



Children's Ministry Update

Year of Matthew

YEAR A: Matthew

Volume 12 Edition 3: 2017

From the Team

Dear Fellow-Catechists,

Greetings and welcome to our third newsletter for this year. Carmen and I hope that you have been travelling well so far this year in both your personal lives and in your ministries. In this newsletter, we offer you some resources on the Gospel Writers - Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

It has been wonderful to see so many people take up the training for Children's Liturgy of the Word. Please remember that you may like to invite to the training anyone who may be interested and would like to 'come and see' what it is all about. It is a wonderful and simple process and occurs during the Liturgy of the Word at Mass.

Later this year, you will receive resources for the 'Blessing of the Cribs' Mass in your parishes. Please remember that all families are welcome to the 'Blessing of the Cribs' Mass at the Cathedral on Sunday 3rd December at the 6pm Family Mass. At this Mass, children can present the cribs they have made or bought for a blessing. Please let families know that there is parking available in the Cathedral car park.

The Godly Play core training is a good opportunity to become storytellers within any of the children's ministries where you can open up the gospel stories. After the training, your parish may be interested in setting up a Godly Play room or you can take the stories with you as they are very portable. We suggest that you consider this with your parish who could subsidise you for the training.

If you or any one in your parish has been involved in Children's ministries for the past 25 years, please contact us at this office. A Papal Blessing will be presented at the Catechist's Commissioning Mass next year. However, we need the details by Monday 2nd October at the latest.

Wishing you every blessing and peace,

Sr Jenny Seal and Carmen Balales

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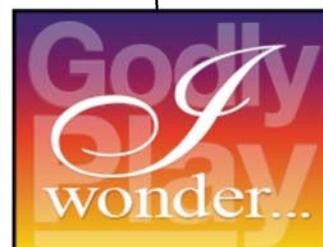
GODLY PLAY CORE TRAINING

When: OCTOBER 3,4,5

Where: ADELAIDE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY, BROOKLYN PARK

Further details contact Judyth Roberts:

judythroberts@gmail.com or 0434884625

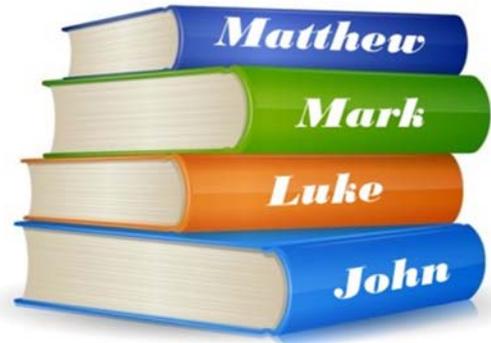


THE GOSPEL WRITERS

The gospels are not biographies in the modern sense of the word. Rather, they are stories told in such a way as to suggest a particular image of Jesus for a particular audience. They aim to communicate a message about Jesus, about his significance to the audience and thus we have to think of them as preaching, as well as story telling. That is what the gospel, The Good News, is really about.

The four gospels that we find in the New Testament, are of course, **Matthew, Mark, Luke** and **John**. The first three of these are known as the "synoptic gospels," because they are similar in the way that they tell the story, often in the same sequence. Tradition holds that the authors were two of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus, John and Matthew, as well as two "apostolic men," Mark and Luke.

Of these then, Mark is the earliest, probably written between 65-70. Matthew is next, written between 75-85, followed by Luke is being written between 80-90. Lastly, John's gospel is dated around 95, although it may have been completed slightly later than that, as well.



Matthew – a former tax collector who was called by Jesus to be one of the Twelve Apostles

Mark – a follower of Peter and so an apostolic man

Luke – a doctor who also wrote the book of Acts (or Acts of the Apostles)

John – a disciple of Jesus and possibly the youngest of his Twelve Apostles

They are called evangelists, a word meaning "people who proclaim good news," because their books aim to tell the "good news", the Gospel of Jesus.

Matthew the Evangelist, is symbolised by a winged man, or angel. Matthew's gospel starts with Joseph's genealogy from Abraham; it represents Jesus' Incarnation, and so Christ's human nature.

Mark the Evangelist, is symbolised by a winged lion – a figure of courage and monarchy. The lion also represents Jesus' resurrection (because lions were believed to sleep with open eyes) and Christ as king.

Luke the Evangelist, is symbolised by a winged ox or bull – a figure of sacrifice, service and strength. Luke's account begins with the duties of Zacharias in the temple; it represents Jesus' sacrifice in His Passion and Crucifixion, as well as Christ being High priest (this also represents Mary's obedience).

John the Evangelist, is symbolised by an eagle – a figure of the sky, and believed by Christian scholars to be able to look straight into the sun. John starts with an eternal overview of Jesus the Logos and goes on to describe many things with a "higher" Christology than the other three (synoptic) gospels; it represents Jesus' Ascension, and Christ's divine nature.



THE GOSPEL WRITERS

The Gospel of Matthew Matthew is the first gospel of the four. This gospel was written for people familiar with the Old Testament, both the Law of Moses and the prophets. Matthew makes more references to the Old Testament than any other gospel. Matthew takes great care to show how Jesus fulfills the prophecies made about him earlier in the Bible—especially focusing on Jesus' role as the Messiah. (The promised king descended from David.)

The Gospel of Mark This is the shortest gospel according to early church tradition, this gospel was written by the same man who backed out of his missionary journey with Paul and Barnabas (Ac 15:37–39), but aided the apostle Peter later in life, and this gospel is an arranged collection of Peter's memories of Jesus. Mark was written for a wide audience. This gospel focuses on Jesus' role as the suffering servant and son of God. While the other gospels contain long discourses and sermons of Jesus, Mark is all about action. This is where we see Jesus doing many things.

The Gospel of Luke This is the longest of the four gospels. Luke is the historical, journalistic Gospel: a thorough account of the episodes in Jesus' life arranged in chronological order. This gospel was written to establish believers in the teachings of Jesus (Lk 1:1–4). Jesus is portrayed as the seeking saviour of all nations (Lk 2:30–32). It was and continues to be a rich story of Jesus' life and ministry.

The Gospel of John John is the persuasive Gospel. It's written to show the miracles of Jesus, so that those who read his story will believe in him and have everlasting life (Jn 20:30–31). John's account of Jesus' teachings and miracles show the divine nature of Jesus Christ and has a very different feel from the other three. The way the gospel starts is a good illustration of this... Mark begins with Jesus' baptism. Luke begins with the happenings surrounding Jesus' birth. Matthew begins with Abraham, and traces the generations down to Jesus. But John takes us all the way back to the very first words of the Bible: "In the beginning" (Jn 1:1). John is telling the story of the divine being who became flesh, dwelt among us, and died so that we might have everlasting life.



As you read the gospels, ask these questions:

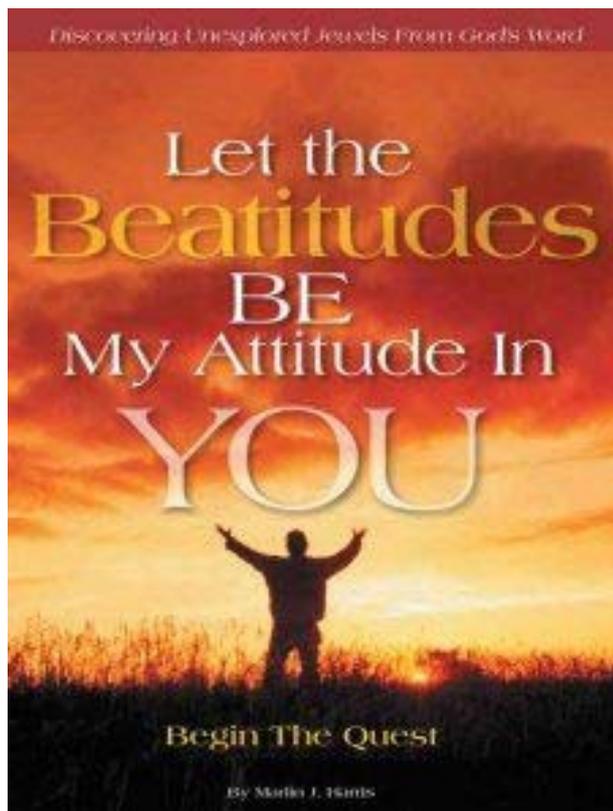
- What does Jesus say about himself?
 - Whom is Jesus talking to? (This is vital. Is he talking to his disciples, his enemies, a massive crowd?)
 - What does Jesus say about God?
 - How does Jesus react to different situations? What pleases him? What upsets him?
- What does Jesus tell people to do?

Gospel	Presented as	Audience	Emphasis	Begins with	Ends
Matthew	King	Jews	prophecy fulfilled	Abraham David	Resurrection
Mark	Servant	Romans	action	none	Ascension
Luke	Man	Greeks	Ideas	Adam	Promise of Spirit
John	God	all men	spiritual	Eternity	Invitation

MAKING CONNECTIONS within the Family

THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Look at the poster below.



Jesus says this to each of us.

Read about the Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12

Which beatitude (be-attitude) speaks the most to you now?

Write a prayer to Jesus.

Write or draw how you can live this beattitude in your life at school and in the family.

Discuss as a family which beatitude is important to live at the moment.

How can we do this as a family?

THE GOSPEL OF MARK

As a family, read the story of the Feeding of the 5000 in Mark's Gospel (Mk 6:30-44) or find it on u tube.

I wonder what part of the story you liked the best?

Five Loaves and Two Fishes Song (to tune of Ten Little Indians)

One little boy shared his lunch (three times)
And Jesus fed five thousand.

Five little loaves and two little fishes (three times)
Jesus fed five thousand.

Took the food, prayed and broke it (three times)
Then passed it to the apostles.

Each one ate until he was full (three times)
And there were still left overs.

Twelve basketfuls were left over (three times)
After each had eaten.



MAKING CONNECTIONS

within the Family

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Look at the parables of mercy in the Gospel of Luke or find them on max7 (google):

- The Lost Sheep Lk chapter 15, verses 1-7
- The Lost Coin Lk 15:8-10
- The Lost Son Lk 15:11-24
- The Good Samaritan Lk 10:25-37

Each family member chooses their favourite one.

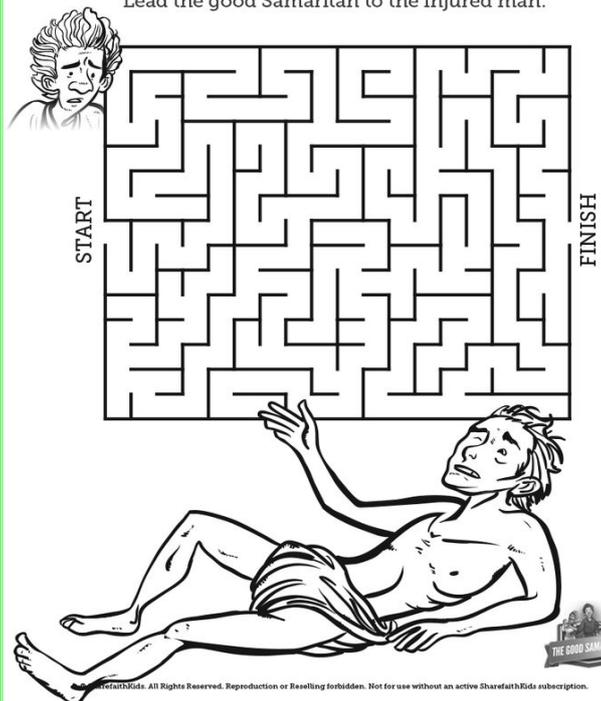
Take turns and

- tell each other why you like this one the best
- share how you can live this in your family life

Google and find some activity sheets like the one below.

THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Lead the good Samaritan to the injured man.



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THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



Read about the Wedding Feast that Jesus and his mother Mary went to in the town of Cana from the Gospel of John: Jn 2:1-11

- I wonder if you have ever been to a wedding?
- I wonder what it was like to be at the wedding with Jesus and his friends?
- I wonder why Jesus' wine was the best wine?
- I wonder what the people thought when they saw Jesus change the water into wine?

Draw a large water pot like those in the picture.

On the water pot, write a prayer to Jesus.

Thank him for helping people in need.

Pray your prayer for someone who needs Jesus' help.

CATECHISTS' PRAYER

Gathering as God's people,
We come seeking rest:
rest from our busyness, and respite from all that trouble us,
rest that renews and refreshment that restores.
We come remembering that God has been faithful
and trusting that God will continue to call us and strengthen us.
We remember this through all the Gospel stories of God's infinite and personal care for us.

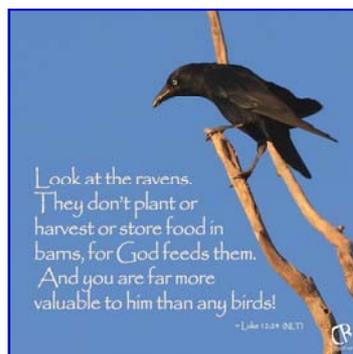
Jesus said to his disciples:
'I tell you not to worry about the food you need to stay alive
or about the clothes you need for your body.
Life is much more important than food
and the body much more important than clothes.
Look at the crows:
they don't plant seeds or gather a harvest;
they don't have storage rooms or barns;
God feeds them!
You are worth so much more than birds!
Can you live a bit longer by worrying about it?'

(Luke 12:22-25 The Catholic Children's Bible 2012 St Mary's Press)

Let us spend some time in reflection
about how God feeds, nurtures and nourishes us in our lives?

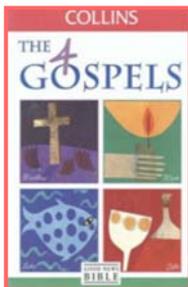
Do I see God as one who is my nurturer,
loving me personally
and abundantly?

Let us allow God to fill our heart.



RESOURCES

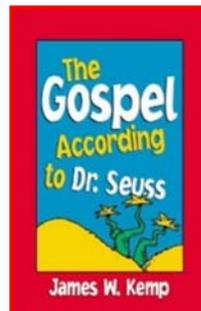
GOSPEL WRITERS – Matthew, Mark, Luke & John



The 4 GOSPELS

by Michael KEENE

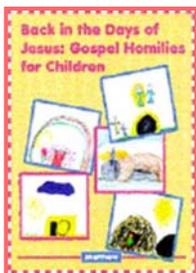
Using the actual text of the 'Good News Bible' the Gospels are presented in a child-friendly way and in a clear and stimulating format.



The Gospel according to Dr. Seuss

By James W. KEMP

How on earth could someone say that Seuss's stories would come to play a role in God's great Word today. Read this book and you will see how this connection came to be!

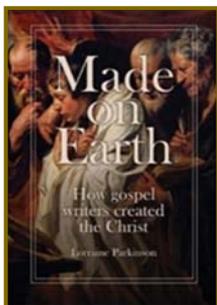


Back in the Days of Jesus: Gospel Homilies for Children: Matthew / Mark/ Luke/ John

by Joyce A. Stengel

4 books in the Series

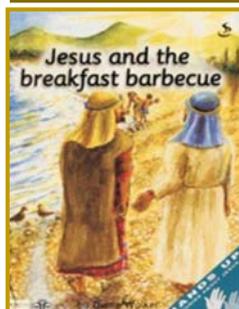
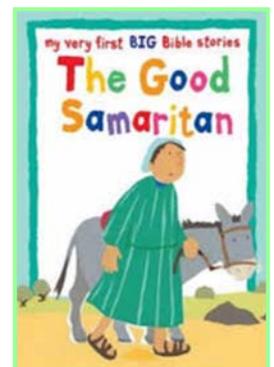
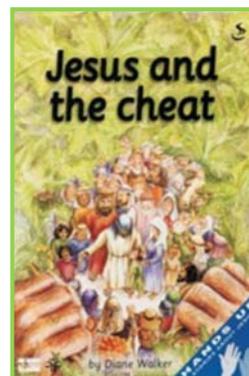
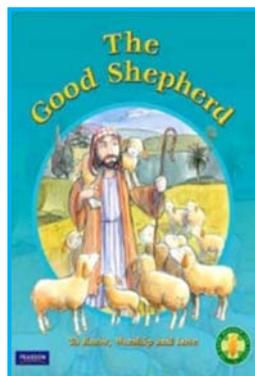
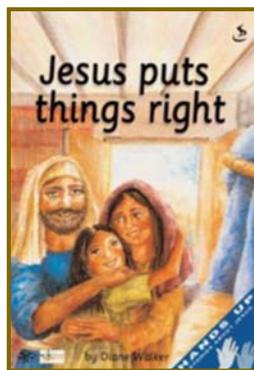
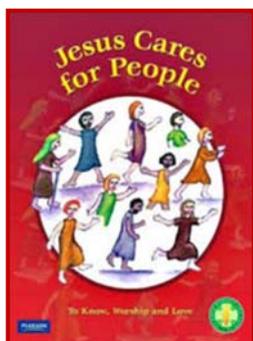
Beloved gospel stories spring to life:
4 – 8 year olds



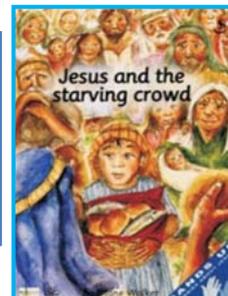
Made on Earth: How gospel writers created the Christ

by Lorraine Parkinson

Preface by the Author: "First an explanation of the purpose of this book. I have written it to try to bring some clarity to the considerably confusing picture of Jesus in four canonical gospels. As I will point out, there is profound misunderstanding in the church regarding 'the gospel of Christ' and 'the gospel of Jesus'. The gospels themselves contain both of those versions of 'good news'".



BIG BOOKS



Your Parish Story

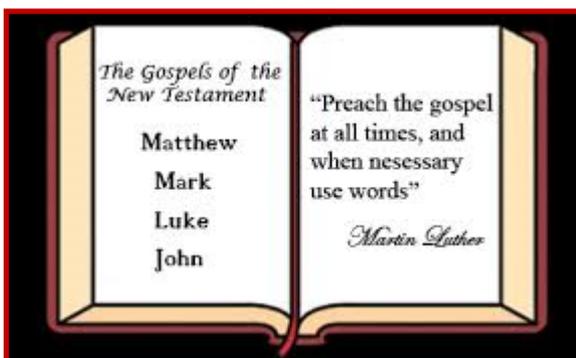
PARENT LEADERS FORMATION SESSIONS

This office was approached by the Sacraments of Initiation team from Emmaus Catholic Parish for assistance to collaborate with them to provide support in leading and facilitating formation sessions for their parent home group leaders. These particular parents had kindly agreed to lead a home group in the preparation of the sacraments with a small group of families and needed formation in the area of sacraments. Carmen Balales planned the sessions in consultation with Carmel White and Sr Jasmine, who coordinate the whole sacraments process within the parish. The 3 sessions focussed on each of the sacraments Reconciliation/ Confirmation/ First Holy Communion, providing basic background theology, useful skills in running groups, practical assistance in opening up the topic, a set process that was used every time the home group met and explaining the content to be presented at each home group meeting for that particular sacrament. The parents were reassured in their ability to take on the role with confidence and joy. It was a great opportunity for the parents to ask questions, get their answers, discuss challenges and provide appropriate strategies to overcome them. The formation sessions were very well received and much appreciated by all who attended. The parent leaders felt truly supported in their new roles.

YOU TUBE CLIPS THAT HELP EXPLAIN THE 4 GOSPELS AND THEIR WRITERS:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SBQiinMzR_O

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gglXPM8syhl>



Children's Ministry Update

Family & Parish Based Catechesis

Catholic Education Office
112 Kintore Street Thebarton

PO Box 179
Torrensville Plaza SA 5031

Carmen Balales Ph: 08 8301 6110
carmen.balales@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Sr Jenny Seal fdnsc Ph: 08 8301 6195
jenny.seal@cesa.catholic.edu.au

Office Fax: 08 8301 6842

We're on the web



www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/sites/ParishandFamilyBasedCatechesis

Detailed Diary Dates 2017

NURTURING YOUR CREATIVE SOUL THROUGH THE ARTS

When: Saturday: September 23rd

Where: Mary MacKillop Centre,
4 High Street, Kensington

GOD JOURNEYING INTO THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

When: Wednesday: October 25th

Where: Mary MacKillop Centre,
4 High Street, Kensington

LEADING CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD TRAINING WORKSHOP

When: Saturday: September 16th

Time: 3:30– 5:30pm

Where: Modbury/ Para Hills Parish,
50 Reservoir Road, Hope Valley

When: Sunday: September 17th

Time: 11:30am– 2pm

Where: Albert Park/ Pennington Parish,
104 Botting Street, Albert Park