

# Wednesday Night Supplemental Teaching

Covered this week: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts

## Matthew

### Key Themes

- Jesus is the fulfillment of the Jewish Scriptures.
- Jesus is the new Moses.
- Jesus is God with us.
- The Kingdom of Heaven describes God's reign on the earth.
- Christ commands his disciples to go and make disciples of all nations.

**Setting:** Tradition holds that Matthew (Levi) the tax collector is the author of the book. Most scholars believe the book was written to Jewish and Gentile Christians at the time that Christians were coming into conflict with synagogue leaders.

### Key Verses:

- 5:17 – “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”
- 13:31-32 – “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”
- 28:19-20 – “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### Outline – Matthew is organized around five key discourses

- I. Birth Narratives (1-2)
- II. Sermon on the Mount (5-7)
- III. Commissioning of the Twelve (10)
- IV. Kingdom Parables (13)
- V. Church Life and Discipline (18)
- VI. Woes & Olivet Discourse (23-25)
- VII. Passion, Resurrection, and Great Commission (26-28)

## Mark

### Key Themes

- Jesus proclaims good news (the gospel) as prophesied in the Hebrew Scriptures (see Isaiah 1:1-3)
- Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God.

- Jesus calls his disciples to take up their crosses and follow him.

**Setting:** Mark is likely the earliest of the gospels to be written. John Mark is the traditional author. It is likely that his book leans on Peter's testimony.

#### Key Verses:

- 1:14 – “After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!’”
- 8:27-30 – “Jesus and his disciples went on to the villages around Caesarea Philippi. On the way he asked them, ‘Who do people say I am?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah.’ Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him.”
- 9:31-32 – “Because he was teaching his disciples. He said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise.’ But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.”
- 12:28-31 – “One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, ‘Of all the commandments, which is the most important?’ ‘The most important one,’ answered Jesus, ‘is this: “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.”’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

#### Outline:

- I. Jesus the Mighty Messiah
  - a. Preparation of the Messiah (1:1-13)
  - b. Galilean Ministry / Authority of the Messiah (1:14-8:30)
- II. Jesus the Suffering Servant
  - a. Peter's Confession & First Passion Prediction (8:27-38)
  - b. Journey of the Servant to Jerusalem (8:31-10:52)
  - c. Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of the Servant (11-16)

## Luke

#### Key Themes

- Jesus's story is rooted in historical truths.
- The Gospel is for all people.
- The Holy Spirit is the sign of the new age of salvation.
- Jesus has special concern for outsiders, including the poor, sinners, and Samaritans.
- Jesus reaches out to and includes women in his ministry.

**Setting:** Luke was likely a Gentile. Wrote the book primarily to Gentiles. May have written specifically to the patron Theophilus, or Theophilus may be a personification of all those who love and seek God.

### Key Verses:

- Luke 1:1-3 – “Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”
- Luke 5:31 – “Jesus answered them, ‘It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.’”
- Luke 24:25-26 – “He said to them, ‘How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?’”

### Outline

- I. Birth of the Savior (1-2)
- II. Galilean Ministry: The Authority of the Savior (3:1-9:50)
- III. Journey of the Savior to Jerusalem: Seeking and Saving the Lost (9:51-19:27)
- IV. Passion, Resurrection and Ascension of the Savior (19:28-24:53)

## John

### Key Themes

- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Jesus brings us eternal life.
- Jesus’s miracles serve as signs of his identity.
- Jesus is the self-revelation of God.
- The Father and the Son will send the Spirit into our lives.

**Setting:** Tradition holds the author to be John, the brother of James, the son of Zebedee. Likely the latest book written. The author self-identifies as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (21:20). Written to believers and unbelievers in the region of Ephesus where John ministered.

### Key Verses:

- 1:1 – “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”
- 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”
- 10:14 – “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep.”
- 15:13 – “Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”
- 20:21-23 – “Again Jesus said, ‘Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone’s sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven.’”

### Outline:

- I. Prologue (1:1-18)
- II. Book of Signs (1:19-12:50)

- a. Water into wine (2:1-11)
- b. Official's son healed (4:43-54)
- c. Healing at Bethesda Pool (5:1-15)
- d. Feeding of the 5,000 (6:1-14)
- e. Walking on the Water (6:16-21)
- f. Healing of the man born blind (9:1-12)
- g. Lazarus raised (11:1-43)
- III. Book of Glory (13:1-20:31)
  - a. Last Supper (13)
  - b. Farewell Discourse (14-16)
  - c. Prayer for Disciples (17)
  - d. Passion, Crucifixion, Resurrection (18-20)
- IV. Epilogue (21:1-25)

## Acts

### Key Themes

- Jesus sends his disciples into the world with the good news.
- The Holy Spirit empowers the church's work.
- The spread of the gospel is unstoppable.
- The divine legitimacy of the mission to the Gentiles.
- Paul's role in the spread of the gospel.

**Setting:** Written by Luke who served alongside Paul. Like the gospel of Luke, Acts is written to Theophilus, but likely also was intended for a larger audience.

### Key Verses

- 1:8 – “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- 2:42-44 – “They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common.”
- 10:15 – “The voice spoke to him a second time, ‘Do not call anything impure that God has made clean.’”
- 12:24 – “But the word of God continued to spread and flourish.”
- 20:24 – “However, I consider my life worth nothing to me; my only aim is to finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me—the task of testifying to the good news of God's grace.”

### Outline

- I. The gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and Syria (1-12)
- II. The gospel to the ends of the earth (13-28)