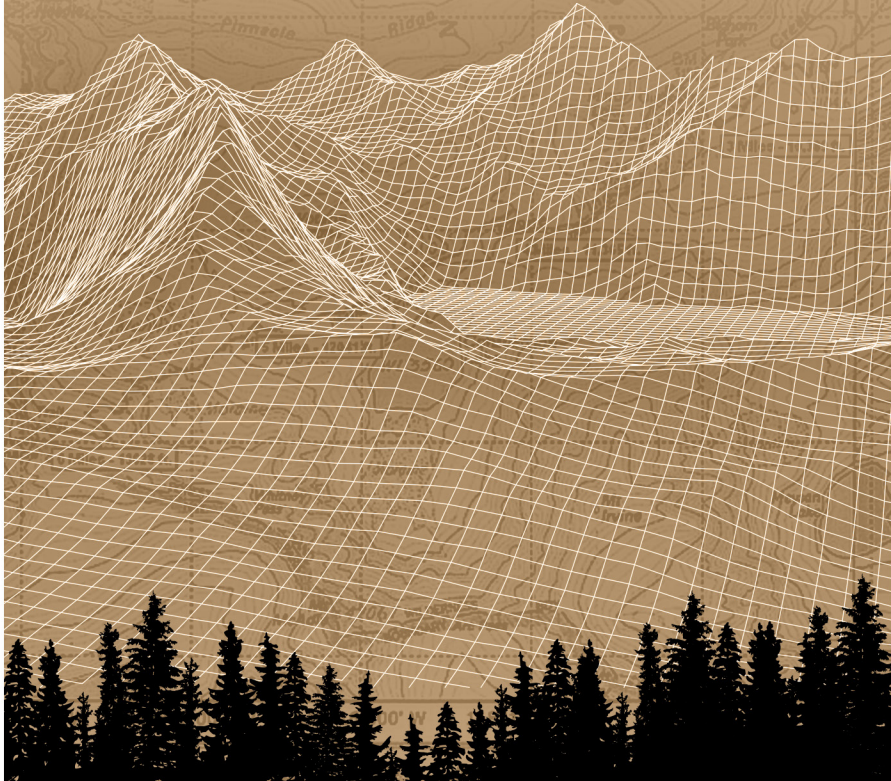
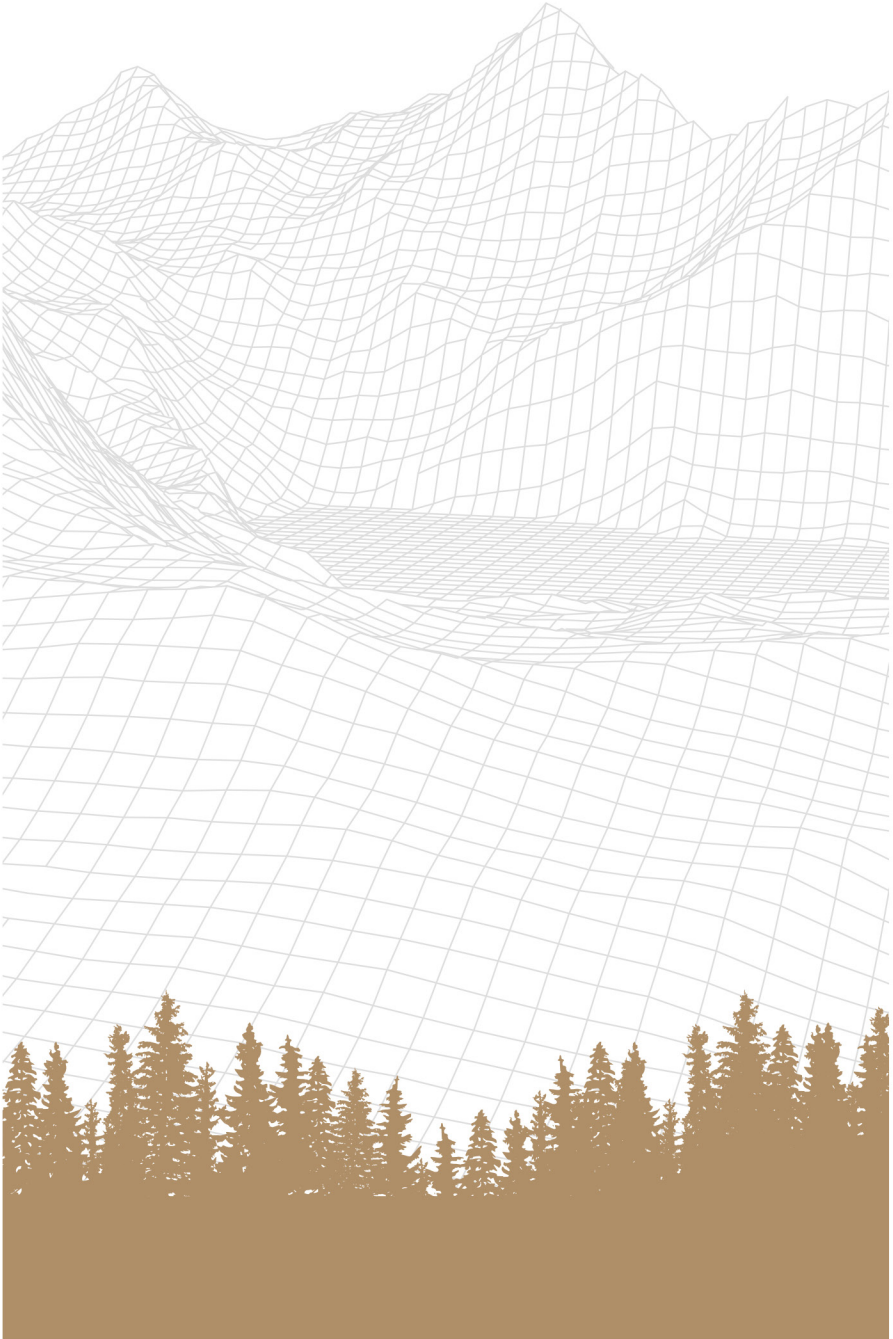


SEGMENT 6



WE NEED HELP





MATTHEW: THE GOSPEL DIRECTED TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE

LUKE: A GOSPEL KNOWN FOR ITS ATTENTION TO DETAIL

“Matthew was a Jewish follower of Christ who was writing to his fellow Jews. He was appealing to God’s chosen people a few decades after Jesus died. He wrote to convince them that Christ was the Messiah for whom they had been waiting. In Jewish culture, ancestry is critically important, so Matthew starts out with a list tracing Jesus all the way back to Adam. Oh, wait. No he didn’t. He went somewhere else instead” (119).

- 1. Read Matthew 1:1-7.** Why did Matthew introduce his genealogy with 2 names in verse 1? See Gen 12:1-3 and 2 Samuel 7:8-13. What significance do those names have?

- 2.** How many of the names in Matthew’s genealogy can you identify?

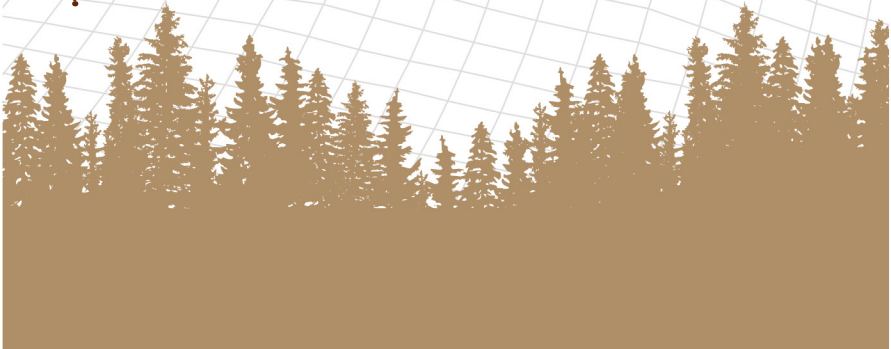
3. Read Matthew 1:22. What point is Matthew making?

4. How does he reinforce this point in 1:23 & 2:5-6? What additional information does Luke 2:1-7 give about these prophecies?

5. What additional prophecies does Matthew note in 2:13-18? (See Hosea 11:1 & Jeremiah 31:15.)

“Dr. Luke is coming from a different perspective altogether. In fact, he’s the only Gospel writer who is a Gentile. Also, he is Greek. And we know that he was well educated and a class-A observer, which I sure do appreciate. He cares about the details and it shows in his writing. While Matthew portrayed Christ as King, Luke shows Him as Man” (122).

6. How does Luke start his genealogy in Luke 3:23? (Notice it’s not even at the beginning of the book!) How might this impact his audience differently than Matthew’s version?



MARK: THE ACTION-PACKED GOSPEL

“Mark wrote the second Gospel. His goal was to tell the Romans about Jesus. Mark is the shortest Gospel and is certainly the most practical. He portrays Jesus as a servant, and spends a lot of time focusing on the deeds of Christ. Mark displays a very matter-of-fact tone. He doesn’t spend time telling about genealogy or prophecy. The Romans were strictly action oriented. So Mark told about Jesus as ‘Here’s the Guy and this is what He did.’ That’s what his audience cared about – just show me the evidence and don’t waste my time” (123).

JOHN: THE GOSPEL URGING EVERYONE TO BELIEVE

“We have seen three different writers direct their work to three different groups, but John has a different plan: He’s writing for everyone. Jew or Gentile, Roman or Greek, he’s intent on translating for us the most important word we can associate with a true relationship with Christ: believe. John’s Gospel reads differently from the others...If you care about people believing in Christ as the Son of God, you might just share the story of a guy who struggled in his faith” (134).

7. Read John 20:31. What does John say his purpose is for writing his Gospel? Read 20:19-29. How does this story summarized John’s purpose for writing?

Name of Gospel	Intended Audience	Main Message about Jesus
Matthew	Jews	Jesus is Messiah
Mark	Romans	Jesus is Servant
Luke	Gentiles	Jesus is Man
John	Everyone	Believe



8. Read Matthew 10:1, 22. What unique authority did Jesus give to the 12 apostles? How did people respond? How do you think believers today relate to the tasks Jesus gave his apostles?

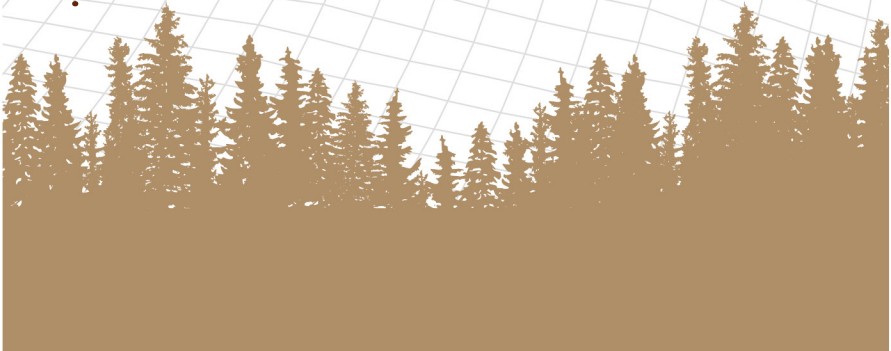


9. Read Matthew 16:21. What startling information did Jesus begin to give his followers?

“Behold, the Messiah has come, and the Light of the world will soon be extinguished by the disbelief of men and women” (126).



10. Read Matthew 26:1-5. Who gathered together to plot to arrest Jesus? What do you think motivated them? How do we sometimes have to choose between obeying God and concern for what people will think of us?



11. Read Matthew 27:51. What happened in the moment Jesus died? What significance do you see in that event?

“And here is where it comes together—this story we’ve traced from Genesis.” In this story we have seen a covenant made, animals killed as sacrifices, the law given, the Temple built and the symbol of God’s presence placed in it, behind a curtain where only the High Priest could go. “The curtain was torn. Gone. Eliminated. Unnecessary. No longer does separation divide a Holy God from us because the Christ has come to bring us near. Jesus became the ultimate Lamb, sacrificed on Passover, covering us with the blood of reconciliation forever” (132).



ACTS: THE BEGINNING OF THE CHURCH

12. Read Acts 2:36-41. What was the people’s response to Peter’s preaching? What did Peter tell them was the entrance point to the Church? If you have taken those steps, how does it make you feel to know you are a part of this epic plan to launch the church, started over 3000 years ago with Abraham? If you have never repented and received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, what is stopping you from doing it now?

SOAP JOURNAL EXERCISE

Read: Acts 9

S – Scripture – Choose one verse from the scripture above and hand write it below.

O – Observation – Describe in your own words what you think the verse is saying. Explore words and phrases and try to put down what you “see” in this verse. You can even re-write the verse in your own words.

A – Application – Write down what you should do because of what this verse says. It may be something you need to keep doing, stop doing, or start new. Make it as detailed and specific as possible.

P – Prayer – Write a prayer thanking God for speaking to you, and ask him to help you focus on what he has said and what you should do.



