



THE BIBLE

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY

The Bible - The Story Behind the Story - Week 5

Message Discussion Questions

Introduction:

This week Chance continues a new series called 'The Bible - The Story Behind the Story'. For this series we will look at what the Bible is and how the Bible can change our lives. The Bible is Reliable, Relatable and Relational.

For Part 5 the title of the message is, 'The Bible - History of the Gospels'. What do you know about the Gospels? What are the Gospels? This week Chance is walking us through the History of the Gospels.

Questions:

1. What are three of the things that happened in the world during the 400 years of silence between the prophet Malachi and Jesus? How would those things have helped to prepare the world for the Messiah?
2. How does the Old Testament point towards the Gospel? Do you know what the Gospel is, how would you tell someone what the term means? Is there value in 'Good News' to you?
3. What is interesting about each of the writers of the Gospels? Why are the books from Matthew, Mark and Luke known as Synoptic Gospels? Is it important that they all have a unique view of Jesus? Does it matter that all four of the Gospels line up?
4. Who was Matthew? Why did Matthew write his Gospel? What value does he provide writing from a Jewish perspective? Why is the genealogy of Jesus important? How important is it that Matthew wrote down what Jesus did for you? Matthew 7:21-23
5. Who was Mark? What perspective does Mark provide in his Gospel? How does he present Jesus as a

servant leader? Why is the geography of Jesus' life important? How does it help you to know that God is always on the move, and that the Kingdom of Heaven is near? Mark 1:1-3; Mark 10:41-45

6. Who was Luke? How does Luke's Gospel focus on the good news being for the Gentile as well as for the Jew? How does the history that Luke provides prove who Jesus is? Why does Luke connect the Old Testament prophecies to Jesus? Luke 4:16-19; Isaiah 61:1-2
7. Who was John? As Jesus' best friend, what can you learn from the Gospel of John? Why does John refer to Jesus as the Word? Does John showing how Jesus loves present Him as both human and God? Is it important to you personally that Jesus is the light of the world? John 8:12

Key Takeaway: *Don't mistake God's silence for His absence. Look for the intentional ways that God is working in your life. During His silence He may be preparing you for what He has ahead for your life.*

Summary:

- 400 years of silence from Malachi to Jesus
 - Pax Romana (30 BC-180 AD)
 - Greek language (130-100 BC)
 - Rome builds roads (310 BC)
- What is the Gospel? Synoptic Gospels - reading with one eye
- Who wrote the Gospels?
 - Tax collector - Matthew
 - Friend of Peter - Mark
 - Doctor - Luke
 - Jesus' friend - John
- Why they wrote the Gospels:
 - Matthew
 - Mark
 - Luke
 - John