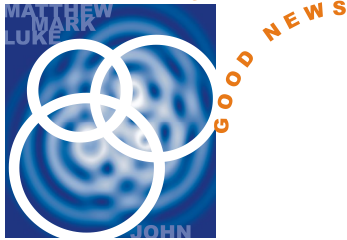


MISSION IN THE GOSPELS
How do you read the Gospels:
Matthew, Mark, Luke
& John?



- Some of us don't read them at all—we just wait for the movie!
- Some of us read them for the holidays, Christmas and Easter—but don't know what to do with the rest of the material in between!
- Others use them as evangelism tracts—useful to tell others about sinfulness, the perfection of Jesus, and how he died so that we might have eternal life!
- Perhaps you read them as interesting accounts of the historical figure, Jesus of Nazareth — telling us who Jesus *was*, some of what he taught and did during his short life!
- Still others read them as spiritual self-help guides — hoping the teachings of Jesus, when applied, might just hold the key to successful living and self-improvement!

What if the gospels were written primarily as instructional manuals for the early church? **What if** each gospel was written in an interesting story-telling form to teach the early church, not only who Jesus was and what he did, but also what the church is and what it is called to do? In other words, **what if** the gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, each set about to teach early Christians, what it means to be the church on mission with God?

If that were the case, we also might learn what it means to be on mission with God in our own communities and beyond!

"Mission in the Gospels" will be the foundation upon which we build our interaction for the Missional Learning Journey. You and your team will be challenged to read the Gospels again, (or perhaps for the first time); this time through a "missional lens."

mPod 1.1 |
Mission Before the Gospels

Session One looks at some of the sources of the Gospels. Before the authors sat at their laptop parchments, quill in hand, and wrote their accounts; stories and sayings by and about Jesus were widely circulated, leaving an impact on those who were called "Followers of the Way". All four gospel writers drew from these oral traditions in their unique writings. What can we learn about following Jesus into God's mission from these oral traditions before the Gospels?

mPod 1.2-1.4 |
Mission in the Synoptic Gospels

Sessions Two, Three, and Four, notes that Matthew, Mark, and Luke share more in common, than their fourth counterpart, John. In spite of their similarities, these three gospels have some marked differences! Ever wonder why? To discover what each has to teach us about being on mission with God, we will look, not only at what they share in common, but also at what we can learn from each gospel's uniqueness.

mPod 1.5 |
Mission in the Fourth Gospel

In **Session Five**, we will investigate yet another slant on following Jesus into the world of mission. We will discover that the gospel, attributed to John, contains numerous stories and sayings not found in the other three. We will investigate this gospel's particular emphasis on God's mission of love! We will again ask the question: What can we learn about following Jesus into God's mission today?

