks a proverb to them and declares that a prophet is not without honor except in his own country. After Jesus tells those present about the miracles of the widow from Zarephath and Naaman the Syrian, they become infuriated and try to throw Him over a cliff, but He escapes. He goes to Capernaum and teaches, casts out devils, and heals many, including Peter's mother-in-law. (Luke 4)
- E. In chapter five, Jesus teaches a multitude of people from Simon Peter's boat; afterwards, He tells him to launch out into the deep and to lower his net for a haul. Peter obeys and catches more fish than he can handle, so he calls for James and John to help him. In his astonishment, Peter tells the Lord to depart from him because he is a sinful man, but Jesus calls him to become a fisher of men. Following this event, Jesus heals a leper and a paralytic and calls Levi (Matthew) to become a disciple. Levi prepares a feast for Jesus and others, but the scribes and Pharisees are upset because He is eating with the outcasts. Jesus tells them that the sick need the physician. When questioned about fasting, Jesus replies with parables of a bridegroom, a piece of cloth, and a wineskin. (Luke 5)
- F. In chapter six, the Pharisees become upset with Jesus and His disciples because they are violating the tradition of the Sabbath. Jesus tells them that He is the Lord of the Sabbath. Jesus selects twelve disciples to be His apostles. In verses twenty through forty-five, Jesus teaches the Beatitudes and principles of daily living. This chapter concludes with a parable about the foundations of the houses of a wise and foolish man. (Luke 6)

- G. In chapter seven, Jesus marvels at the faith of a centurion and heals his servant by speaking. He also raises from the dead the widow of Nain's son. John the Baptist sends some servants to confirm that Jesus is the One Who is to come. In their presence, Jesus heals many people from various infirmities and casts out devils. He tells John the Baptist's disciples to go tell him what they have seen. After the departure of John's disciples, Jesus commends John and calls him the messenger sent to prepare the way for Him. He also declares that there is not a greater prophet than John the Baptist; afterwards, Jesus speaks a parable that identifies the fickleness of His generation. While Jesus is in the house of Simon the Pharisee, a certain woman anoints His feet. Perceiving Simon's disapproval, Jesus tells him a parable about two debtors and concludes by forgiving the woman of her sins. (Luke 7)
- H. In chapter eight, we learn that certain women who have been healed by Jesus provide for Him. A multitude comes to Jesus; He teaches them, using the parable of the sower and the parable of the lamp to convey His message. When Jesus is told that His mother and brothers have come looking for Him, He replies, "My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it." Jesus and some of His disciples get in a boat to go to the other side of the lake, but a storm arises and the boat begins to fill with water. After being awakened by His disciples, Jesus speaks to the storm, and the waters become calm. They go to the country of the Gadarenes, where Jesus delivers a demon-possessed man. When Jesus returns, He heals a woman who is hemorrhaging. He also raises Jairus' daughter from the dead. (Luke 8)
- I. In chapter nine, Jesus assembles His twelve disciples, empowers them, and sends them forth to cast out devils, heal the sick, and preach about God's kingdom. He feeds over five thousand people with five loaves and two fish. After asking His disciples who people believe that He is, Peter recognizes Him as the Christ of God. Jesus tells His disciples of the sufferings He will experience, then reveals to them the cost of discipleship. Later, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with Him to a mountain, where He prays. At this time, He is transfigured and talks with Moses and Elijah. When He comes down from the mountain, He delivers a man's son from demonic powers. Jesus tells His disciples of His imminent betrayal and shares with them the concept of true greatness. When a village of Samaritans reject Jesus, James and John want to call fire down from heaven, but Jesus rebukes them. This chapter closes with Jesus commenting on the seriousness of true discipleship. (Luke 9)

- J. In chapter ten, the “seventy” are commissioned to heal the sick and preach about the kingdom of God. The seventy return rejoicing because devils are subject to them. Jesus tells them to rejoice because their name is written in heaven. Jesus tells a lawyer how to inherit eternal life. When the lawyer tries to justify himself, Jesus shares with him the parable of the good Samaritan. At the close of this chapter, Jesus reveals to Martha what is truly important. (Luke 10)
- K. In chapter eleven, Jesus teaches His disciples how to pray. He also tells them the parables about a persistent friend and a good father. Jesus heals a man who cannot speak by casting the devil out of him. The Pharisees accuse Jesus of casting out devils by the power of Beelzebub. Jesus responds by teaching them the downfall of a divided kingdom and the principle of binding a strong man before attempting to steal from him. When asked for a sign, Jesus gives only the sign of Jonah. Jesus tells a parable about a lighted lamp and rebukes the hypocritical Pharisees. Jesus also rebukes the lawyers who hinder people from entering into the kingdom of God. (Luke 11)
- L. In chapter twelve, Jesus warns a multitude of people against following the doctrine of the Pharisees. He refuses to arbitrate an inheritance dispute and speaks a parable about a rich fool. He tells His disciples to place their emphasis on the kingdom of God and His righteousness, assuring them that God will meet their needs. Jesus speaks a parable signifying the importance of remaining ready and expectant. He also tells a parable about a faithful steward, then gives insight into the cost of discipleship. This chapter closes with Jesus rebuking the multitudes for being more observant of the weather than the time in which they were living. (Luke 12)
- M. In chapter thirteen, Jesus teaches about repentance. He speaks a parable concerning an unproductive fig tree. While He is teaching in the synagogue, He delivers a woman from a spirit of infirmity. The ruler of the synagogue accuses Jesus of working on the Sabbath. Jesus calls him a hypocrite and shames him before the crowd. Jesus uses a parable of a mustard seed and a parable of leaven to teach about the kingdom of God. He tells of the narrow way that leads to the kingdom of God. This chapter concludes with Jesus weeping over the city of Jerusalem. (Luke 13)

- N. In chapter fourteen, Jesus goes to a Pharisee's house on the Sabbath to eat. While He is there, He heals a man of dropsy. Jesus tells a parable about a self-centered guest and warns against exalting self. Jesus speaks another parable about a man who prepared a great supper, but his invited guests made excuses and did not come. Jesus, once again, teaches on the cost of discipleship. (Luke 14)
- O. In chapter fifteen, Jesus uses three parables to teach the importance of reaching sinners. He uses parables of a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a wayward son. (Luke 15)
- P. In chapter sixteen, Jesus speaks a parable about an unjust steward and warns the Pharisees against greed. He also gives insight into the consummation of the law and prophets. Jesus gives a short comment on divorce and remarriage and tells the narrative of Lazarus and the rich man. (Luke 16)
- Q. In chapter seventeen, Jesus warns against offences and teaches on forgiveness. When the disciples ask Him to increase their faith, He tells them what can be done with just a small amount. Through the use of a parable, He teaches that one should realize doing the will of God is simply his duty. Jesus cleanses ten lepers, but only one returns to give thanks. When questioned by the Pharisees, Jesus gives insight into the location of God's kingdom. The conclusion of this chapter deals with events that will occur in the end times. (Luke 17)
- R. In chapter eighteen, Jesus speaks a parable about a woman and an unjust judge, then asks the question, "When the Son of man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" He tells another parable about a Pharisee and a tax collector and warns against pride. Jesus blesses the children who are brought to Him and declares that the kingdom of God must be received with a child-like mentality. Jesus teaches on the control of riches when the rich ruler asks what he can do to inherit eternal life. In response to Peter's question, Jesus assures him that those who forsake all to follow Him will be appropriately rewarded. Jesus tells of His sufferings, death, and resurrection that will occur at Jerusalem. This chapter concludes with Jesus healing Bartimaeus of blindness. (Luke 18)

- S. In chapter nineteen, Zacchaeus climbs a tree to see Jesus and is converted when Jesus comes to his house. Coming near to Jerusalem, Jesus speaks a parable about ten minas and people who hate the one who has come to rule over them; afterwards, He enters into Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He enters the temple and drives out those who are buying and selling, declaring that God's house is to be a house of prayer, not a den of thieves. (Luke 19)
- T. In chapter twenty, while Jesus is teaching in the temple, the chief priests and scribes confront Him, questioning His authority. He counters their question with a question they are unable to answer. He tells the people a parable of a vineyard where the keepers of the vineyard refuse to give to the owner his rightful fruit, and what their end will be. He then declares that the Stone rejected by the builders has become the chief cornerstone. When questioned about giving tribute to Caesar, He tells them to render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's. The Sadducees use a hypothetical situation to refute the resurrection, but Jesus reveals their ignorance of the Scriptures. When they stop questioning Him, Jesus asks them a question about Christ the Son of David and warns the people of the hypocritical scribes. (Luke 20)
- U. In chapter twenty-one, Jesus gives some brief insight into giving. In reply to His disciples' questions, Jesus tells of events that will occur before His coming again, including the destruction of Jerusalem. When certain signs appear, the believers are to look up because their redemption is near. Jesus uses a parable of a fig tree (and all trees) to reinforce His comment. This chapter concludes with a warning to be watchful and prayerful. At this particular time, Jesus is teaching in the temple during the day and staying on Mount Olivet at night. (Luke 21)

- V. In chapter twenty-two, around the time of the Passover feast, Satan enters into Judas Iscariot and he betrays Jesus. Peter and John are sent by Jesus to make preparation for the Passover meal. The twelve apostles join Jesus for the Passover meal, at which time He takes, blesses, breaks, and distributes the bread. He calls the cup of wine “the new covenant in His blood.” Jesus tells of His betrayal and settles a dispute over who is the greatest, declaring that the server is greater than the one being served. He tells the apostles that they will fellowship with Him in His kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. Jesus predicts Peter’s denial and warns the apostles of the coming conflict. He goes to the Mount of Olives with His disciples and earnestly prays. His prayers are so fervent that His sweat is like drops of blood falling to the ground. When He finds His disciples sleeping, He warns them to pray so they will not enter into temptation. While Jesus is speaking with His disciples, Judas brings a crowd with him and kisses Jesus to identify the one Whom they should seize. One of the disciples cuts off the ear of the high priest’s servant with a sword, but Jesus heals the ear. After Christ is taken to the high priest’s house, Peter goes to the house, where he denies Jesus three times. The religious leaders question and convict Jesus. (Luke 22)
- W. In chapter twenty-three, both Pilate and Herod try Jesus. Although they find no fault in Him, He is beaten and crucified to pacify the crowd. The criminal Barabbas is released, but the innocent Jesus is sentenced to death. While on the cross, Jesus is merciful to the repentant criminal that is being crucified with Him. After Jesus’ death, Joseph of Arimathea takes the body of Jesus from the cross, wraps it, and lays it in a tomb. Certain women observe where the body of Jesus is placed and leave, planning to return after the Sabbath. They go their way and prepare spices and fragrant oils, but they rest on the Sabbath. (Luke 23)

- X. In chapter twenty-four, the women return with their spices on the first day of the week, but when they arrive at the tomb, they discover that the stone sealing the tomb has been rolled away. When they enter the tomb, the body of Jesus is not there. In their state of perplexity, they see two men in shining garments who ask them why they are seeking the living among the dead. These men announce the resurrection of Jesus, which He had previously predicted. The women go to the eleven apostles and tell them what has just occurred, but they do not believe them. Peter runs to the tomb and sees the linen cloths, then leaves. Two men who were traveling to Emmaus encounter and converse with Jesus, not knowing Who He is. As He walks with them, He reveals the Scriptures to them. When they arrived at their destination, they invite Him to stay with them. As they sit to eat, He takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it, and distributes it, at which time they recognize Who He is. Jesus quickly disappears, and they immediately return to Jerusalem. While these men are telling the eleven apostles about their experience, Jesus supernaturally appears to them. They are frightful and doubtful so Jesus eats some broiled fish to prove that He is not a ghost, then He opens their understanding of the Scriptures. He mentions their commission in verse forty-seven, then commands them to wait in Jerusalem until they are empowered from on high; afterwards, He goes with them to Bethany, lifts up His hands, blesses them, then ascends back into heaven. The disciples return to Jerusalem rejoicing. They continue to praise and bless God in the temple. (Luke 24)

V. JOHN

- A. In chapter one, John reveals the eternal One Who receives a body and is given the name, Jesus. John the Baptist is identified as the forerunner of Jesus. Jesus comes to His own people, but they do not receive Him; however, those who do receive Him are given the privilege of becoming God's sons. Verse fourteen declares the incarnation of Jesus. When questioned, John the Baptist declares that he is not the Christ but a voice crying in the wilderness. Later, John baptizes Jesus and receives a sign of confirmation. When John tells two of his disciples (Andrew & John) that Jesus is the Lamb of God, they begin to follow Jesus. Philip and Nathanel also become disciples of Jesus. (John 1)

- B. In chapter two, at a wedding in Cana of Galilee, Jesus turns water into wine. After seeing this miracle, His disciples believe in Him. At the time of the Passover feast, Jesus goes to Jerusalem and drives out those who are desecrating the temple, telling them not to make His Father's house a house of merchandise. When the Jews ask Jesus for a sign, He tells them to destroy the temple and He will raise it up in three days. (He is referring to His body.) (John 2)

- C. In chapter three, an inquisitive Pharisee named Nicodemus comes to Jesus at night. Jesus tells him that one must be born again in order to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus does not understand Jesus' statement, so He explains it to him, using the example of the serpent on the pole that Moses lifted up before the people of Israel. He declares that He, too, must be lifted up, and that all who believe in Him will receive eternal life. He emphasizes that His intent is to save the world, not condemn it. Before John the Baptist is imprisoned, some of his disciples are concerned about the crowds following Jesus. John declares to them, "He must increase, but I must decrease." John assures them that what they are seeing is God-ordained. He also makes it clear that it is mandatory to believe in the Son. (John 3)

- D. In chapter four, Jesus converses with a Samaritan woman at a well. When He reveals her past and Who He is, she is inclined to believe that He is the Christ. She returns to the city and tells people to come and see the One who told her of her past. Jesus' disciples do not understand what is happening. When they ask Him about eating, He replies, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." Many of the Samaritans believe on Jesus because of the woman's testimony; others believe because of the words Jesus speaks to them. Jesus goes to Galilee and is accepted. He heals a nobleman's son, which is the second miracle performed by Him in Galilee. (John 4)
- E. In chapter five, Jesus goes to Jerusalem and heals a man at the pool of Bethesda. The religious Jews question the man because he is carrying his bed on the Sabbath. Later, Jesus finds the man in the temple and warns him not to sin. The Jews begin to persecute Jesus, desiring to kill Him because He healed on the Sabbath. They are further infuriated when He identifies with Father God. He declares to them that He does not operate independently of God but enjoys equality with Him. Those who hear and adhere to Jesus have everlasting life. Jesus tells them of the coming resurrection of both the just and unjust. This chapter concludes by giving four witnesses to the authenticity of Jesus--John the Baptist, the works of Jesus, the Father, and the Scriptures. The Jews are encouraged to search the Scriptures, in which they think they have life. These very Scriptures confirm that He is the Messiah. (John 5)
- F. In chapter six, Jesus supernaturally feeds over five thousand people. He refuses to allow the people to make Him a king. He walks on water. He declares Himself to be the bread of life and states that without eating His flesh and drinking His blood, one cannot have life. Many of His disciples are offended and stop following Him. He asks His apostles if they want to leave. Peter responds by saying, "To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." This chapter concludes with Jesus announcing His betrayal by one of the apostles. (John 6)

- G. In chapter seven, Jesus is ministering in Galilee because the Jews in Judea want to kill Him. Jesus' brothers try to get Him to go to Judea and prove His power. Jesus refuses to yield to their desires and goes to the Feast of Tabernacles privately. Around the middle of the feast, Jesus goes to the temple and teaches. The Jews marvel at His teaching but accuse Him of being demon-possessed. Not understanding the origin of Jesus causes some to reject Him. The Pharisees and chief priests send officers to take Jesus, but He is not apprehended. He gives an invitation to everyone who is thirsty, saying they should come to Him and drink. He is speaking of the Holy Spirit Who will be given to those who receive Him. The crowd is divided in their opinion of Jesus. When the officers sent to apprehend Jesus return without Him, they are rebuked. Nicodemus is also rebuked when he calls their intent into question. (John 7)
- H. In chapter eight, some scribes and Pharisees bring a woman who is caught in the act of adultery to Jesus. They use her in an attempt to trap Him, but their plans are thwarted. The response and statement of Jesus causes the accusers to leave without incident. Jesus forgives the woman and tells her not to sin. When Jesus declares Himself to be the light of the world, the Pharisees confront Him. Jesus tells them that they are children of the devil and act like their father. They try to stone Him, but He hides. (John 8)
- I. In chapter nine, Jesus heals a man who has been blind from birth. This healing upsets the Pharisees, and they question the man who is healed. When He defends Jesus, he is excommunicated from their fellowship. When Jesus hears what has happened to the healed man, He finds him and introduces Himself. The man believes and worships Him. (John 9)
- J. In chapter ten, Jesus tells how the robber and thief steal sheep. He introduces Himself as the Good Shepherd, declaring that He knows His sheep and His sheep know Him. Because they know Him, His sheep will not follow a stranger. He makes it clear that He will lay down His life for His sheep. His life will not be taken; He will lay it down and pick it up again. At the Feast of Dedication, the Jews demand that Jesus plainly tell them whether He is the Christ. His reply angers the Jews and they try to stone Him for blasphemy, but He escapes. (John 10)

- K. In chapter eleven, Jesus' friend Lazarus dies and Jesus raises him from the dead. The Pharisees assemble to devise a plan to eradicate Jesus. Caiaphas the high priest tells them that one man must die for the nations, not realizing that he is speaking prophetically. From that day forward, the religious leaders plot to kill Jesus. (John 11)
- L. In chapter twelve, Jesus goes to Lazarus' home in Bethany. A meal is prepared for Him and Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anoints the feet of Jesus and wipes them with her hair. Judas Iscariot becomes indignant with her actions, but Jesus demands that she be left alone because she is anointing Him for the day of His burial. The next day Jesus enters Jerusalem riding on a donkey. He is praised by the people and envied by the Pharisees. When certain Greeks request to see Jesus, He tells His disciples that the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. He declares that unless a grain of wheat enters into the ground and dies, it will not reproduce. Jesus gives insight into the type of execution He will experience when He says, "And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself." Those who heard His statement did not understand. They had seen many signs, but they did not believe in Jesus. Jesus lets them know that their unbelief is the fulfillment of one of Isaiah's prophecies. Jesus declares that those who believe in Him also believe in the Father. He makes it clear that He has come to the world to save, not judge; however, those who reject Him will be judged by His teachings in the last days. (John 12)
- M. In chapter thirteen, Jesus finishes His meal and begins washing His disciples' feet. When Peter objects, Jesus lets him know that unless he cooperates, he will have no part with Him. Jesus uses this demonstration to teach the importance of serving. Although the master is greater than the servant, he must never exempt himself from serving. After washing their feet, Jesus declares that one of them is a traitor. When John asks Jesus to name His traitor, He says, "It is he to whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it." He dips the bread and gives it to Judas Iscariot, but the disciples do not realize that Jesus is identifying Judas as the one who will betray Him. Jesus speaks of His departure and gives a new commandment--love one another as I have loved you. Love for one another identifies us as disciples of Jesus. This chapter concludes with Jesus' prediction of Peter's denial. (John 13)

- N. In chapter fourteen, Jesus tells His disciples to guard their hearts from agitation and to have faith in Him, just as they do in God. He assures them that where His Father resides there are many residences, and that He is going to prepare a place for them so they can be with Him. When Thomas declares that they are ignorant of where He is going and the way to get there, Jesus tells him that He is the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and that no one can come to the Father without going through Jesus. When Philip asks Jesus to show them the Father, He tells him that those who have seen Him have seen the Father. The works performed by Jesus confirm His authenticity. Jesus states that the works performed by Him will also be performed by those who believe in Him, even greater works. Those who love Jesus should keep His commandments. Jesus announces the coming of the Holy Spirit, Who will act as a Helper. Judas (not Iscariot) asks how Jesus can manifest Himself to the believers without the world seeing Him. His reply reveals that He will manifest Himself internally. Once again, Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit, Who will come and teach them. This chapter concludes with Jesus leaving His peace with the believers--a peace that is unlike anything the world knows--independent of circumstances. (John 14)
- O. In chapter fifteen, Jesus uses the analogy of a vine and its branches to reveal the relationship between Himself and the believer. This analogy lets us know that we cannot operate independently of Him. He tells us that fruit production glorifies the Father; therefore, we are to produce fruit, and our fruit is to remain. He calls the disciples His friends and makes it clear that He chose them; they did not choose Him. He warns them of the rejection they will experience, declaring that the servant is not greater than the master. The rejection and persecutions experienced by them will be because of their identity with Him. Once again, He reminds them of the Holy Spirit Who will help them and testify of Him. (John 15)

- P. In chapter sixteen, Jesus reiterates to the disciples the persecution that they will experience. He tells them that it is advantageous for Him to go away so the Holy Spirit can come. He gives some insight into the work of the Holy Spirit and His working relationship with Jesus. Jesus tells of His going away and returning again, but his disciples do not understand His statement. He assures them that although they may be sorrowful now, they will rejoice in the future. He challenges them to use His name, assuring them that whatever they ask the Father in His name will be granted unto them. This chapter concludes with these words from Jesus, "In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." (John 16)
- Q. In chapter seventeen, Jesus requests that the Father glorify the Son. He defines eternal life and declares that the work that He has been sent to do is finished. Jesus confesses that of all the Father has entrusted to Him, He has lost only one, the son of perdition. Jesus prays for those who believe in Him, asking the Father to sanctify them by His truth and requesting that they all become one, just as He and the Father are One. (John 17)
- R. In chapter eighteen, Jesus goes with His disciples to the garden where He is betrayed and apprehended. When the crowd comes to take Jesus into custody, He asks whom they are seeking. When He identifies Himself as the One for Whom they have come, they fall backward on the ground. When they regain their composure, Jesus requests that His disciples be allowed to leave. Peter draws his sword and cuts off the right ear of Malchus, a servant of the high priest. Jesus tells Peter to put away his sword. Jesus is then taken away to the house of Annas, the father-in-law of Caiaphas. Peter follows at a distance. When he arrives at the place where Jesus is being interrogated, he denies any association with Jesus on three different occasions. The Jewish religious leaders take Jesus to Pilate, requesting His death. Pilate converses with Jesus and reports to the Jews that he has found no fault in Jesus. When he offers to release Jesus, the crowd requests that the robber Barrabas be released instead. (John 18)

- S. In chapter nineteen, Pilate has Jesus whipped. The soldiers plait a crown of thorns, place it upon Jesus' head, clothe Him with a robe of purple, then begin to mock Him; afterwards, Pilate presents Jesus to the people, declaring that he can find no fault in Him, but the crowd demands that He be crucified. Pilate becomes fearful of Jesus when he learns that He is proclaiming to be the Son of God; however, Pilate succumbs to the influence of the people and commands that Jesus be crucified. After His death, Jesus' side is pierced with a spear. Joseph of Armithea and Nicodemus place His dead body in a tomb. (John 19)
- T. In chapter twenty, Mary Magdalene goes to the tomb of Jesus while it is still dark. When she sees that the stone sealing the tomb has been rolled away, she runs to tell Peter and John. Peter and John run to the tomb. John outruns Peter, but he does not enter the tomb; he looks in and sees the cloths. Upon his arrival, Peter goes into the tomb and looks around, then he and John return home. Mary, who had been standing outside the tomb, stoops and looks inside the tomb. She sees two angels clothed in white sitting where the body once lay--one is where the head once lay, the other is where the feet once lay. They ask why she is weeping. After answering them, she turns and sees Jesus, but does not recognize Him. When Jesus calls her name, Mary recognizes Him. She goes to the disciples and tells them she has seen Jesus. That evening Jesus appears to His disciples and commissions them to represent Him, giving them power to forgive or retain the sins of others. Thomas, who is absent when Jesus appears to the disciples, does not believe that Jesus has been raised. Eight days later, Jesus appears to His disciples and challenges Thomas' faith. Thomas believes because of what he sees, but Jesus says that those who believe without seeing are blessed. As this chapter concludes, John states his purpose for writing this book. (John 20)

- U. In chapter twenty-one, Jesus appears to seven of His disciples who have gone fishing. They fish all night but catch nothing. From the shore, Jesus calls out to them and tells them to cast their net on the right side of the boat; they net more fish than they can bring into the boat. John recognizes Jesus and tells Peter. Peter puts on his outer garment and jumps into the sea. After bringing the fish to shore, Jesus invites the disciples to join Him for breakfast. After they have eaten, Jesus asks Peter three times if He loves Him, then tells him to feed and shepherd His sheep. He also predicts the way Peter will die. When Peter asks about John, Jesus lets him know that what happens with John is not his concern. Some of the disciples misinterpret Jesus' reply and spread a rumor that John is not going to die. As John concludes this book, he declares that the world is not big enough to hold the books it would take to document all that Jesus did while on earth. (John 21)
- V. John's gospel is just a basic summary of Jesus' life and ministry.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The supernatural feeding of over five thousand people is recorded in all four gospels.
- B. John documents only five healings of Jesus, but he records more about the miracle ministry of Jesus than any of the other gospel writers.
- C. John does not record any instances where people are delivered from demons.
- D. All four of the gospel writers record the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus.
- E. Mark is the only gospel writer who tells of a young man who ran away naked when the Jews came to the Garden of Gethsemane to apprehend Jesus. Some believe that Mark was the young man who ran away.
- F. John is the only gospel writer who gives insight into the eternal existence of Jesus.
- G. Matthew, Mark, and Luke tell of Jesus' power to change the physical man; John emphasizes the importance of accepting Jesus, which will change the spiritual man.

- H. Jesus' preaching and teaching about the kingdom of God are recorded many times in the synoptic gospels.
- I. John records Jesus' intercession for those who believe in Him.
- J. It is vital that we understand the importance of believing that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that we receive Him as our personal Savior. There is no other way to have fellowship with the Father.