

The Gospels

VIDEO LINK

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jtzjDhLB5i8>

GOAL SUMMARY

The goal of this session is for young people to come to understand that the four Gospels written about Jesus each paint their own portrait of Jesus, with each showing various aspects of His humanity and divinity. These Gospels are the foundation of our Christian faith.

VIDEO SUMMARY

In this video, Dr. Brant Pitre explains that the books of the Bible Catholics are most familiar with are the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Dr. Pitre explains the Gospels of Matthew and John were written by those apostles, while Luke and Mark were written by two men who were companions of the apostles. There are different pictures of Jesus in each Gospel. In Matthew, he is the long awaited Messiah. Mark highlights Jesus' exorcisms and miracles. John emphasizes that Jesus is the divine Son of God. And Luke identifies that Jesus is the Savior of the world, but also the Son of Mary. When you put these Gospels together, you get a full picture of Jesus Christ. These Gospels are the foundation of our Christian faith.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Before watching this video, who did you think wrote the four Gospels?
2. Why do you think these apostles (Matthew and John) and their companions (Mark and Luke) felt the need to write these books?
3. Why is it helpful that each Gospel emphasizes different aspects of Jesus in both his humanity and divinity?
4. How does each of these different aspects of Jesus affect the entire picture we have of him as Christians? Our relationship with him?
5. How does knowing that the Gospels were written by Jesus' closest friends and their companions affect your view of the message they relay about Jesus of Nazareth?

SEND

The purpose of this session was to help young people come to better understand the four Gospels and how they fit into the Bible. It gave some of the historical background about who wrote each Gospel and showed how they each emphasized different aspects of Jesus. St. Jerome is famous for saying "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Dr. Pitre added "Ignorance of the Gospels is ignorance of Christ."

Encourage teens to spend a few minutes a day reading from a Gospel of their choice and affirm them that if they read from Scripture, especially the Gospels, they can have a personal with encounter Christ as they read.

Close by reading the opening lines from the Gospel of St. John (verses 1-6, 14): *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it....And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father."*