

Part 1 (St. John 1:1-18)

1. How does John, in this prologue to his Gospel, demonstrate that Jesus is true God?

2. Evaluate: John marvels at the unbelief of the people living in darkness.

3. What is the “glory” to which the Apostle John refers in verse 14?

Part 2 (St. Luke 1:1-4)

1. What does Luke identify as the purpose of his gospel?

Part 3 (St. Luke 1:5-25)

1. How did Zechariah and Elizabeth demonstrate their God-given faith?

2. In what ways would John be a special child?

3. Why did Gabriel make Zechariah unable to speak? (one obvious, other not-so-obvious answers)

Part 4 (St. Luke 1:26-38)

1. What cluster of promises does the angel make about the child to whom Mary would give birth?

2. How does Mary serve as a great example for us?

Part 5 (St. Luke 1:39-56)

1. In what ways was this meeting a blessing both for Elizabeth and Mary?

2. How might you use the Magnificat to answer those who call Mary a co-redemptrix?

3. Give a response to those who find in Mary's song a directive to address the social inequities that the poor experience.

Part 6 (St. Luke 1:57-80)

1. Why did the Lord draw such attention to the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth?

2. What blessings did Zechariah see coming through the Lord's Anointed?

Part 7 (St. Matthew 1:18-25)

1. What does this section reveal about Joseph?

2. How does this section demonstrate the purpose of St. Matthew's Gospel?

3. Some teach that Mary remained a virgin throughout her entire life. Evaluate.

Part 8 (St. Matthew 1:1-17; St. Luke 3:23-28)

1. Any significance to the fact that Rahab and Ruth are included in the genealogy in Matthew?

2. Some would point to the differences in genealogies and use it to reject verbal inspiration and the inerrancy of Scripture. How would you respond?

Part 9 (St. Luke 2:1-20)

1. What truths about the Lord does this section teach?

2. How are the shepherds and Mary useful examples for us?

Part 10 (St. Luke 2:21-32)

1. Why was Jesus circumcised?

2. His name was his mission. Explain.

3. How does verse 22 answer the idea of the Immaculate Conception of Mary?

Part 11 (St. Luke 2:33-40)

1. Pick out the fulfillments of Simeon's prophecies. (verses 29-35)

2. Evaluate: The Lord rewarded Anna's faithfulness by letting her see her Savior.

3. How does Luke characterize Jesus' early years?

Part 12 (St. Matthew 2:1-12)

1. Why were both Herod and the people of Jerusalem disturbed by the coming of the Magi?

2. What do you learn about the spiritual situation in Israel from verses 4-8?

3. What popular ideas about the visit of the Wise Men does the Scriptural record disprove?

Part 13 (St. Matthew 2:13-23)

1. What truths about the church (and its enemies) does this section reveal?

2. Some have called the children put to death in Bethlehem the first Christian martyrs. Evaluate.

3. How does this section demonstrate Matthew's "target audience"?

Part 14 (St. Luke 2:41-52)

1. Why does Scripture record so little of the early years of Jesus' life?

2. Explain: Jesus understood his mission better than his parents.

3. How could Jesus, who is true God, grow "in wisdom" and "in favor with God"?

Part 15 (St. Matthew 3:1-12; St. Mark 1:1-8; St. Luke 3:1-18)

1. What does it mean when we call John “a preacher of repentance”? (get at the meaning of “repentance”)

2. St. Mark quotes from Malachi 3, yet says, “It is written in Isaiah the prophet.” Reconcile that with the inerrancy of Scripture.

3. Evaluate: John made it clear that his baptism was nowhere near as powerful as Jesus’ baptism.

4. Comment on the differences in the accounts and connect them, if possible, with the unique purpose of each of the Gospels.

Part 16 (St. Matthew 3:13-17; St. Mark 1:9-11; St. Luke 3:21,22)

1. Evaluate: Jesus was making a statement by coming to John to be baptized.

2. For whose benefit did the heavens open, the Spirit of God descend, and the voice sound from heaven?

Part 17 (St. Matthew 4:1-11; St. Mark 1:12,13; St. Luke 4:1-13)

1. How are Jesus' baptism and the temptation connected?

2. What significance do you find in St. Mark's comment that Jesus was "with the wild animals"?

3. Each of the three temptations recorded has a more serious temptation at its heart. What do you see at the heart of the first temptation? Second temptation? Third temptation?

4. What important truths are we to learn from this account?

Part 18 (St. John 1:19-34)

1. In St. Matthew 17:11-13, Jesus said that John the Baptist was Elijah. Here John the Baptist rejects that idea. Why?

2. What do you learn about the Pharisees in this section?

3. Prove, from these verses, that John understood his God-given role.

Part 19 (St. John 1:35-51)

1. Why did Jesus give Simon a new name?

2. Comment on Nathanael's observation about Nazareth. (*What led him to say it? Why would Jesus allow such a person to be his disciple?*)

3. What do you learn about the kingdom of God in these verses?

4. Pick out fulfillments of the promise(s) Jesus made in verses 50 and 51.

Part 20 (St. John 2:1-11)

1. Explain: Jesus' answer to his mother demonstrates obedience both to the Fourth Commandment and the First Commandment.

2. What important truths does this account teach?

Part 21 (St. John 2:12-25)

1. Jesus cleansed the temple both near the beginning and near the end of his ministry. Why?

2. Evaluate: This action was “out of character” for Jesus.

3. Why was it so appropriate for Jesus to say, “Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days” (verse 20)?

4. Why didn’t Jesus “entrust himself to them” (verse 24)?

Part 22 (St. John 3:1-21)

1. What did Jesus teach about the kingdom of God that a Pharisee like Nicodemus needed to learn?

2. Explain: Nicodemus showed himself to be a typical Jew in his response to Jesus' words.

3. A portion of this section (verses 1-17) serves as the Holy Gospel for Holy Trinity Sunday. Why is that such an appropriate choice?

Part 23 (St. John 3:22-36)

1. Explain: John the Baptizer's disciples weren't very good disciples.

2. How does John the Baptizer carry out well the task assigned to him by God?

Part 24 (St. John 4:1-26)

1. Why did Jesus leave Judea and head back to Galilee?

2. What does this section teach us about Jesus?

3. Why did Jesus preach the gospel before the law in dealing with the woman at the well?

4. What does Jesus teach about worship in verses 21-26?

Part 25 (St. John 4:27-42)

1. Evaluate: The disciples were wrong to tell Jesus to “eat something.”

2. Why did the disciples particularly need to hear the words of Jesus in verse 34-38?

3. What comforting/encouraging truths do you find in verses 39-42?

Part 26 (St. John 4:43-54)

1. What is the connection between verses 43 and 44?

2. What distinction does Jesus make between believers and unbelievers?

3. Reconcile the concluding sentence of verse 53 with the truth revealed in the story of the rich man and poor Lazarus, that miracles do not create faith.

Part 27 (St. John 5:1-18)

1. Why did Jesus pick this particular man to be healed?

2. What do the leaders of the Jews reveal about themselves by their reaction to the healing?

3. How was Jesus' answer in verse 17 a perfect response to the Jewish leaders?

Part 28 (St. John 5:19-30)

1. Jesus clearly claims to be God in these verses. Demonstrate that.

2. Reconcile verse 29 with passages like Romans 3:28, which testify to the fact that eternal life cannot be earned by works. (Perhaps consider Mt 25:31-46 in your answer.)

Part 29 (St. John 5:31-47)

1. Who or what offers testimony about Jesus' divinity?

2. What important principle of Scripture reading does Jesus teach in this section?

3. Explain Jesus' words, "Your accuser is Moses," and apply them to today.

Part 30 (St. Matthew 4:12-22; St. Mark 1:14-20; St. Luke 4:14)

1. How were John's imprisonment and Jesus' preaching connected?

2. Evaluate: Jesus, wanting to fulfill prophecy, set up headquarters in Capernaum.

3. What should we learn from the Lord's call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John?

Part 31 (St. Matthew 4:23,24; St. Mark 1:21-39; St. Luke 4:31-44)

1. How did Jesus set himself apart from the teachers of the law?

2. What do you learn about demons from this section?

3. Evaluate: Jesus' miracles served both as a help and a hindrance to his ministry.

Part 32 (St. Luke 5:1-11)

1. How does Jesus' love for souls show itself in this account?

2. What important lesson did Jesus teach Peter by the miraculous catch of fish?

Part 33 (St. Matthew 4:25-5:12; St. Luke 6:17-26)

1. It's possible that these sections record two different sermons. What indication is there of that and what would be the point?

2. How would you answer the person who uses the Beatitudes to prove that people must show themselves worthy to receive blessing from the Lord? (consider "reward")

3. List ways in which the Beatitudes are misused or misunderstood.

Part 34 (St. Matthew 5:13-16)

1. What important functions does the Lord have in mind for his people living in this world?

2. In these verses Jesus uses declarative statements, not imperatives, to talk about Christians. Why?

Part 35 (St. Matthew 5:17-48; St. Luke 6:27-36; 12:58,59)

1. Evaluate: Jesus gives new laws and instructions in these verses.

2. Pick out the commandments Jesus addresses in this section.

3. Agree or disagree? Jesus set an impossible standard for us when he said, "Be perfect."

Part 36 (St. Matthew 6:1-18; St. Luke 11:1-4)

1. Explain: The Lord's Prayer is not only a good prayer for us to repeat, it also serves as an excellent model for all our prayers.

2. Why does Matthew includes so much about "acts of righteousness" while Luke doesn't mention them at all?

3. Comment both on the benefits and possible dangers of regularly praying the Lord's Prayer.

Part 37 (St. Matthew 6:19-34; St. Luke 12:22-31)

1. Evaluate: "The similarity of these sections proves that both writers wrote under the influence of a common source."

2. Agree or disagree? Planning and budgeting are contrary to Jesus' instructions.

3. Considering the different recipients and emphases of the Gospels, what significance is there in the similarities of the sections?

Part 38 (St. Matthew 7:1-12; St. Luke 6:37-42; 11:5-13)

1. Agree or disagree? It is sinful to judge.

2. According to these verses, why should "not many presume to be teachers"? (see James 3:1)

3. What does the Lord teach about prayer in these verses?

Part 39 (St. Matthew 7:13-29; St. Luke 6:43-49)

1. Evaluate: False prophets will ultimately show themselves to be false teachers by their conduct.

2. Pick out the differences in these sections with regard to each Gospel's purpose.

3. What does the Savior call on his people to do in these verses?

Part 40 (St. Matthew 8:1-4; St. Mark 1:40-45; St. Luke 5:12-16)

1. What valuable lessons about prayer do we learn from this account?

2. Why did Jesus instruct the leper not to tell anyone about this miracle?

3. Only Luke includes the information that Jesus "often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Why?

Part 41 (St. Matthew 8:5-13; St. Luke 7:1-10)

1. Explain: Matthew and Luke included the lesson of the centurion for the same, yet different, reasons.

2. Why does Luke include information about the centurion's relationship with the Jews while Matthew doesn't?

3. Why was Jesus so amazed at the centurion's faith?

Part 42 (St. Matthew 9:1-8; St. Mark 2:1-12; St. Luke 5:17-26)

1. What does this account reveal about Jesus?

2. What do you learn about the Pharisees and the teachers of the law from this account?

3. Comment on the differences in the accounts, highlighting any that specifically demonstrate the different purposes of the gospels.

Part 43 (St. Matthew 9:9-17; St. Mark 2:13-22; St. Luke 5:27-39)

1. Why would Jesus choose Levi/Matthew for full-time discipleship?

2. What important lessons did the Pharisees and the teachers of the law need to learn?

3. What point was Jesus making by his illustrations of the patch and the wineskins?

Part 44 (St. Matthew 12:1-8; St. Mark 2:23-28; St. Luke 6:1-5)

1. Evaluate: Jesus condones “situational ethics” in this account.

2. How does Jesus powerfully rebuke the arrogant Pharisees?

3. Only Mark includes Jesus’ words, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.”
What did Jesus mean?

Part 45 (St. Matthew 12:9-21; St. Mark 3:1-12; St. Luke 6:6-11)

1. Why did Jesus perform this miracle? *(Do the different Gospels give slightly different answers to the question?)*

2. Mark mentions that the Pharisees began to plot with the Herodians to kill Jesus. What significance do you find in that?

3. How do the different accounts fit the purpose of each of the Gospels?

4. How did Jesus perfectly fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 42 cited in Matthew 12?

Part 46 (St. Matthew 10:1-4; St. Mark 3:13-19; St. Luke 6:12-16)

1. What should we learn from the fact that Jesus spent the night praying to God?

2. How is this “call” different than the previous calls extended to the disciples?

3. Comment on the listing provided, both the men included on the list and the order in which they appear on the list.

Part 47 (St. Matthew 12:22-50; St. Mark 3:20-35; St. Luke 8:19-21, 11:14-36)

1. How did Jesus answer his enemies in this section?

2. Evaluate: The worst sin a person can commit is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit.

3. Agree or disagree? Jesus teaches, in this section, that there is no excuse for unbelief.

4. Comment on the differences between the Gospel writer's accounts.

Part 48 (St. Matthew 13:1-23; St. Mark 4:1-25; St. Luke 8:4-18)

1. Why did Jesus teach in parables?

2. Why did the disciples need to hear the Parable of the Sower (aka the Parable of the Soils)? Why do we also need to hear and heed its message?

3. How is the Parable of the Sower/Soils connected to the words about a lamp being placed on a stand?

Part 49 (St. Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43)

1. What does this parable teach about the Lord's government?

2. Evaluate: Eradicating evil ought not be the goal of a Christian church.

3. What does Jesus teach about angels in this parable?

Part 50 (St. Matthew 13:31-35; St. Mark 4:26-34; St. Luke 13:18-21)

1. Jesus' parables offer us a different perspective on the gospel than the perspective offered by our eyes. In what ways?

2. How and why does Matthew's account differ?

Part 51 (St. Matthew 13:44-52)

1. Apply the truth of the Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl to our lives.

2. What does the Parable of the Net teach us about the church?

3. Why is it so important for us to continue to receive instruction about the kingdom of heaven?

Part 52 (St. Matthew 8:18,23-27; St. Mark 4:35-41; St. Luke 8:22-25)

1. Why did Jesus instruct the disciples to cross the Sea of Galilee?

2. Evaluate: It's surprising that the disciples were afraid.

3. Explain: This account fits the unique purpose of each of the Gospels.

Part 53 (St. Matthew 8:28-34; St. Mark 5:1-20; St. Luke 8:26-39)

1. Reconcile the accounts. Were there two demon-possessed men or just one?

2. Evaluate: Jesus wouldn't have made a very good member of PETA.

3. What does this section teach about the devil?

4. What lessons can be learned from the instruction that Jesus gave to the man who had been freed from the demons?

Part 54 (St. Matthew 9:18-26; St. Mark 5:21-43; St. Luke 8:40-56)

1. Reconcile the accounts. Was Jairus' daughter sick or dead when Jairus came to Jesus with his request?

2. Evaluate: This account demonstrates the healing power of relics.

3. Why didn't the bleeding woman approach Jesus directly?

4. List the comforting truths found in this account.

Part 55 (St. Matthew 9:27-34)

1. How does this account particularly fit the purpose of St. Matthew's Gospel?

2. Why would Jesus allow people to praise him on Palm Sunday but forbid them to do it on other occasions, like this one?

Part 56 (St. Matthew 13:53-58; St. Mark 6:1-6; St. Luke 4:16-30)

1. Comment on the differences in the accounts in light of each Gospel's purpose, particularly anything that seems to be "out of place" in a particular Gospel.

2. Agree or disagree? These verses demonstrate that Mary did not remain a virgin throughout her life (*sempervirgine*).

3. How does this section offer comfort to us as the Lord's messengers today?

Part 57 (St. Matthew 9:35-10:15; St. Mark 6:6b-13; St. Luke 9:1-6)

1. What connections do you see between St. Matthew 9:35-38 and the rest of the account?

2. Which of the instructions given to the apostles are only recorded in Matthew? What significance do you find in that?

3. Why would Jesus direct them to stay in one home in a particular town?

Part 58 (St. Matthew 10:16-11:1; St. Mark 13:9-13; St. Luke 12:1-12, 51-53)

1. Explain: Jesus offered his disciples a "reality check" in these verses.

2. What encouragement does the Lord offer to all who are called upon to witness in his name?

3. Reconcile the angels' message at the birth of Jesus ("on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests") and Jesus' words ("Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace on earth") in this section.

4. What can we learn from the rewards that Jesus promises for those who support the gospel?

Part 59 (St. Matthew 11:2-19; St. Luke 7:18-35)

1. Why would John the Baptist send his disciples to Jesus with that question?

2. Explain Jesus' words: "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing and forceful men lay hold of it." (St. Matthew 8:12)

3. How does Jesus rebuke the crowds in this section?

Part 60 (St. Matthew 11:20-30; St. Luke 10:12-15)

1. These two Gospels give different settings for these words. Comment on that.

2. What does Jesus teach about judgment in these verses?

3. What does Jesus teach about his rule in the kingdom of grace in St. Matthew 11:25-30?

Part 61 (St. Matthew 14:1-12; St. Mark 6:14-29; St. Luke 3:19,20; 9:7-9)

1. Why was John beheaded?

2. Evaluate: Herod knew that he had sinned in executing John.

Part 62 (St. Luke 7:11-17)

1. Pick out the ways in which Jesus showed great compassion in this miracle.

Part 63 (St. Luke 7:36-8:3)

1. How is this account much like the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector?

2. Explain: "Her many sins have been forgiven – for she loved much."

3. What comfort and encouragement does this section offer?

Part 64 (St. Matthew 14:13-21; St. Mark 6:30-44; St. Luke 9:10-17; St. John 6:1-15)

1. How did Jesus demonstrate his great compassion in this account?

2. Pick out the unique characteristics in each Gospel and explain the significance.

3. Evaluate: The results of the miracle were exactly what Jesus intended.

Part 65 (St. Matthew 14:22-33; St. Mark 6:45-52; St. John 6:16-21)

1. What lessons should we learn from Peter's walking on water and his subsequent sinking?

2. Why would Jesus be, according to St. Mark, “about to pass by them”?

3. Comment on any significant differences in the Evangelists’ accounts.

Part 66 (St. John 6:22-59)

1. Evaluate the motives of those who went searching for Jesus.

2. What important truths should be learned from Jesus’ words in verse 29? “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.”

3. In this section Jesus repeatedly claims, and demonstrates, that he is true God. Offer support for that statement.

4. Explain: Jesus is not talking about Holy Communion in verses 53-58.

Part 67 (St. John 6:60-71)

1. Why was Jesus' teaching "hard" for the Jews to accept?

2. Agree or disagree? Jesus lost his patience with these so-called disciples.

3. Why would Jesus ask the Twelve if they wanted to leave?

4. Who is better: the hypocrites who deserted Jesus or the one who didn't?

Part 68 (St. Matthew 14:34-15:20; St. Mark 6:53-7:23)

1. Evaluate: "There's no such thing as a stupid question."

2. Why does Jesus classify murder, theft, and sexual immorality as "sins of the heart"?

3. Apply Jesus' lesson of "clean vs. unclean" to Christians today.

Part 69 (St. Matthew 15:21-28; St. Mark 7:24-30)

1. Comment on Jesus' treatment of the Syrophenician woman.

2. How did the Syrophenician woman show the maturity of her God-given faith?

3. Compare the accounts in view of the unique purposes of these Gospels.

Part 70 (St. Mark 7:31-37)

1. Comment on the way in which Jesus performed this miracle.

2. Evaluate: Jesus used some "reverse psychology" to help insure that news of this miracle would spread.

Part 71 (St. Matthew 15:29-39; St. Mark 8:1-10)

1. Respond: "The fact that the Gospel writers say in one place that Jesus fed 5,000 and in another place that Jesus fed 4,000 proves that there are minor errors in Scripture."

2. Agree or disagree? The disciples, in this account, showed trust in the Lord's provision.

3. What valuable lessons does this account offer for daily life?

Part 72 (St. Matthew 16:1-12; St. Mark 8:11-26; St. Luke 12:54-57)

1. Why would Jesus refuse to grant the Pharisees' request for a sign from heaven?

2. Evaluate: The sign of Jonah was no sign at all. (*Additionally, why does only Matthew include mention of the sign of Jonah?*)

3. Why did Jesus ask his disciples about the leftovers after the feeding of the multitudes? (*How is it connected to his point?*)

4. List some examples of teachings circulating in the visible church today that constitute the “yeast” that Jesus warned his disciples to avoid.

Part 73 (St. Matthew 16:13-20; St. Mark 8:27-30; St. Luke 9:18-21)

1. What do the opinions that people had about Jesus have in common?

2. What does this section teach about a proper confession of Christ?

3. Evaluate: Peter’s confession reflected a mature understanding of both Jesus’ nature and his mission.

4. What does this passage teach about the keys of the kingdom? (*How is it misunderstood and misapplied by the Roman Catholic Church?*)

Part 74 (St. Matthew 16:21-28; St. Mark 8:31-9:1; St. Luke 9:22-27)

1. Why would Peter rebuke Jesus for his “prediction”?

2. Evaluate: "Jesus came to empower us to live more successful lives and to 'be all that we can be.'"

3. Reconcile Jesus' words, "he will reward each person according to what he has done," with the teaching that salvation is by grace alone.

4. What did Jesus mean by saying, "Some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom," when all of the disciples died?

Part 75 (St. Matthew 17:1-13; St. Mark 9:2-13; St. Luke 9:28-36)

1. Which parties were blessed by the Transfiguration and how?

2. How did the Lord display mercy and concern to his disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration?

3. Comment on the participants in the discussion on the Mount and the content of that conversation.

4. What does Jesus' coming down the mountain teach us?

Part 76 (St. Matthew 17:14-21; St. Mark 9:14-29; St. Luke 9:37-43a)

1. Evaluate: "Jesus had 'had it' with the people who were constantly coming to him for miracles."

2. Agree or disagree? Believers today can cast out demons.

3. What do you learn about demons from this account?

4. Compare the Evangelists' accounts, pick out unique characteristics in each, and comment on those differences.

Part 77 (St. Matthew 17:22-27; St. Mark 9:30-32; St. Luke 9:43b-45)

1. Good teachers create an environment in which students are free from fear. Yet the disciples were afraid to ask Jesus to explain what he meant. Comment.

2. What was Jesus teaching with his words to Peter about the temple tax?

3. Evaluate: On the basis of this passage, church property should be free of taxation.

Part 78 (St. Matthew 18:1-14; St. Mark 9:33-50; St. Luke 9:46-50)

1. How could you reconcile the different accounts that lead to Jesus' discourse?

2. Explain: In Jesus' dictionary, humility is greatness.

3. Evaluate: Obeying Jesus' commands in these verses would require us to break the Fifth Commandment.

4. What does Jesus want us to recognize about our heavenly Father? (*How does that tie in with the section that follows?*)

Part 79 (St. Matthew 18:15-20)

1. Elsewhere Jesus says, "Do not judge, and you will not be judged." Comment.

2. Using several adverbs or adverbial phrases, describe the way in which the Lord wants us to carry out the work of Christian discipline.

3. Agree or disagree? This section details the most important work we do.

Part 80 (St. Matthew 18:21-35)

1. How is this section connected to the previous one?

2. Evaluate: Forgiveness is conditional.

3. Give examples of ways in which we act like the unmerciful servant. (*Address in your answer the motivation behind the unmerciful servant's action.*)

Part 81 (St. John 7:1-31)

1. Why did Jesus' brothers encourage him to go to Judea?

2. What hypocritical accusation did the Pharisees make against Jesus?

3. How does this section serve to encourage Christians today?

Part 82 (St. John 7:32-52)

1. Why were Jesus' words so baffling to the Jews?

2. How could it be said of those who believed in Jesus that they had not received the Spirit?

3. Label the different views held concerning Jesus in this section and cite counterparts in the 21st century.

Part 83 (St. John 7:53-8:11)

1. How was the trap, in the Pharisees' minds, perfectly set?

2. Explain: Jesus demonstrated the proper use of the keys of the kingdom in this account.

3. What comforting truths does this section reveal?

Part 84 (St. John 8:12-30)

1. How does Jesus show compassion to the Pharisees in this section?

2. How would the Son of Man being lifted up lead the Jews to know who he was?

3. Why would the Apostle John mention, in the final verse, that many put their faith in Jesus through his preaching?

Part 85 (St. John 8:31-59)

1. Explain: Those who know the truth have genuine freedom.

2. What do these verses teach about the devil?

3. WWAD? What would Abraham do (*or have done*) that the Jews at the time of Christ didn't?

Part 86 (St. John 9:1-41)

1. How does Jesus teach us to view the difficulties and trials of life?

2. What does this account teach about witnessing? (*consider verses 13-34 particularly*)

3. Reconcile Jesus' words, "For judgment I have come into this world" (verse 39) with his words in 3:17: "For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn (*judge*) the world."

Part 87 (St. John 10:1-21)

1. Finish this sentence: "Jesus rightly deserves the title 'The Good Shepherd' because. . ."

2. How was Jesus' shepherding plan different than that of the leaders of the Jews?

3. Why did some of the Jews accuse Jesus of being possessed by a demon?

Part 88 (St. Luke 9:51-56)

1. Evaluate: Jesus was driven by a desire to return to the Father's side.

2. Why did Jesus rebuke the Sons of Thunder for their request?

Part 89 (St. Matthew 8:18-22; St. Luke 9:57-62)

1. Agree or disagree? Jesus didn't (*doesn't*) want just anyone following him.

2. Reconcile this section with Jesus' words in Matthew 11: "For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Part 90 (St. Luke 10:1-24)

1. Why does Jesus offer such specific instructions?

2. List the promises that Jesus makes to those who carry the gospel message.

3. What important perspectives did Jesus offer after the seventy-two had returned from their mission? (*Applications for us?*)

Part 91 (St. Luke 10:25-37)

1. How is this parable connected to the previous section?

2. How would you respond to the person who suggests, on the basis of this parable, that we are justified by our works of service to others?

3. In what ways does Jesus humble the proud while lifting up the humble in this section?

Part 92 (St. Luke 10:38-42)

1. How does the Martha in all of us show itself?

2. What good reasons do we have to sit at Jesus' feet regularly?

Part 93 (St. Luke 11:37-54)

1. List the faults of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law that Jesus points out in this section.

2. Why would the generation alive at Jesus' time be held responsible for the death of prophets in previous generations?

3. Evaluate: Jesus spoke so powerfully against the Pharisees and teachers of the law in order to create the opposition that would lead to his death on a cross.

Part 94 (St. Luke 12:13-21)

1. How does Jesus teach us to view material things? (*Contrast that with the world's instruction concerning wealth.*)

2. What is the true and best purpose of a person's life, according to Jesus?

Part 95 (St. Matthew 24:43-51; St. Luke 12:32-50)

1. Evaluate: "Those who treasure the Lord give away their earthly treasures."

2. What counsel would you offer to the person who is particularly concerned about being ready for the Lord's return?

3. Evaluate, on the basis of St. Luke 12:47,48: "The Lord has different standards for his people."

Part 96 (St. Luke 13:1-17)

1. How do verses 2-5 help us view the accidents and natural disasters that regularly happen?

2. Connect the parable recorded in verses 6-9 with verses 1-5.

3. Compare and contrast what drove/motivated the synagogue rulers with what drove Jesus.

Part 97 (St. Luke 13:22-35)

1. List some ways in which people today (including ourselves) try to enter God's kingdom without going through the "narrow door."

2. Evaluate: Judgment Day will be shocking.

3. How does Jesus' passion for sinners and compassion for souls show itself in the final verses of this section? (verses 31-35)

Part 98 (St. Luke 14:1-14)

1. What misunderstandings about the Sabbath did Jesus address in this section?

2. Why did the Pharisees have nothing to say in response to Jesus?

3. Evaluate: The Lord wants his church to focus on serving the poor.

Part 99 (St. Luke 14:15-24)

1. If Jesus were telling the parable today, what excuses might he have cited?

2. What does this parable teach about the Lord's dealings with human beings?

Part 100 (St. Luke 14:25-35)

1. Reconcile Jesus' command to love our neighbors with his words in verses 26 and 27.

2. Evaluate, in light of verse 33: Those who live in a country like the United States find it especially difficult to live as a child of God.

3. Why do we need to hear the warning about salt losing its saltiness?

Part 101 (St. Luke 15:1-10)

1. What led the Pharisees to mutter about Jesus' practice of eating with tax collectors and "sinners"?

2. How was the "moral of the story" an answer to the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

Part 102 (St. Luke 15:11-32)

1. Explain: This parable is intended both for the Pharisees and for the tax collectors.

2. How does the parable depict the grace of God?

Part 103 (St. Luke 16:1-18)

1. Agree or disagree? Jesus teaches us to be as shrewd in our interactions with people as the people of the world are.

2. Evaluate: Wealth comes to us as a test.

3. Does it surprise you to read St. Luke's comment that the Pharisees "loved money"? Why or why not? (*Connect it with verse 15.*)

Part 104 (St. Luke 16:19-31)

1. List some of the truths illustrated by this story.

2. How does this section encourage us in our witnessing?

3. Why would Luke include this account while others didn't?

Part 105 (St. Luke 17:1-10)

1. Evaluate, on the basis of the opening verses: We must do all in our power not to offend anyone.

2. Why is the disciples' petition such a good one for us to bring to the Lord?

3. How will the attitude of verse 10 show itself in the life of a Christian?

Part 106 (St. Luke 17:11-19)

1. What lessons for Christian faith and Christian life can we gain from this account?

2. Why would St. Luke include this account when others don't?

Part 107 (St. Luke 17:20-37)

1. How is Jesus' definition of the kingdom different than the Pharisees and of many today? (*Apply that definition to the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer: "Thy kingdom come."*)

2. What does Jesus teach about his second coming in these verses?

Part 108 (St. Luke 18:1-8)

1. How might this parable be misused or misapplied?

2. Evaluate, in light of what Jesus says in verse 8: "The unbelief in the world today is nothing short of amazing."

Part 109 (St. Luke 18:9-14)

1. How does the Pharisee demonstrate ignorance?

2. How does the tax collector demonstrate wisdom?

Part 110 (St. Matthew 19:1-12; St. Mark 10:1-12)

1. Compare the initial details provided by the two Evangelists. Why would they highlight what they did?

2. What does Jesus teach about divorce in this section of Scripture?

3. Evaluate: Jesus is promoting celibacy in these verses.

Part 111 (St. Matthew 19:13-15; St. Mark 10:13-16; St. Luke 18:15-17)

1. Comment on this phrase unique to St. Mark's Gospel: "When Jesus saw this, he was indignant."

2. Why would the disciples rebuke those bringing little children?

Part 112 (St. Matthew 19:16-30; St. Mark 10:17-31; St. Luke 18:18-30)

1. Describe the attitude with which this rich man approached Jesus. (*Any warning for us?*)

2. Why did Jesus direct this young ruler to sell everything, give to the poor, and then come and follow him?

3. Jesus' words about the impossibility of rich men entering the kingdom shocked the disciples. Why?

4. Evaluate: Christians make great sacrifices and receive great rewards.

Part 113 (St. Matthew 20:1-16)

1. How is this parable connected to the previous section?

2. What attitudes was Jesus reproving by the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard?

Part 114 (St. John 10:22-42)

1. Evaluate: No believer will fall away from faith, because Jesus promised that his sheep “shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”

2. Summarize Jesus’ argument in verses 34-38.

3. List the comforting truths found in this portion of Scripture.

Part 115 (St. John 11:1-46)

1. Why didn't Jesus immediately go to Bethany when he heard of Lazarus' sickness? (*What weren't the reasons?*)

2. Comment on Thomas' words in verse 16. Do you see weakness or strength in what he says?

3. Why did Jesus weep?

4. Compare Jesus' prayer with the Pharisee's prayer in the Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector.

Part 116 (St. John 11:47-57)

1. Why did the Sanhedrin want Jesus dead?

2. Agree or disagree? Caiaphas spoke for God when he said, "You do not realize that it is better that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."

Part 117 (St. Matthew 20:17-28; St. Mark 10:32-45; St. Luke 18:31-34)

1. Why did Jesus repeatedly predict his death?

2. Evaluate the request made by James and John (and their mother).

3. Agree or disagree? No one can drink the cup Jesus drank.

4. Comment on the differences in the Gospel writers' accounts of this event.

Part 118 (St. Matthew 20:29-34; St. Mark 10:46-52; St. Luke 18:35-43)

1. Reconcile the accounts. Were there two blind men or just one?

2. What does this account teach us about prayer?

3. How are the Gospel writers' accounts different?

Part 119 (St. Luke 19:1-10)

1. Evaluate: Zacchaeus' actions demonstrated sorrow for exacting more taxes than were owed.

2. Agree or disagree? Recent converts should show fruits of faith before being allowed to become members.

Part 120 (St. Matthew 25:14-30; St. Luke 19:11-27)

1. What does this parable have to say about stewardship?

2. Comment on what the master praises and what the master condemns.

3. Note the differences in these accounts.

Part 121 (St. Matthew 26:6-13; St. Mark 14:3-9; St. John 12:1-11)

1. Reconcile the apparent discrepancies between the accounts.

2. Evaluate: Actions always reveal the attitude of the heart.

3. What valuable lessons did Jesus teach the soon-to-be leaders of the church on earth?

Part 122 (St. Matthew 21:1-11; St. Mark 11:1-11; St. Luke 19:28-44; St. John 12:12-19)

1. Agree or disagree? Jesus was not very “kingly” throughout his life and especially as he approached Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

2. Why did Jesus give the disciples specific instructions about the colt? (*What was he trying to teach them?*)

3. Evaluate: The crowds didn’t know what they were saying.

4. Comment on the differences between the Gospel writers' accounts.

Part 123 (St. Matthew 21:12-19; St. Mark 11:12-19; St. Luke 19:45-48)

1. List the miracles recorded in these verses.

2. When might the Lord's house be turned into a "den of robbers" today?

3. Comment on Jesus' actions in light of the impending end of his earthly ministry.

Part 124 (St. Matthew 21:20-32; St. Mark 11:20-33; St. Luke 20:1-8)

1. Respond to the person who says, on the basis of Jesus' words, "If you do not receive what you ask for in prayer, you must not have believed enough."

2. Why didn't Jesus just give a simple answer to the question posed by the chief priests and the elders?

3. Why did St. Matthew include the Parable of the Two Sons? (*and what was Jesus teaching through it?*)

Part 125 (St. Matthew 21:33-46; St. Mark 12:1-12; St. Luke 20:9-19)

1. How was the Parable of the Tenants an indictment of the Pharisees and the chief priests?

2. How did Jesus, with his quotation from Psalm 118, dispel the false ideas about the Messiah that many had?

3. Comment on the differences in the Gospel writers' accounts.

Part 126 (St. Matthew 22:1-14)

1. Evaluate: As the end of his life drew near, Jesus became more and more combative.

2. What does Jesus mean to picture with the man who was not wearing wedding clothes?

3. Why is it critical for us to remember the words of verse 14: "For many are invited, but few are chosen"?

Part 127 (St. Matthew 22:15-22; St. Mark 12:13-17; St. Luke 20:20-26)

1. What does this section reveal about the leaders of the Jews?

2. Evaluate: "Jesus' main point was to encourage the payment of taxes."

Part 128 (St. Matthew 22:23-33; St. Mark 12:18-27; St. Luke 20:27-40)

1. Compare and contrast the agenda of the Sadducees in this section with the agenda of the Pharisees and Herodians in the previous section.

2. Explain Jesus' evaluation of the Sadducees: "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

3. Comment on those portions unique to St. Luke's account.

Part 129 (St. Matthew 22:34-46; St. Mark 12:28-37; St. Luke 20:41-44)

1. Was the question posed to Jesus legitimate or not? Why or why not?

2. How did the teacher of the law demonstrate that he was “not far from the kingdom of God”?

3. Why did Jesus pose a question to the Pharisees?

4. What truths did Jesus teach by his words in the temple courts?

Part 130 (St. Matthew 23:1-39; St. Mark 12:38-40; St. Luke 20:45-47)

1. How did Jesus want the crowds to view the teachers of the law and the Pharisees? (*Consider Jesus’ words in Mark and Luke and his words in the opening verses of Matthew 23.*)

2. Evaluate: It’s wrong to call someone “Father” or “Teacher” or “Pastor,” because it robs God of the glory he deserves.

3. How did Jesus demonstrate genuine love and concern for the souls of the Pharisees and others in this section?

Part 131 (St. Mark 12:41-44; St. Luke 21:1-4)

1. What does this section teach us about our offerings in particular and our lives of service in general?

2. Why might Mark and Luke have included this while Matthew didn't?

Part 132 (St. John 12:20-36)

1. How do these verses help us to understand the crucifixion properly? (*What faulty ideas does it disprove?*)

2. Explain: The question that crowd posed in verse 34 demonstrates that they didn't understand what Jesus had said.

3. Why did Jesus hide himself from the crowd?

Part 133 (St. John 12:37-50)

1. Why didn't those who saw so many miraculous signs believe in Jesus?

2. Give contemporary examples of what the apostle addresses in verses 42 and 43.

3. Reconcile Jesus' words about judging with what he had said about his role on the Last Day. (*see his words in St. John 5:22,23*)

Part 134 (St. Matthew 24:1-42; St. Mark 13:1-37; St. Luke 21:5-38)

1. How is the destruction of Jerusalem connected with the end of the world?

2. Pick out the signs of the Savior's return in nature, in society, and in the visible church.

3. Agree or disagree? The events that precede the end of the world should terrify us.

4. Reconcile Jesus' words that "this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened" with the reality that the world has not as yet come to an end.

Part 135 (St. Matthew 25:1-13)

1. How does a 21st-Century Christian "keep watch"?

2. Why would this parable be included only in Matthew's Gospel? (*What particular warnings does this parable sound for his audience?*)

Part 136 (St. Matthew 25:31-46)

1. Answer the person who says, on the basis of this account, that life with God is to be gained by taking care of those in need.

2. Evaluate: This parable means to encourage us in our sanctified living.

3. How does this parable counteract popular conceptions of God?

Part 137 (St. Matthew 26:1-5, 14-19; St. Mark 14:1,2,10-16; St. Luke 22:1-13)

1. Why, if the chief priests and elders had determined not to arrest Jesus during the Feast, did they end up doing so?

2. Why did Judas go to the chief priests and offer to betray Jesus?

3. What was Jesus teaching the disciples by the instructions he gave for the celebration of the Passover?

Part 138 (St. John 13:1-20)

1. Why did Jesus wash his disciples' feet?

2. Explain Jesus' answer to Simon Peter's request for a "full-body" wash.

3. In what ways are Christians blessed in serving others?

Part 139 (St. Matthew 26:20-25; St. Mark 14:17-21; St. Luke 22:14-18, 21-23; St. John 13:21-30)

1. Comment on the way Jesus confronts Judas with his sin. (*What was Jesus trying to accomplish?*)

2. Agree or disagree? Because Scripture had prophesied that Jesus would be betrayed, and the Scriptures had to be fulfilled, Judas had no choice but to betray Jesus.

3. Comment on the progression of Judas' sin. What warnings are there for us?

Part 140 (St. Matthew 26:26-29; St. Mark 14:22-25; St. Luke 22:19,20)

1. How do we know what we are receiving when we participate in Holy Communion?

2. Explain the connection between the Lord's Supper and the celebration of the Passover.

3. Why would the Lord institute the Lord's Supper for the forgiveness of sins when we receive forgiveness through the Word he has already given?

Part 141 (St. Luke 22:24-30)

1. What do these verses reveal about the disciples?

2. How does Jesus demonstrate his definition of greatness? (*Apply his definition to your life as a Christian.*)

Part 142 (St. Matthew 26:33,34; St. Mark 14:29,30; St. Luke 22:31-38; St. John 13:31-38)

1. When and where did these events take place in the Maundy Thursday timeline? (*Any significance?*)

2. Evaluate: Every Christian must have this attitude regarding Christ: "I will lay down my life for you."

3. What is the glory of which Jesus speaks? (*Consider the possible answers and give reasons for your choice.*)

4. Why was "children" an appropriate label for the disciples in this section?

Part 143 (St. John 14)

1. List the promises that Jesus makes to his disciples and us in this chapter.

2. Jesus had previously told his disciples, "If you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one." (St. Luke 22:36) Reconcile that with the peace he promises in verse 27 of this chapter.

3. Evaluate: This section of Scripture explains the Trinity.

Part 144 (St. John 15)

1. Evaluate: Jesus makes our relationship with him conditioned upon whether or not we obey his commands.

2. What point is Jesus making by no longer calling us servants but friends?

3. Using only this chapter, respond to the person who says, "You are not a true Christian until you make the decision to accept Jesus into your heart."

4. What do you think of this statement? “The Christian who does not feel hated by the world needs to examine his faith.”

Part 145 (St. John 16)

1. What does Jesus teach his disciples about the ministry of the Holy Spirit?

2. What is the joy that Jesus promises his disciples?

3. Evaluate: The Father loves us because we love Jesus and believe in him. (verse 27)

4. Why is it so important for us to hear Jesus’ words in verse 33?

Part 146 (St. John 17)

1. Comment on the NIV’s heading (“Jesus Prays for Himself”) for the first part of what we typically call Jesus’ High Priestly Prayer.

2. What intercessory requests does Jesus offer for his disciples and why?

3. Agree or disagree? By the denominational divisions in the visible church we are stopping Jesus' prayer for unity from being answered.

Part 147 (St. Matthew 26:30-35; St. Mark 14:26-31; St. Luke 22:39; St. John 18:1)

1. How did Jesus know that the disciples would all fall away? (two answers)

2. Finish this sentence, in light of these verses: Let this be a warning to you . . .

Part 148 (St. Matthew 26:36-46; St. Mark 14:32-42; St. Luke 22:40-46; St. John 18:1,2)

1. What should we learn from Jesus' decision to take three of his disciples along with him as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane?

2. List the ways in which Jesus' prayer is a model prayer.

3. Comment on the way Jesus dealt with his disciples in this section.

4. Explain, using these verses: Prayer is powerful and effective.

Part 149 (St. Matthew 26:47-56; St. Mark 14:43-52; St. Luke 22:47-53; St. John 18:3-11)

1. Piece together a chronology of the events recorded in the different accounts.

2. How does Jesus love for sinners shine through in these events?

3. Comment on the differences in the Gospel writers' accounts.

Part 150 (St. Matthew 26:57,59-68 & 27:1,2; St. Mark 14:53,55-65; St. Luke 22:54,63-71; St. John 18:12-14,19-24)

1. Pick out the indignities that Jesus suffered in these trials.

2. Why didn't Jesus answer the accusations that were being raised against him?

3. How does this section answer those who say that Jesus never claimed to be God?

4. Comment on the differences between the Gospel writers' accounts.

Part 151 (St. Matthew 26:58,69-75; St. Mark 14:54,66-72; St. Luke 22:54-62; St. John 18:15-18,25-27)

1. What caused Peter, who had just before this drawn in sword in the face of an armed mob, to deny Jesus at the questioning of a lowly servant girl?

2. Comment on the timing of the crowing rooster and the eye contact shared between Peter and Jesus. (What purpose did these events serve for Peter?)

3. What differences do you notice when you compare the Gospel writers' accounts?

Part 152 (St. Matthew 27:3-10)

1. Evaluate: The sin that led Jesus to suicide and ultimately hell was greed.

2. In all their dealings with Judas, what was the greatest sin of the chief priests?

3. Starting with the events in the Upper Room, comment on the similarities between Peter's denial and Judas' betrayal. How is it that their outcomes were so different?

Part 153 (St. Matthew 27:11-14; St. Mark 15:1-5; St. Luke 23:1-12; St. John 18:28-38)

1. Why didn't the Sanhedrin, after declaring Jesus guilty of blasphemy, execute him? Why, upon handing him over to Pilate did they bring different charges against him?

2. Comment on Pilate's response to Jesus' description of his kingdom of truth.

3. Why didn't Jesus perform any miracles before Herod?

Part 154 (St. Matthew 27:15-30; St. Mark 15:6-20; St. Luke 23:13-25; St. John 18:39-19:16)

1. How is Barabbas a fitting representative for each of us?

2. Comment on Pilate's statement to Christ, "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Part 155 (St. Matthew 27:31-44; St. Mark 15:21-32; St. Luke 23:26-43; St. John 19:17-27)

1. Why didn't Jesus come down from the cross so the people witnessing his death would have to believe?

2. Why does Jesus say it? "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

3. Why does Jesus say it? "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

4. Why does Jesus say it? "'Dear woman, here is your son.' And to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'"

Part 156 (St. Matthew 27:45-56; St. Mark 15:33-41; St. Luke 23:44-49; St. John 19:28-30)

1. Why does Jesus say it? "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

2. Why does Jesus say it? "I am thirsty."

3. Why does Jesus say it? "It is finished."

4. Why does Jesus say it? "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit."

5. What was the significance of all the miracles that took place at Jesus' death?

Part 157 (St. Matthew 27:57-66; St. Mark 15:42-47; St. Luke 23:50-56; St. John 19:31-42)

1. What did the leaders of the Jews reveal about themselves by asking Pilate to have the legs of the men being crucified broken and the bodies taken down from the cross?

2. Why would St. John insist on the truthfulness of his testimony regarding the blood and water flowing from Jesus' side?

3. Comment on the actions of Joseph and Nicodemus.

4. Why was Jesus buried?

5. How did the plot of the chief priests and the Pharisees regarding the sealing of the tomb backfire on them?

Part 158 (St. Matthew 28:1-15; St. Mark 16:1-8; St. Luke 24:1-11)

1. What do these verses reveal about the women who had followed Jesus during his ministry?

2. The angels had a similar, yet different, effect on the soldiers and the women at the tomb. Explain.

3. St. Mark's account has the angel telling the women, "Go, tell his disciples **and Peter**, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee.'" Why would he include that when the others Evangelists didn't?

4. What does the plan devised by the chief priests and elders reveal about them?

Part 159 (St. Mark 16:9-11; St. Luke 24:12; St. John 20:1-18)

1. Why does St. John make mention of the strips of linen and the burial cloth?

2. Put together a chronology of events at the tomb, with particular attention to the angels' appearance.

3. Why would Jesus tell Mary not to hold on to him?

Part 160 (St. Mark 16:12,13; St. Luke 24:13-35)

1. Evaluate: The disciples on the way to Emmaus were so overcome with grief that they didn't even recognize Jesus.

2. Explain: These disciples both acknowledged Jesus as a prophet and failed to acknowledge him as a prophet.

3. What important lesson/practice did Jesus teach these Emmaus-bound disciples?

4. Why did Jesus disappear from their sight when they recognized him?

Part 161 (St. Mark 16:14; St. Luke 24:36-43; St. John 20:19-31)

1. How did Jesus demonstrate amazing grace in his appearance to his disciples on Easter Sunday evening?

2. Why would Thomas have been so slow to believe what the other disciples had told him about Jesus' appearance?

3. What does St. John reveal about the purpose of his Gospel in verses 30 and 31?

Part 162 (St. John 21)

1. What valuable lessons was Jesus teaching his disciples by the account recorded in the first fourteen verses?

2. Jesus had reinstated the disciples on Easter Sunday evening when he gave them the ministry of the keys. Why would Jesus then reinstate Peter a second time?

3. Demonstrate, from this reinstatement, that Peter was a changed man.

Part 163 (St. Matthew 28:16-20; St. Mark 16:15-18; St. Luke 24:44-48)

1. Comment on the disciples' two-fold response to seeing Jesus as St. Matthew records it in verse 17.

2. Christ's commission to "Go and make disciples of all nations" does not stand alone. What are the many assurances that surround this command?

3. Why did Jesus give the apostles the power to perform signs and miracles?

Part 164 (St. Mark 16:19,20; St. Luke 24:49-53)

1. To what is St. Luke referring in verse 49?

2. Where is “the right hand of God”?

3. Evaluate: Jesus’ ascension signified that his work was done and that the work of the church had begun.
