



# Introducing John's Gospel

## Lesson Overview

### 1. Read

The Old and New Testaments are different.

### 2. Watch a Video

Watch *The Four Gospels* at [bit.ly/4Gospels](http://bit.ly/4Gospels).

### 3. Read

Discover more about differences between the gospels, pp.1-2.

### 4. Watch a Video

Watch *The Life of Jesus* at [bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn](http://bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn). And discuss. p. 2

### New Church Concept A Visible God

That which is invisible cannot come into the thought, nor, consequently, into the affection of the will; and what does not come into the thought, does not enter into the faith, for what pertains to faith must be an object of thought. So also what does not enter into the affection of the will, does not enter into the love, for the things which pertain to the love must affect a person's will, as all a person's love resides in the will. But the Divine Human of the Lord Jesus Christ can be thought of and enter into the faith, and thence into the affection of the will, or into the love. *Apocalypse Explained* 114

## FaithBuilder 3 | Lesson 5 | Gospel of John

The law (Old Testament) given through Moses is a book of rules, such as the Ten Commandments. Just as people must learn the rules of the road before they know how to drive on the road, people must learn the laws of life before they can live rightly, or lead a good life. The Bible's two testaments together form a book of rules, followed by a book of living examples showing the rules being used in daily life.

The New Testament gives a new picture of God. The God of the Old Testament is made visible in human form as a person people could see, know, interact with and love, full of "grace and truth," the "Word made flesh," "the light of the world."

### Watch a Video

The New Testament contains four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. "Gospel" means "good news"—the good news about the Lord God Jesus Christ. Encourage students to start thinking about the New Testament:

1. Why are there four accounts of Jesus' life?
2. Which gospels are similar?
3. Which gospel is different?

We are going to watch a short children's video highlighting similarities and differences between the gospels. The video also mentions their authors.

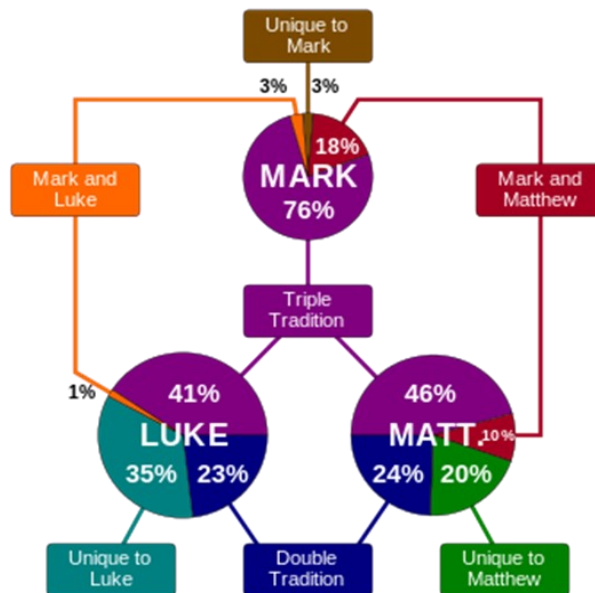
Watch *The Four Gospels* at [bit.ly/4Gospels](http://bit.ly/4Gospels). (Enter the bitly link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.)

1. What does "synoptic" mean? (single eye or single point of view)
2. Which gospels are "synoptic"? (Matthew, Mark and Luke)
3. What is different about John? (written later, by the disciple Jesus loved, less about events and more about the spirit)

### Read

A chart on the next page shows how the texts of the synoptic gospels are similar in greater detail. The gospel of John takes such a different approach to the Lord's life that is not easily compared with the other gospels.

John is sometimes called "the gospel of love." It is written from the point of view of the disciple John "whom Jesus loved." John includes key teachings about Jesus' identity, and gives the clearest picture we have of the connection between Jesus, the Son of God and God the Father. Other themes in John include repentance—recognizing sins and shunning them as evil, and what it is to be "born again" of the spirit through starting a new life.

Relationships between the  
Synoptic Gospels

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synoptic\\_Gospels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Synoptic_Gospels)

**Watch a Video**

Watch John 1:1-18 from *The Life of Jesus . English . Official Full HD Movie . English*. The “script” is taken directly from the Word (Good News Bible translation.) Watch online at [bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn](http://bit.ly/GCEDGospelOfJohn). (Enter link in the web browser bar at the top of your screen.) (*Start the video at 0min 50sec and watch until 4min 32sec; 3min 42sec.*)

**Discuss**

Have copies of the Word available for students to use during the discussion.

*Choose one or two questions for discussion.*

- How would you describe the Gospel of John's approach to the life of Jesus?
  - Literal
  - Spiritual
  - Philosophical
- The first chapter of John is the closest we have to a “Christmas” story in John. In what way does this selection relate to the Lord's birth?
- What symbols does John use to describe Jesus and His mission in the world?
- What is the overall message of this section of John?
- How does the gospel writer contrast what people knew before Jesus came into the world, with what they knew after He came?
- Try telling the story in your own words. Can you put it into plain English?

At birth a person comes into the natural degree, and this increases according to knowledge and understanding acquired thereby, until one reaches the highest point of the understanding, which is called the rational. The second degree, which is spiritual, is opened by the love of uses arising out of the things of the understanding, namely, by the spiritual love of uses, which love is love towards the neighbor. The third degree, which is celestial, is opened by the celestial love of use, which is love for the Lord; and love to the Lord is committing the precepts of the Word to life, which is to shun evils because they are infernal and diabolical, and to do goods because they are heavenly and Divine. See *Divine Love and Wisdom* 237

**Grace and Truth**

The Divine Truths which the Lord spoke are called words of grace proceeding out of His mouth, because they were acceptable, grateful, and delightful. In general, Divine grace is everything given by the Lord. To be gifted with faith and love, or with the affection of truth from good, is to be gifted with heaven, thus with eternal blessedness. *Apocalypse Explained* 22.

**Father and Son**

By Father is meant the Divine Good and by Son is meant the Divine Truth, both in the Lord. From the Divine Good, which is the Father, nothing can proceed or come forth but what is Divine, and that which proceeds or comes forth is Divine Truth, which is the Son. *Arcana Coelestia* 3704