



Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

A Summer DiT Activity for Families

Dear DiT Families,

As followers of Jesus Christ it is important we learn about and know the life of Jesus and his teachings. This is not always possible just on Sunday mornings alone. Learning about Jesus and his teachings need to take place in our homes starting at an early age. But no age is too old to learn more!

This summer take time to learn more about the life and teachings of Jesus! This can be done in snatches or extended times, in cars, trains or airplanes, during vacations or home, daytime or night time, around a meal, a picnic, in the park, on a walk, etc. Here we have included some of the stories about Jesus and some of his teachings. YOU may want to read all of them. **But read some in each section to help your household learn the story and teachings of Jesus.**

We will help you by providing ideas and resources for all ages. We are setting up a **DiT "Secret "Group Facebook page** where you are listed as a member. There you will find continual ideas and resources to use such as Internet sites to explore in more depth the Bible, archeology, videos, ancient middle eastern culture, questions to ponder, geography, art work, music., etc.

During the summer think about how your family can share with the congregation some of the things you learned. Create a short video, make a PowerPoint, design visual art in any medium,, bake or cook some food, write poetry, work out a skit or pantomime, choreograph movement, compose a song or rap, etc. Use your imagination to teach and share with others some of what you have discovered. Have fun!

Let us know by Sunday August 28 if you would like to share your summer exploration with the church and what you have created. **On Covenant Renewal Sunday, September 11 you can share with the congregation what your family has learned about Jesus this summer! *** You will be the *Word for All Ages during our worship!*

Sharing with the congregation is optional so don't feel pressured to participate. **But we strongly encourage every family to take time to explore the life and teachings of Jesus this summer. Here is some information to help you get started!**

Grace and peace,

Rev. Debbie Payden

Christian Education Board



The Gospels: An Introduction for Teens and Adults

The stories and teaching of Jesus are in the Gospels. The gospels are the first 4 books of the New or Christian Testament of the Bible. *Find out what the words Gospel, Testament and Bible mean. What are the roots of these words? Find out what the name "Jesus" means.*

There are 4 Gospels in the Bible. Each comes from a different tradition and faith community. Each contains stories and teachings of Jesus. Some stories are found in several gospels. Some are found only in one. The stories about Jesus and his teachings were first share with people by word of mouth. *What stores are told in your family and handed down to generations? How are those stories shaped by the storyteller? Who tells stories best in your family?*

The Gospels were first written in the Greek language. You can find out more about the Greek language on the internet.

The Gospel according to Mark was the first gospel written 60-65 CE (CE = Common Time or the time after Jesus lived. It is sometimes noted as AD meaning after the death of Jesus). Jesus died in the year noted as 30 CE. This means Mark was written about 30-35 years after Jesus lived on earth. Mark is the shortest gospel. The Gospel according to Matthew and Luke use Mark as one of their sources for stories and teachings of Jesus. *Ask someone older than 30, what they remember from 30 years ago!*

The Gospel according to Matthew was written around 70-90 CE.

The Gospel according to Luke was written around 70-90 C E but the author did not know about Matthew's Gospel. It is also believed by scholars that the author of Luke was the author of *The Acts of the Apostles* (sometimes just called Acts).

The Gospel according to John was the last to be written sometime after 90 CE. It was written at a time when the early Christians were being persecuted. It is very different from Matthew, Mark and Luke. *Look up persecuted. What does it mean?*



Stories and Teachings of Jesus

Here is a list of some of the texts about Jesus and his teachings. They are from all of Bible Gospels. We need all the Gospels to piece together the stories and teachings of Jesus. Use any age appropriate Bible or story book about Jesus to read the stories. Not all of the stories in the Gospels are listed here, just a sample. Read whatever stories you are able to read that give you a picture of Jesus

Birth and Infant Jesus

- ❖ Luke 1: 26-56 = Announcing Jesus' birth
- ❖ Luke 2: 1- 20 = Bethlehem
- ❖ Luke 2: 21-39 = Dedication at the Temple
- ❖ Matthew 2: 1-15 = Magi searching for Jesus
- ❖ Matthew 2:13-15 Flight to safety in Egypt

Tween Jesus

- ❖ Luke 2:39 = Return to Nazareth from Egypt
- ❖ Luke 2:41-52 = Jesus in the temple
(Nothing more is known about Jesus growing up in these Gospels. Since Joseph was a carpenter it is presumed Jesus learned this trade since sons often learned their father's occupation.)

Beginning of Jesus' ministry

- ❖ Mark 1: 4-11 = Baptism by John
- ❖ Mathew 4: 1-11 = Into the Wilderness
- ❖ Luke 4: 14-24= Beginning of Ministry in Hometown of Nazareth
- ❖ Mathew 4:18-22 = Call of the Fisherman
- ❖ Mark 3:13-19 = The twelve Disciples
- ❖ Luke 8:1-3 = women followed Jesus too

Jesus the Healer *In the Bible people who suffered from disease, especially mental illnesses, were thought to be possessed by "evil spirits" or "demons". Today we have names for these diseases. People who had disabilities were thought to be very sinful. We do not think this today!*

- ❖ Luke 4: 31-37 = A man possessed.
- ❖ Mathew 8:1-4 and Luke 17:11-19 = Leprosy (*find out about leprosy on the internet*)
- ❖ Mark 2: 1-12 = A man through the roof.
- ❖ John 9:1-12; Mark 8: 22-26; 10: 46-51 = Blind men
- ❖ Luke 8:40-48 = Just touching the clothes of Jesus

Jesus the Storyteller Teacher *What do these stories tell us about God?*

- ❖ Mark 4:3-9 = A sower and seeds
- ❖ Luke 15:11-32 = A forgiving Father
- ❖ Luke 10:25-37 = One despised give aid
- ❖ Mathew 20:1-16 = Equal pay for all workers
- ❖ Luke 14:16-24 = A big feast!
- ❖ Matthew 25:14-29 = Investing for God

Jesus' sayings and teachings about God's Way in the World.

- ❖ Matthew 5: 1-16 = Being followers of Jesus means...
- ❖ Luke 15: 1-10 = Finding the lost
- ❖ Mark 4: 30-34 = From smallest seeds
- ❖ Mark 9: 33-37 = The greatest is the least
- ❖ Matthew 13:33 = a little bit of yeast goes a long way
- ❖ Luke 18:18-30 = give away everything

Jesus' Love and Compassion for others

- ❖ Matthew 22: 34-40 = The heart of being a follower
- ❖ Mathew 19: 13-14 = like a child
- ❖ Luke 9:12-17 = Feeding 5000
- ❖ Matthew 25: 31-40 = Caring for the least is caring for Jesus
- ❖ Matthew 15:21-28 = A foreign woman's daughter
- ❖ John 10:1-21 = Like a good shepherd

The last events in the life of Jesus

- ❖ John 12:1- 8 = anointing a king
- ❖ Luke 19: 29-40 = Into Jerusalem
- ❖ John 2: 13-16 = Turning tables
- ❖ Matthew 26: 17-30 = A Passover meal becomes a Last Supper
- ❖ Mark 14: 32-42 = Praying
- ❖ Matthew 26:47-55 = Betrayed and Arrested
- ❖ Luke 23: 1- 25 = Trial and Verdict
- ❖ Mark 15:25-37 = Death of Jesus

BUT in three days... the Risen Christ – ALLELUIA!

- ❖ Matthew 28: 1- 10 or Mark 16: 1- 8 or John 20: 1- 18 or Luke 24: 1-12=Resurrection
- ❖ Luke 26:13-35; John 20: 19-31; Matthew 28: 16-20; Mark 16: 9-17 = seeing and feeling the presence of the Risen Christ