



Session Twelve

Introducing...The New Testament

Key Concepts

1. The New Testament (covenant) conveys the good news (gospel) of salvation.
2. This good news is for everyone, of every nation and background, in the world.
3. The 27 books of the New Testament contain the truth about Jesus Christ and His teaching.

Objectives

Students will

1. Play a review game about the Old Testament.
2. Survey the similarities and differences in the three synoptic gospel accounts of Jesus' temptations in the wilderness.
3. Explore the meaning of the terms: canon of Scripture, parable, oral tradition, Synoptic Gospels, New Testament/New Covenant.
4. Read about the four Gospel writers and be able to tell one or two facts about each Gospel.
5. Recognize that the New Testament consists of 27 books.

Materials: Cards with questions and answers for an Old Testament review.

A New Testament timeline and maps showing the areas we will be looking at in the remaining sessions.

Background: We have seen that the Old Covenant between God and His people was broken time and again by the people's willfulness and sinfulness, though God was always faithful. We come now to the time of a New Covenant, a covenant for all people, not just the Hebrews, though they have a primary place in it. The Church is the "new Israel" based not on the Old Testament law but on the teachings of Jesus Christ as they are presented in the New Testament.

Procedure

1. Open with prayer. Divide the class into two teams for a review of previous sessions, using the questions they produced (with any you added) at the last session. Distribute to each team a single piece of paper on which to record answers. Have team members work together and write their answers to the questions as you ask them. (Be sure not to let their answers on one side of the cards show.) They can use whatever sources (Bibles, their Student Texts etc.) to answer the questions. Some of the questions, of course, will probably be the ones they came up with last week. Let's hope they remember the answers without too much need to turn to their sources!

Correct the answers with them and offer congratulations to the winning team. Go over any questions that really stumped a lot of people. (15 min)



2. Tell the class that you are going to begin this week to study the New Testament. Let students find the New Testament in their Bibles, and look with them at the names of the books and the divisions within the New Testament. If the Bibles you are using have maps, look together at the areas in which the Gospel events took place. Help students to find these in their Bibles: The Gospel of Mark, the Book of Revelation, the Letter to the Romans. (5 min)
3. Read the Student Text through **The Four Gospels** or use it as a basis for a lecture. (10 min)
4. Have students divide into pairs or threes to do the **Synoptic Study**. Review differences and similarities. (See guidelines to answers below.) Point out that although He prevailed over Satan, Jesus was also tempted to doubt His Father. We, too, may be tempted to doubt God's love for us, or His very existence, by the bad things that happen in our lives or in the world.. Jesus has "been there" and can help us get through and resist these temptations if we ask Him for His help. (20 min)

Differences

1. Mark gives a two-verse summary of the story.
2. Only in Mark do we read that there were wild animals in this desert.
3. Matthew and Luke reverse the order of the last two temptations (perhaps to stress Jesus' movement towards Jerusalem, where His life will end).
4. Luke does not mention angels attending to him; Mark and Matthew do.
5. Only in Matthew does Jesus say "Away from me Satan!" (v 10)
6. Only in Luke does it suggest that the devil would return at another time (v.13)

Similarities

1. The Spirit drives Jesus into the wilderness. (all three accounts)
2. He did not eat for 40 days and was hungry. (Matthew and Luke)
3. They quote Psalm 91:11-12 about angels keeping Him from harm. (Matthew and Luke)
4. Jesus answers each temptation with a quote from Scripture. (Matthew and Luke)
5. Continue reading. When you get to the part about the Sermon on the Mount in the section **The Gospel of Matthew**, have students read in their Bibles *Matthew 5:3-11*. Ask them which of these verses they think is the most difficult to carry out. Which is the most important? Which is one they would like to work on in their own lives? (There are no right or wrong answers here, of course. Students will have different opinions based on their personal circumstances.) (10 min)

Close the session with a prayer.

QUIK QUIZ #12 answers: 1-epistles, 2-oral tradition, 3-the silent years, 4-synoptic gospels, 5-7: the gospel writer had to have been an apostle or a follower of a disciple, the writings had to have been recognized by at least one Christian community and the doctrine contained in the writings had to be consistent with that taught by the apostles, 8-Romans, 9-Jewish Christians, 10-Gentile converts