



SMALL GROUP STUDY

The Synoptic Gospels: Matthew, Mark & Luke

We are now in the New Testament. 400 years have passed since the time of Malachi. These years are called the silent years because God is not speaking to the people. The world is a different place than it was 400 years ago.

The gospels are four testimonials--a four-fold picture of Jesus Christ. They were written in hopes that the reader would be informed of Jesus, that He is God, that He is man, that He is the Savior of the world.

Matthew - Jesus is the King of the Jews

Matthew was written for the Jews and emphasizes what Jesus said. Jesus is the fulfillment of the historical prophecies of the Messiah. Salvation has come to the Jews.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What does "Gospel" mean?
- b. Why does Matthew lay out the genealogy of Jesus?
- c. What is the definition of the word Christ?
- d. What are the three great discourses in Matthew?

Mark - Jesus as a Servant

Mark was written for the Romans and emphasizes what Jesus did. It was Mark who was in the garden of Gethsemane and fled naked! Nearly half of the book of Mark is focused on the final week of Jesus on earth.

Discussion Questions:

- a. Who is Mark? Who was Mark's uncle?
- b. Why does Mark not begin with the genealogy of Jesus?
- c. Why does Mark focus so strongly on the final week of Christ?
- d. How does Mark end the book?

Luke - Jesus as the God Man

Luke was written for the Greeks and emphasizes what Jesus felt. Luke is the most complete narrative of Jesus' life. The songs we sing at Christmas are found in this gospel.

Discussion Questions:

- a. What was Luke's occupation and where was he from?
- b. How many miracles does the gospel of Luke record? How many parables?
- c. How does God use human authors to write the word of God? What scripture(s) answer this question?
- d. Examine your heart: Can you give an example of a time when you were led by the Holy Spirit? Does your heart burn within you when you see Jesus revealed in the Word?
- e. Why did John leap for joy in his mother, Elizabeth's womb?
- f. Why does Luke lay out the genealogy of Jesus differently than Matthew?
- g. How does Daniel 9 correspond with Luke 19?