

**Give out “FRIENDS VERSES” assignment
GO OVER JESUS ACROSTIC**

What does the word **GOSPEL** mean?

(*GOOD NEWS OF JESUS' LIFE, MINISTRY, DEATH & RESURRECTION*)

Which books of the Bible are considered *the gospels*? (**MATTHEW, MARK, LUKE & JOHN**)

Which book was written by a tax collector? (**MATTHEW**)

Which book was written by a fisherman? (**JOHN**)

Which book was written by a doctor? (**LUKE**)

Which book was known by the author's middle name? (**MARK**)

Which writer was a Gentile? (**LUKE**)

Which 2 books were written by companions of Paul? (**MARK & LUKE**)

Which book was written by a *Son of Thunder*? (**JOHN**)

Who was also known as Levi? (**MATTHEW**)

Who was Barnabas' cousin? (**MARK**)

Between what dates were all these books written? (**60-90 A.D.**)

Which book was written specifically to a man named Theophilus? (**LUKE**)

Which book was written specifically to the Jews? (**MATTHEW**)

Which book was written to Christians in Rome? (**MARK**)

Which book started with the preaching of John the Baptist? (**MARK**)

Which book started with the words “*In the beginning was the Word*”? (**JOHN**)

Which book is the “*action*” gospel and has the most recorded miracles? (**MARK**)

Which book started with a genealogy? (**MATTHEW**)

Which book started with the birth of John the Baptist? (**LUKE**)

Which book contains lots of O.T. references & show Jesus fulfilled prophecy? (**MATTHEW**)

Which book has the most parables? (**LUKE**)

Which book has NO parables? (**JOHN**)

Finish last week's lesson:

Four different men wrote to different groups of people, so they show different perspectives. If you put details in the four books into a chronological account, you find **250 events** (and you just had to remember 30 things from the tray!). Some events are found in only one of the books; others are found in several; and a few are found in all four books.

Have you ever heard the phrase **HARMONY OF THE GOSPELS**? What is harmony? (**PLEASING COMBINATION OF ELEMENTS TO MAKE A WHOLE**) When you take all that's taught about Jesus from these 4 different books and put them together, you have a more complete picture. Each one stands alone to send a complete message. But when they are blended together...harmonized... more is revealed.

GO TO THE FOUR GOSPELS OUTLINE

Onto this week's lesson:

You know how there are lots of different groups or denominations within what the world considers "the church"? I'm not talking about the true church...I'm talking about what most of the world thinks of as church. There are Baptists and Methodists and Catholics, etc.

Well within the Jewish religion during the life and time of Jesus, there were several different groups. One of the terms you come across very often in the Bible is **PHARISEE**. And often when you hear that word, you also hear the term **SADDUCEE**. These were the two major religious groups in Israel.

HAND OUT THE OUTLINES

MAJOR JEWISH RELIGIOUS & POLITICAL GROUPS

SCRIBE

- trained in writing skills, used to record important events
- interpreted the Law of Moses and taught it to others
- experts in cases where someone broke law
- **MARK 2:16, LUKE 19:47**

HERODIAN

- aristocratic Jews (rich and important)
- supported Herod, and thus the Roman govt.
- **MARK 12:13-14**

ZEALOT

- very patriotic Jews
- thought only God should rule over them - NOT Romans
- willing to fight and die for that idea
- the apostle Simon was a Zealot
- **LUKE 6:15**

PHARISEE

- most powerful sect of Jews
- word itself means "to separate" (themselves from others)
- **extremely accurate about Law of Moses** (fasting, hand washing, food laws)
- developed **oral traditions** (spoken) & made them as important as God's word
- very hypocritical (different standards for themselves & others; actions not sincere – more for showing off)
- Saul (who became Paul) and Nicodemus (came to Jesus at night) were Pharisees
- **MATT. 23:1-3, JOHN 11:46-48, 53**

SADDUCEE

- wealthy, upper-class
- 1 of 2 major parties (along w/Pharisees, whom they opposed in many things)
- in charge of the temple
- **only believed first 5 books of Old Testament**; didn't think all O.T. God's word
- **opposed oral traditions** (spoken)
- **did not believe in angels**
- **did not believe in the resurrection or life after death**
- **MATT. 16:1.6.12. ACTS 23:6-8**