

Bible Challenge 2014
Going Deeper – Questions for Readings
Week 40

What does the term “Gospel” mean and why do you think it is applied to the life stories of Jesus of Nazareth?

Who is John the Baptist and what is prophesied about his life and ministry before he is born? (Luke 1)

Why do you think the Gospel of Matthew begins with a genealogy? What does it tell us? Why is it significant?

Write down the details of the birth narratives of Jesus found in Matthew 2, Luke 2, and John 1. What is similar about these accounts? What is different? What does each account reveal about the nature and character of Jesus? Why do you think the Gospel of Mark does not include a birth narrative?

What is unique about the story told in Luke 2:41-52?

Write down the details of Jesus’ baptism found in Matthew 3, Mark 1, and Luke 3. What is similar about these accounts? What is different? What does each account reveal about the nature and character of Jesus?

What were the three main temptations that Jesus was faced with in his forty days in the wilderness following his baptism? How did he overcome these temptations? What can we learn from this story about how to overcome temptations in our own life?

Who is Satan? How is Satan described and depicted in the temptation stories in Matthew, Mark, and Luke? Does this match with our traditional cultural depictions of Satan? Why or why not?

Who does Jesus call as his first disciples? Why do you think they were chosen? What does their selection reveal about what it takes to be a disciple of Christ?

Why was Jesus rejected in his hometown of Nazareth and thrown out of the synagogue? What prophesy did he claim to be fulfilling and why was his proclamation so controversial? (Luke 4:16-30) How does Jesus' proclamation about himself align with John the Baptist's testimony about him? (John 1:19-34)

Write down the words to John 3:16. Why is this widely considered the most significant verse in all of Christian scripture? What does it mean theologically? What does it reveal about the nature and character of God?

Why do you think the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well would have been seen as radical or even revolutionary by the religious leaders of his day? (John 4)

Who are the Pharisees? Why do you think Jesus is often at odds with them? How does Mark 2:23-28 shed light on the nature of this theological conflict?