

1. What was Passover and how was it celebrated?

a) A Passover including the traditional Seder meal was an expensive undertaking. All the food had to be brought from home, cooked on site or purchased from vendors. The most expensive component might have been the Passover lamb. It must be a young animal, without blemish that passed the inspection entering the Temple gates. It would be presented to the Priests, who slaughtered it (according to kosher laws), cooked it, retained some of it for their needs and returned a portion to the man who offered it for his family's Passover.

b) Passover was a vital remembrance of the intervention of God in the plight of the Hebrew slaves in Egypt...

2. Jesus must have been very excited about this big occasion. As a 12 year old, it's logical that he could have most recently been through bar mitzvah. He would have stood before his synagogue in Nazareth after hours and hours of instruction and delivered this important line, "Today, I am a man."
3. Think about a 12 year old being declared a man.
4. Was this his first Passover in Jerusalem? Did his family go every year? We don't know. After celebrating the Seder meal, Jesus' family packed up for the 3 day return trip.
5. After traveling for a day, Mary and Joseph realized that Jesus was missing. How could that happen? Some have speculated that being Jesus' first trip after becoming a man, his parents were confused about whose company he would be in. Mary thought that he would be traveling with the men as a new "man". Joseph assumed that Jesus was where he had always been, traveling with the women and children. Hurriedly, they rushed back to Jerusalem. Where would he be? Had Jesus been fascinated with some part of Jerusalem and lost track of time? Was he like a kid in a candy store or was he attracted to the food court or was there the equivalent of a new video game store? Did he remember what parents always tell their children if they get lost? Stay where you are, we'll come find you.
6. It took them a day to realize he was gone. The better part of a day getting back to Jerusalem and the third day to find

him. Where was he? He was in the Temple talking with the elders. Somewhere I got the idea that 12 year old Jesus was lecturing. I used to have this image of all these old men sitting around listening to Jesus' TED talk.

Luke 2: ⁴¹ Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. ⁴² And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. ⁴³ And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, ⁴⁴ but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, ⁴⁵ and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. ⁴⁶ After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷ And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸ And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." ⁴⁹ And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰ And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. ⁵¹ And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. ⁵² And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man. Luke 2:41-52

7. That's actually a little confusing. He was asked them questions and they were amazed at his answers.
8. A couple of final points. His mother scolding him but calmly Jesus kind of reminded her where he came from. And the last thing is a bit surprising, he went down with them (because the Temple is always up) to Nazareth and he was submissive or obedient to them. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature. I can see 12 year old Jesus getting taller but is it surprising to imagine that Jesus can get wiser.
9. Closing Prayer

II. Lesson 3 - John the Baptist, Jesus' Baptism and Temptation"

- A. Next week (June 24 and 26) "Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, the Call of the Disciples (two views) and Ministry around the Sea of Galilee"

B. Off until Wednesday and Friday July 15 and 17 "Jesus' Ministry in Galilee including Healing Miracles and His Power of Natural Forces (feeding 5000, walking on water, etc.)

C. John the Baptist

1. John's life parallels Jesus' in some respects

- a) Miracle birth
- b) Cousins of some nature
- c) Mother's Pregnant at the same time
- d) Mary visits Elizabeth (why? Female relatives often attended one another during last days before birth, but Mary left before John was born) Is the answer to why that we needed to hear the relationship and that John jumped for joy when Mary and unborn Jesus came into the presence of Elizabeth and unborn John?
- e) John is the forerunner of Jesus as Elijah was to be to the Messiah

2. Gospel writers want us to know that John understood his place.

- a) John was better known than Jesus for a time and for a long time in some circles.
- b) There was speculation that John was the Messiah. Remember, when Jesus asked his disciples "Who do other say that I am?"
- c) Baptism scene in John in which John says that Jesus should baptism him.
- d) Gospel of John records, "6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. 9 The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. 12 But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, 13 who were born, not of

blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. **15** (John bore witness about him, and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me."") 16 For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. John 1:6-18

D. Jesus' Baptism

1. **Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan. Where in the Jordan? In the Holy Land today, there are two baptismal sites and some scholars suggest a third. The likely site is Bethany Beyond the Jordan (the Jordan side of the Jordan River just miles away from the Dead Sea). The other site is on the Jordan just below the Sea of Galilee...And the third possible site is on the Jordan River just above the Sea of Galilee.**
2. **What are the possible reasons for each site? No scholar that I know of thinks it was just below the Sea of Galilee. This location is just a pretty site that pilgrims have been visiting for a long time that is fully within the control of Israel.**
3. **Why Bethany Beyond the Jordan? John the Baptist was from Judea and his family must have lived close enough to the Temple for his father the priest Zechariah to serve. The Bible reports that all of Jerusalem came to be baptized by him. The site nearer to Jerusalem makes a lot more sense. There are ancient Christian ruins in the area of Bethany Beyond the Jordan.**
4. **What happened at his baptism?**
5. **Why is baptism so important today?**
 - a) **Methodists and most Christian view baptism as a sign of God's love and acceptance of every human life. Discuss baptism and confirmation...**
 - b) **Baptists, Church of Christ and other view baptism as a person's acceptance of Jesus Christ.**
 - c) **Modes of Baptism**

- (1) Sprinkling
- (2) Pouring
- (3) Immersion

E. The Temptation of Christ

- 1. Judean Wilderness
- 2. What happened?
- 3. Why is this important?

III. Lesson 4 “Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, the Call of the Disciples (two views)”

- A. Weeks ahead...
- B. I love reading the Bible in context. I love piecing the different accounts in the Bible together. Most people have never considered doing this. Most people read the Bible in sequence and don't have time to closely exam how it fits together and sometimes doesn't.
- C. Read article “Biblical Fishing 101 Reeling in the First Fishers of Faith”
- D. What's important about the call of the disciples? They left their nets (or other jobs) and followed Jesus around Galilee for as much as three years.
- E. What is the traditional explanation of the call of the disciples?
 - 1. Peter and Andrew are on the shore of the Sea of Galilee (probably near Capernaum-locate that on the map) repairing their nets because they have been fishing all night.
 - a) We need to rethink what we think we know about fishing. Most fisherpersons today fish with a rod and reel and do it during the day.
 - b) In the 1st century, these fishermen on the Sea of Galilee fished with nets at night or often at night when the linen nets were less visible to the fish. Sometimes, the nets were strung between two boats and the boats came together and trapped the fish, but often a pair of fishermen worked with two partners as it seems that Peter, Andrew, James and John did.

2. Taxes were as much as 40% and therefore fishermen hated tax collectors as much as everyone else did.
- F. Mark was written first and Matthew and Luke are based on Mark. However, Mark and Matthew's timeline for the call of the disciples is different from Luke.
 1. Mark and Matthew set the call of the disciples before Jesus healed Simon Peter's mother-in-law.
 2. Luke is different. Luke 4:31 - 5:11

31 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, 32 and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 "Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent and come out of him!" And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, "What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!" 37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44 And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

1 On one occasion, while the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 and he saw two boats by the lake, but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. 3 Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. 4 And when he had finished speaking, he said to

Simon, “Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch.” 5 And Simon answered, “Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets.” 6 And when they had done this, they enclosed a large number of fish, and their nets were breaking. 7 They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, “Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” 9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish that they had taken, 10 and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching men.” 11 And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

3. Luke sets it after and adds the details that Peter was cleaning his nets after fishing all night when Jesus asks him if he can preach from his boat. Then Jesus tells Peter to push out into the deep water for a big catch. After the fish almost break the nets, Jesus invites the fishermen to come and follow me.

G. The Gospel of John provides none of this detail.

1. John 1: 19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, “Who are you?” 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, “I am not the Christ.” 21 And they asked him, “What then? Are you Elijah?” He said, “I am not.” “Are you the Prophet?” And he answered, “No.” 22 So they said to him, “Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?” 23 He said, “I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord,’ as the prophet Isaiah said.”

24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, “Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?” 26 John answered them, “I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie.” 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

29 The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! 30 This is he of whom I said, After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.’ 31 I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel.” 32 And John bore

witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.” John 1:19-34

2. The Gospel of John implies that John did not know Jesus.
3. John never mentions calling the disciples by the Sea or even gives a list of who was called to be a disciple. John doesn’t even state directly that John baptized Jesus. However, it will be evident that he did from a statement he said...
4. John explains that Andrew, Peter, Philip and Nathanael had already left Galilee to follow John the Baptist. John didn’t recognize Jesus until he saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove.

35 The next day again John was standing with two of his disciples, 36 and he looked at Jesus as he walked by and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God!” 37 The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned and saw them following and said to them, “What are you seeking?” And they said to him, “Rabbi” (which means Teacher), “where are you staying?” 39 He said to them, “Come and you will see.” So they came and saw where he was staying, and they stayed with him that day, for it was about the tenth hour. 40 One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which means Christ). 42 He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, “You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas” (which means Peter). 43 The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, “Follow me.” 44 Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. 45 Philip found Nathanael and said to him, “We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.” 46 Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.” 47 Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward him and said of him, “Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom there is no deceit!” 48 Nathanael said to him, “How do you know me?” Jesus answered him, “Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you.” 49 Nathanael answered him, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!”
John 1:35-49

IV. Lesson 5 (Ministry around the Sea of Galilee)

- A. Next week – finish Galilean Ministry and move to Judea and Jerusalem
- B. Galilean Ministry – there are four different roadmaps each from a different Gospel
 - 1. Look at the maps
 - 2. What is Jesus' first miracle? Everyone answers, "Turning water into wine at Cana in Galilee." Why does everyone say that? That's what people say because that's what the Gospel of John says, but this miracle is not told in the other three Gospels. Therefore, can it be the first miracle in the other three?
 - 3. Let's look at the places in Galilee that figure prominently in the Gospels.
 - a) Capernaum – Peter's mother-in-law, the Centurion's servant healed, leader of the synagogue's daughter raised from the dead
 - b) Nazareth – Jesus is asked to read...
 - c) Mt. of Precipice
 - d) Nain – widow's son
 - e) Mt. of Beatitudes – Sermon on the Mount
 - f) Loaves and fish – beside the Sea
 - g) Tyre & Sidon – the Canaanite woman's daughter
 - h) Gergesa – the demoniac
 - i) Sea of Galilee – calming the storm, walking on the water
 - j) Caesarea Philippi – Peter's confession
 - k) Mt. Hermon or Mt. Tabor – the Transfiguration
 - l) A mountain in Galilee – Matthew 28
 - m) Primacy of Peter – Resurrection appearance

V. Lesson 6 (Jesus outside Galilee)

- A. According to the Synoptic Gospels, Jesus spent most of his ministry in Galilee.
1. He was from Galilee, his disciples were from Galilee, Jesus spent most of his ministry in Galilee if you are only reading Matthew, Mark and Luke.
 2. Still, Jesus did travel outside Galilee.
 - a) He went to the region of Tyre and Sidon and ultimately healed a Canaanite or Syro-Phoenician woman's daughter.
 - b) He traveled across the Sea of Galilee and healed a Gerasene man who was possessed by 2000 demons.
 - c) The Transfiguration may have occurred on Mt. Hermon outside of Galilee.
 3. What other activities and miracle occurred outside Galilee?
 - a) When we utilize the Gospel of John, we find several occasions when Jesus ministered outside of Galilee before he went to Jerusalem for his final week of life.
 - b) Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well...
 - c) Blind Bartimaeus outside of Jericho...
 - d) Zacchaeus in Jericho...
 - e) Lazarus in Bethany...
 - f) Passing along between Samaria and Galilee. Luke 17:11...Jesus heals 10 lepers and only one returns to give thanks...

VI. Jerusalem – Lesson 7 Final

- A. Mt. of Olives
- B. Calvary
- C. Temple Mount
- D. Fortress Antonio
- E. The Temple

- F. Teaching Steps**
- G. Golden Gate**
- H. Bethlehem**
- I. Shepherd's Fields**
- J. Herodian Fortress**
- K. Jericho**
- L. Jordan River**
- M. Bethany Beyond the Jordan**
- N. Qumran**
- O. Masada**
- P. Mt. Nebo**
- Q. Gerash**
- R. The Dead Sea**

VII. Samaria

- A. Sychar**
- B. Jacob's Well**
- C. Mt. Geribella**
- D. Caesarea Maritima**
- E. Mt. Arabel**

VIII. Jerusalem

- A. Old City**
- B. Temple Mount**
- C. The Temple**
- D. Teaching Steps**
- E. Golden Gate**

- F. Kidron Valley**
- G. City of David**
- H. Upper Room**
- I. Home of the High Priest**
- J. Herod's Palace**
- K. Bethany**
- L. Garden of Gethsemane**
- M. Fortress Antonio**
- N. Western Wall**
- O. Pool of Bethesda**

IX. Emmaus