

6TH GRADE

FOUNDATIONS

New Testament: The Gospels

OVERVIEW

Matthew and John were followers of Jesus, while Mark and Luke were second generation followers of Jesus. Matthew and John watched Jesus perform miracles, heard his teaching, watched him die on the cross, and saw him alive three days later. They sat with Jesus, ate with Jesus, prayed with Jesus. Their experiences with Jesus led them to write these historical accounts of a real, historical person who came to be the Son of Man, the Messiah, and the Savior of the World. Each book is written with a different perspective and from a different set of eyes, yet they tell an incredibly similar and accurate narrative of the person of Jesus. Each of these authors were martyred for their belief in the person of Jesus—this is significant! Each author has a purpose when they write, which helps us see specific things about the person of Jesus.

WITH A PARTNER

Think about all the things you remember from the Gospels, make a list.

LARGE GROUP

- I. The Gospels
 - Historical narrative: account of real events through a storyline.
 - Matthew, Mark, and Luke are very similar in events, miracles, storyline, etc.
 - Acts continues the story after Jesus rises from the dead and ascends into heaven
- II. Matthew
 - Jewish tax collector (Mat. 9:9)
 - Written to fellow Jewish people
 - Purpose: Demonstrate Jesus fulfills the prophecies and is the promised Messiah who fulfills the Old Covenant and brings a New Covenant.
- III. Mark
 - Not a disciple of Jesus, rather a later disciple of Peter
 - Mark was a writer for Peter
 - Most scholars believe Mark is represented in Mark 14:51-52
 - Written for the wider church to understand the person of Jesus
 - Purpose: “to present and defend Jesus’ universal call to discipleship” (ESV Study Bible, p. 1890)
- IV. Luke
 - Not a disciple of Jesus, rather a later disciple of Paul
 - Believed to be a doctor (very detailed and excellent Greek writing)
 - Recorded the events of the disciples through his consistent interacting with them first-hand
 - Written to all people to know Jesus and the Gospel
 - Purpose: To give an accurate depiction of the Gospel for all people, both Jews and Gentiles, through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection.
- V. John
 - One of the first followers of Jesus (Mark 1:19)
 - Referred to as “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (used 6 times)
 - Purpose: Jesus is the Son of God, the promised Messiah, believe in Him and you can have eternal life.

As a group, read all four accounts from each Gospel of Jesus feeding the 5,000. What do you notice is the same or different? Talk with your parent about this and what this might mean.

Matthew 14:15-21	Mark 6:35-44	Luke 9:12-16	John 6:5-15
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<p>As evening approached, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a remote place, and it's already getting late. Send the crowds away, so they can go to the villages and buy themselves some food."</p> <p>Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away. You give them something to eat."</p> <p>"We have here only five loaves of bread and two fish," they answered.</p> <p>"Bring them here to me," he said. And he directed the people to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over. The number of those who ate was about five thousand men, besides women and children.</p>	<p>By this time it was late in the day, so his disciples came to him. "This is a remote place," they said, "and it's already very late. Send the people away so that they can go to the surrounding countryside and villages and buy themselves something to eat."</p> <p>But he answered, "You give them something to eat."</p> <p>They said to him, "That would take more than half a year's wages^[a]! Are we to go and spend that much on bread and give it to them to eat?"</p> <p>"How many loaves do you have?" he asked. "Go and see."</p> <p>When they found out, they said, "Five—and two fish."</p> <p>Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to distribute to the people. He also divided</p>	<p>Late in the afternoon the Twelve came to him and said, "Send the crowd away so they can go to the surrounding villages and countryside and find food and lodging, because we are in a remote place here."</p> <p>He replied, "You give them something to eat."</p> <p>They answered, "We have only five loaves of bread and two fish— unless we go and buy food for all this crowd." About five thousand men were there.)</p> <p>But he said to his disciples, "Have them sit down in groups of about fifty each." The disciples did so, and everyone sat down. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke them. Then he gave them to the disciples to distribute to the people. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over.</p>	<p>When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, "Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.</p> <p>Philip answered him, "It would take more than half a year's wages^[a] to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!"</p> <p>Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, spoke up, "Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"</p> <p>Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.</p> <p>When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, "Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted." So they</p>
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	<p>the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.</p>		<p>gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world." Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself.</p>
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SMALL GROUPS

1. Why are these historical narratives so important to Christians and how should we understand them?
2. What is something you learned or stuck out to you today?
3. Read John 21:25 together, what does this mean to you?