

Sunday, March 21 - March 28 - April 11

The New Testament

Conclusion and The Case for Christ

BIG IDEA - Reading and studying the Gospels is the best way to find out about Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Each gospel highlights different aspects of Jesus, and getting to know them will bring Jesus to life in your heart and mind.

The Gospel according to Matthew...

- was one of the disciples
- ministered among Jewish Christians and emphasized the “Jewishness” of Jesus
- wanted to assure his faith community that Jesus was Israel’s promised Messiah
- detailed Jesus’ family history and quoted many Old Testament prophecies

The Gospel according to Mark...

- early convert to Christianity, close with Peter
- likely based on Peter’s eye-witness accounts
- emphasized Jesus as the suffering servant
- jumps right into Jesus’ ministry - teaching and healing, demonstrating God’s desire, sacrifice on the cross

The Gospel according to Luke...

- Greek physician who traveled with Paul
- wrote the book of Acts
- emphasized the perfect humanity of Jesus - the “Son of Man”
- shows how Jesus identifies with our sorrows and trials in order to provide us the gift of salvation.
- highlighted Jesus’ emotions and relationships to demonstrate He was human, like us

The Gospel according to John...

- wrote his gospel near the end of his life
- emphasized Jesus’ divinity by showing He was the Son of God
- structured his gospel around 7 “I am” statements made by Jesus - pointing readers back to God’s revelation of Himself to Moses
- didn’t want his readers to have any doubts about Jesus, God’s son

Have you read all 4 Gospels?

Starting today and for the next 2 weeks (we are off for Easter, April 4) we are going to be WATCHING - The Case for Christ

About the movie:

- ❑ 2017
- ❑ Based on a true story - Lee Strobel's award-winning bestselling book.
- ❑ An investigative journalist and legal editor at the Chicago Tribune.
- ❑ His wife Leslie's newfound faith in Christ went against everything Lee believed—or didn't believe—as an avowed atheist.
- ❑ Utilizing his journalistic and legal training, Lee begins a quest to debunk the claims of Christianity in order to save his crumbling marriage.
- ❑ Chasing down the biggest story of his career, Lee comes face-to-face with unexpected results that could change everything he knows to be true.

If you are able, first watch the movie, then discuss the following questions at home with someone: (taken from Reel Dialogue.com, Discussion Guide, Copyright 2020)

1. Did you enjoy the film? What events, characters, or scenes particularly stood out for you?
2. How do you believe God can work in the hearts of those who don't believe in Him?
3. How do you think our family relationships can affect our faith in God?
4. Have you ever thought about the facts surrounding the crucifixion and resurrection? Is the film successful in proving the story and witness of Jesus to be true?
5. Have you had an opportunity to share with others how you became a Christian?

Lesson adapted from:

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