

WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

What is a gospel?
What is the purpose of Matthew's gospel?

LESSON

Materials Needed: handouts, clipboards, pencils

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

"The Characteristics of Matthew"

http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/the_characteristics_of_matthew

DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES OF THE SAME EVENT ACTIVITY

The four gospels were written by four men who recorded the life, miracles, and teachings of Jesus. Each of them were writing for the benefit of a different group of people and with a different goal in mind. All of the gospels support one another and are true, but there are variations in the gospels because of the perspective taken by each of the evangelists and the beliefs of the people they were teaching.

For this activity, choose 4 volunteers who will leave the classroom and work on the first part of today's lesson in the hallway. Provide each of these 4 students with a clipboard, the perspective worksheet, and a pen/pencil. Ask them to write about participating in the Divine Liturgy this morning before class. After they have finished filling out the worksheet, they can come back into the class and their recorded account of the liturgy this morning can be share with the class. Do their accounts support one another? How? Are they different in some ways? How?

Explain to the class, this is true for the gospels as well - All four gospels support one another, but with different people in mind (audience) and with a different purpose (goal) in mind when each of the evangelists wrote their gospels.

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew was one of Jesus' Twelve Disciples. He traveled with Jesus and saw first hand Jesus' miracles and listened to His teachings. Matthew traveled and taught everyone he saw that Jesus had come for their salvation. Matthew knew it was critical for people to continue learning about Jesus even after he own death, so he wrote down everything he was teaching. We know this today as the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew specifically wrote his gospel for the Jews. We know this because he doesn't explain Jewish customs or Hebrew words. Additionally, Matthew puts forth great effort into letting us know that Jesus is the Messiah and He is the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Old Testament. The Jews were the only ones waiting for a Messiah.

The Gospel of Matthew was originally written in Aramaic. It was later translated into Greek by other people. There are not any surviving copies of Matthew's gospel in Aramaic, but we know it existed because ancient, trusted writers tells us about it.

We don't know exactly when Matthew wrote his gospel. He probably wrote it over the course of many years, but his gospel is believed to be written between AD 50 and AD 70. The Orthodox Study Bible tells us that Matthew probably wrote his gospel while in Antioch, which is located in the southern tip of modern-day Turkey.

Matthew meticulously organized his gospel. He wrote it with an introduction to who Jesus is, then 5 main sections - each with a story and then Jesus teaching, and finally a conclusion with the trial, crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus.



INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

WHO was Matthew writing for? (His Audience)	WHY was Matthew writing this gospel? (His Purpose)	WHAT language did Matthew use when writing his gospel? (WHAT language was it translated into later?)
WHEN was Matthew's gospel written? (Hint: it is <i>not</i> an exact date)	WHERE was Matthew's gospel written?	HOW did Matthew set up his gospel?

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
My classmates		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with your fellow classmates in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
The middle school class		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with the next kids who will be coming into this class next in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
The middle school class		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with the next kids who will be coming into this class next in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
Our parents		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with each of our parents in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

What is a gospel?
What is the purpose of Matthew's gospel?

LESSON

Materials Needed: handouts, clipboards, pencils

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

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DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES OF THE SAME EVENT ACTIVITY

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Explain to the class, this is true for the gospels as well - All four gospels support one another, but with different people in mind (audience) and with a different purpose (goal) in mind when each of the evangelists wrote their gospels.

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

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Matthew meticulously organized his gospel. He wrote it with an introduction to who Jesus is, then 5 main sections - each with a story and then Jesus teaching, and finally a conclusion with the trial, crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus.



MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
My classmates		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with your fellow classmates in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
The 3rd and 4th Grade Class		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with next year's new students for this class in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
The 3rd and 4th Grade Class		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with next year's new students for this class in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

MY RECORDED ACCOUNT OF THE DIVINE LITURGY THIS MORNING

WHO is my intended audience?		
Our Parents		
Fill out the rest of these boxes with your parents in mind.		
WHO was present at the Divine Liturgy this morning?	WHY did we gather for the Divine Liturgy?	WHAT language did we speak? (Why?)
WHEN did we have Divine Liturgy today?	WHERE did we have Divine Liturgy today?	HOW did we participate in the Divine Liturgy? (Think about our 5 senses)

INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

WHO was Matthew writing for? (His Audience)	WHY was Matthew writing this gospel? (His Purpose)	WHAT language did Matthew use when writing his gospel? (WHAT language was it translated into later?)
WHEN was Matthew's gospel written? (Hint: it is <i>not</i> an exact date)	WHERE was Matthew's gospel written?	HOW did Matthew set up his gospel?

WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

3RD & 4TH GRADE

GOALS

What is a gospel?
What is the purpose of Matthew's gospel?

LESSON

Materials Needed: handouts, white board, tape, light colored markers

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

"The Characteristics of Matthew"

http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescriptureslive/the_characteristics_of_matthew

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS

Read the Gospel of Matthew handout with your students. Ask them to use a light colored marker to highlight the main points of the lesson.

Then, depending on the size of your class, either have them work as a group or separate them into small groups to complete the next activity:

Tape the categories of "Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How" to the white board. This is in relation to the handout they just read on the Gospel of Matthew. Pass out the answers to the categories and ask the students to tape the answer to the correct category. Make sure you mix up the answers before passing them out.

Finally, review the lesson as posted on the white board.

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Matthew was one of Jesus' Twelve Disciples. He traveled with Jesus and saw with his own eyes the miracles of Jesus and listened to Jesus' teachings. Later, Matthew traveled and taught everyone he saw that Jesus had come to save them. Matthew knew it was very important for people to continue learning about Jesus even after he own death, so he wrote down everything he was teaching. We know this today as the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew wrote his gospel for the Jews. We know this because he doesn't explain Jewish customs or Hebrew words. Also, Matthew puts a lot of effort into letting us know that Jesus is the Messiah (*the one who came to save us*) and He is the fulfillment of the prophecies in the Old Testament. The Jews were the only ones waiting for a Messiah.

The Gospel of Matthew was originally written in Aramaic. It was later translated into Greek by other people.

We don't know exactly when Matthew wrote his gospel. The Orthodox Study Bible tells us that he probably wrote it over many years, but his gospel is believed to be written between AD 50 and AD 70 . He also probably wrote his gospel while in Antioch, which is located in the southern tip of modern-day Turkey.

Matthew was very organized when writing his gospel. He wrote it with an introduction to who Jesus is, then 5 main sections - each with a story and then Jesus teaching, and finally a conclusion with the trial, crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus.



**WHO was Matthew writing for?
(Who was his audience?)**

Matthew was writing for the Jews.

**WHY was Matthew
writing his gospel?**

Matthew wanted to teach the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah they had been waiting to save them.

WHAT language did Matthew use when writing his gospel?

Matthew wrote his gospel in Aramaic. It was later translated into Greek.

WHEN was Matthew's
gospel written?
(Hint: it is *not* an exact date)

Matthew probably wrote his gospel
between A.D. 50 and A.D. 70.

WHERE was Matthew's
gospel written?

Matthew probably wrote
his gospel in Antioch.

**HOW did Matthew set
up his gospel?**

Matthew wrote his gospel with:

- **an introduction** (Who is Jesus?)
- **then with 5 main sections** (each with a story and then Jesus teaching)
- **a conclusion** (the trial, crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus)

WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

1ST & 2ND GRADE

GOALS

What is a gospel?
What is the purpose of Matthew's gospel?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Songs memorized or blue tooth speaker for playing songs

Extended Learning Opportunity for Teachers:

"The Characteristics of Matthew"

http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/searchthescrptureslive/the_characteristics_of_matthew

CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to the last two weeks, feel free to review everyone's names (especially if you have any new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students' names.

WHAT IS A GOSPEL?

Do you remember what is in the Bible? Many people wrote about the coming of Jesus, Jesus' life, miracles, teachings, and more! In the Bible, we have four books called the four gospels. The gospels were written by Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. (*Show icon*)

The gospels tell us about the life, miracles, and teachings of Jesus! These saints thought it was very important to preserve this information in a book. We read from the gospel every Sunday during the Divine Liturgy.

Sing: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - <https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue learning to sing 'Lord, have mercy' in multiple languages



WEEK 3: INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

PRE-K & KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

What is a gospel?
What is the purpose of Matthew's gospel?

LESSON

Materials Needed: Songs memorized or blue tooth speaker for playing songs

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CLASS ROUTINE

Continue routine - move photo, light candle, venerate icon, prayer before beginning

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

If you feel it would be beneficial to have a follow-up to the last two weeks, feel free to review everyone's names (especially if you have any new students this week) or if you feel like you need more practice remembering the students' names.

WHAT IS A GOSPEL?

Every Sunday, Father reads to us from a gospel. The gospels tell us about the life, miracles, and teachings of Jesus! Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John thought it was very important to write all of this information down and we have it in the Bible today.

Sing: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John - <https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Continue learning to sing 'Lord, have mercy' in multiple languages

Father reads to us from the gospel during the Divine Liturgy.

