



BIBLE FLUENCY

Sing it, See it, Study it

New Testament Fluency in 12 Weeks Workbook

Gospels

Gospels

All Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John)

Instructions: The questions that follow will help you directly connect the Bible with what you are learning. Some of the events, characters, themes or ideas may already be familiar to you. Feel free either to move quickly or spend time lingering on these passages. These questions will help you bridge the gap between what is actually in the Bible and the methods you are using to remember them.

Note: In your questions on the Gospels, you will normally be asked only to look up one passage, rather than two, three, or four—even if the events or words correspond to something in more than one Gospel.

1. “In all Gospels”

Which four books are referred to as “Gospels” in the Bible?

2. “John the Baptist speaks”

Read Matthew 3:1-3 and 3:11. What was the most important part of John the Baptist’s message?

3. “Peter confesses the Messiah”

Read Mark 8:27-30. What did Peter confess? (Note that the word “Christ” is the Greek version of the word “Messiah,” which means the Anointed One.)

4. “Five thousand fed”

Read John 6:1-15. What was the people’s response to this miracle? (Note especially verses 14 and 15.)

5. “A triumphal ride”

Read Luke 19:28-40. What was Jesus riding? What were the people crying out?

6. “Judas betrays”

Read Mark 14:10-11. Judas betrayed Jesus to whom? What did he receive in exchange for his betrayal?

7. "And Jesus' arrest"

Read Matthew 26:47-56. How did Judas signal that Jesus was the one who the soldiers should arrest?

8. "Peter denies"

Read Luke 22:54-62. Why did Peter deny knowing Jesus? When Peter heard the rooster crow, what did he do?

9. "Pilate sentences"

Read Mark 15:1-15. Did Pilate (the Roman governor of Judea) want to sentence Jesus to death? Why did Pilate in fact choose to sentence him to death?

10. "The crucifixion"

Read Mark 15:20-26. What did the soldiers do with Jesus' garments? What inscription did they nail on the cross above his head?

11. "And the burial"

Read Luke 23:50-56. Who buried Jesus' body and where did he bury him?

12. "Women arrive at an empty tomb"

Read Mark 16:1-8. Why were these women coming to Jesus' tomb?

Chorus

In Matthew, Jesus is the King

Be able to recognize Matthew 16:16, "And Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'"

In Mark, the servant sacrifice

Be able to recognize Mark 10:45, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many."

In Luke, the perfect Son of Man

Be able to recognize Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."

In John, he is the Son of God

Be able to recognize John 20:31, "...these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in his name."

Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke)

1. “Synoptics,’ Matthew, Mark, and Luke”

You should be able to recognize that “Synoptic Gospels” is another name for Matthew, Mark, and Luke (but not John). These three gospels form a group because there are many overlapping points of contact between the events and sayings in these gospels.

2. “The temptation”

Read Matthew 4:1-11. What is meant by “the temptation”? Who tempted whom? Where did this temptation take place?

3. “A paralytic healed”

Read Mark 2:1-12. How did the four men succeed in getting their friend to Jesus?

4. “Choosing the twelve”

Read Mark 3:13-19. Write down the names of Jesus’ twelve disciples.

5. “And stilling a storm”

Read Mark 4:35-41. What is the meaning of the line “stilling a storm”?

6. “Jairus’s daughter”

Read Luke 8:40-42 and 8:49-56. What did Jesus do for Jairus’s daughter?

7. “The twelve are sent”

Read Matthew 10:1-16. What did Jesus send the twelve disciples out to do?

8. "Transfiguration"

Read Mark 9:2-10. What does it mean when someone says that Jesus was "transfigured"? (If you're not familiar with the word "transfiguration," you may want to look it up in a dictionary.)

9. "And a rich young man"

Luke 18:18-23. What did Jesus tell the young man to do? (It seems that his riches were keeping him from truly becoming a follower of Jesus.) Did the man do what Jesus asked him to do?

10. "The Sower's story"

This is usually referred to as the Parable of the Sower. Read Mark 4:1-9. In one sentence, summarize the main point of the parable.

11. "'Give Caesar's due'"

Read Matthew 22:15-22. What question did the Pharisees test Jesus with? Why do you think they asked him this question?

Be able to recognize that Jesus' answer, "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" is found in the Synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

12. "Woes to scribes"

Read Mark 12:38-40. (Note that Matthew's gospel—in 23:1-36—has an extensive section of woes against the scribes [and the Pharisees]). In Mark's short rendering, what does Jesus say that the scribes are fond of doing?

13. "Future warnings"

Jesus gives a long discourse where he warns about the coming destruction of Jerusalem and signs accompanying the end of the age. It is normally referred to as the Olivet Discourse. (There is no question on this line.)

Two Gospels

Note that we are trying to identify here important events or parables that are found in only two of the Gospels, whichever two they happen to be found in. These are perhaps the most difficult to keep straight in one's mind.

1. "In Matthew and Mark, John the Baptist's death"

Read Mark 6:17-29. Who wanted John the Baptist to be killed, and why? (Note that Herodias had formerly been married to Philip, the brother of Herod Antipas.)

2. "A fig tree wilts"

Read Matthew 21:18-22. Why did the fig tree wither up?

3. "Four thousand fed"

Read Mark 8:1-10 and 8:14-21. How do you know from this passage that this is a different miracle than the feeding of the five thousand?

4. "In Mark and Luke is the widow's mite"

Read Mark 12:41-44. What was "the widow's mite"?

5. "A demonized man at the synagogue"

Read Mark 1:23-28. Why were the people amazed at this miracle?

6. "In Matthew and Luke is the Lord's Prayer"

Read Matthew 6:9-13. What is the first line of The Lord's Prayer?

7. "The Lost Sheep"

Read Luke 15:3-7. What is Jesus' point in telling the parable of the lost sheep?

8. "And the Talents"

Read Matthew 25:14-30. What are "talents" in this parable? (Note that they are not "special abilities").

9. "Also many sayings shared by Sermons in Matthew and Luke"

There are many shared sayings of Jesus in Matthew and Luke. There are particularly a lot of these shared sayings in Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:20-49. (There is no question on this line.)

Matthew Alone

1. "In Matthew alone are the wise men"

Read Matthew 2:1-12. Where did the "wise men" (or "magi") come from according to this passage, and why were they traveling?

2. "An Egypt flight"

Read Matthew 2:13-21. Why did Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt?

3. "A Sermon on the Mount"

The Sermon on the Mount is found in Matthew 5-7. (This includes the Beatitudes, Jesus' teaching about various points of the law—"you have heard it said...but I say to you," the Lord's Prayer, fasting, worrying, judging, the narrow gate, the house upon the rock, and much more.) It is a wonderful section—one of the most famous in the Bible—but there will be no questions to answer here since there is too much to ask!

4. "Come to me, I'll give you rest"

Be able to recognize Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my load is light."

What does Jesus promise in Matthew 11:28-30 to those who come to him and take his yoke upon themselves?

5. "The Tares"

Read Matthew 13:24-30. This is usually referred to as the Parable of the Wheat and the Tares. What did the enemy do in the middle of the night? What does this symbolize?

6. "Two Sons"

Read Matthew 21:28-32. (The Parable of the Two Sons should not be confused with the Parable of the Prodigal Son which is in Luke). What did each son say he would do? What did each son end up doing?

7. "And The Laborers"

Read the Parable of the Laborers in Matthew 20:1-16. Why did some of the laborers complain? What was the response of the owner of the vineyard?

8. "Ten Waiting Virgins"

Read the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25:1-13. What is the point of this parable?

9. "And The Sheep and Goats"

Read the Parable of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25:31-46. According to this parable, who are the "sheep" and who are the "goats"?

10. "The guards at the tomb, and their report"

Read Matthew 27:62-66 and 28:11-15. Only Matthew tells us that there were guards posted at the tomb to stop intruders. What "report" did the guards give and why did they give it?

11. "Go, disciple the nations"

Be able to recognize Matthew 28:18-20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

What were the disciples of Jesus instructed to do in Matthew 28:18-20?

Luke Alone

1. "In Luke alone, John the Baptist's birth"

Luke 1:5-80. What happened to Zacharias while he was serving in the temple? What happened to Elizabeth when she was greeted by Mary?

2. "Shepherds and angels for Jesus' birth"

Read Luke 2:8-20. How did the shepherds learn about the birth of baby Jesus?

3. "A Sermon on the 'Plain'"

Luke 6:20-49 is the longest sermon recorded in Luke and contains many parallels to the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). (There is no question on this line.)

4. "A Good Samaritan"

Read the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:30-37. Who passed by the injured man before he was helped by the Samaritan?

5. "A Rich Fool"

Read the Parable of the Rich Fool in Luke 12:16-21. Why did God call this landowner a fool?

6. "And a Prodigal Son"

Read the Parable of the Prodigal Son in Luke 15:11-32. Who were the three main characters in this parable? What did the "prodigal son" do?

7. "An Unjust Steward"

Read the Parable of the Unjust Steward in Luke 16:1-9. Much of what the main character in this parable did was not praiseworthy at all. For what specific thing, then, did the master praise the "steward" (or "manager")?

8. "Ten lepers healed"

Luke 17:11-19. Jesus healed ten lepers, but one of the lepers responded differently than the other lepers. What was different about the one leper?

9. "The Rich Man and Poor Lazarus"

Read the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31. What happened to the rich (uncaring) man in this parable, and what happened to Lazarus?

10. "Mocked by Herod"

Read Luke 23:6-12. What did Herod initially want Jesus to do? When Jesus refused to do it, what happened?

11. "The Emmaus Road"

(Note that Mark 16:12-13 also briefly mentions this event). Read Luke 24:13-35. What happened on the road to Emmaus after Jesus' resurrection from the dead?

John Alone

1. "In John alone, water into wine"

Read John 2:1-11. Where was Jesus when he turned water into wine, and who requested that he do something about the lack of wine?

2. "Nicodemus"

Read John 3:1-21. What did Jesus tell Nicodemus he had to do if he wanted to enter the kingdom of God?

3. "And the woman's well"

Read the story of the woman at the well in John 4:4-42. What did Jesus tell the woman he could give her?

4. "Many I AMs, like the bread of life"

Throughout the book of John, Jesus begins a sentence with, "I am..." and follows it with something like "the bread of life." He then follows with some teaching about himself.

Be able to recognize John 6:48, "I am the bread of life."

5. "A woman's adultery"

Read John 7:53-8:11. What was the test that the scribes and the Pharisees put before Jesus?

Be able to recognize John 8:7, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her."

6. "A man born blind"

Read John 9:1-41. How did the Pharisees respond to Jesus healing a man on the Sabbath day who had been blind from birth?

7. "Lazarus raised"

Read John 11:1-44. Who were Lazarus's sisters? What does the line "Lazarus raised" mean?

8. "Jesus washes feet"

Read John 13:1-20. What was Jesus trying to teach by washing his disciples' feet?

9. "The Discourse in the Upper Room"

John 13-17 is usually referred to as The Upper Room Discourse, though it appears that after 14:31 Jesus and his disciples are no longer actually in the upper room. This is a wonderful section that includes teaching about loving one another, Jesus' relationship to his Father, the Holy Spirit, abiding in the "vine," dealing with persecution, along with an amazing prayer that is often referred to as the "High Priestly Prayer." But there is far too much to ask in a single question, so there are no questions for this line.

10. "'Peter, if you love me, feed my sheep'"

Read John 21:1-25. Three times Jesus asks Peter whether Peter loves him. How does Peter respond to each question and what does Jesus say after each response? (Can you remember anything else that had happened to Peter three times in a row only days or weeks before? Could this be why Jesus asked him three times here?)

Be able to recognize John 21:15, "So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' He said to him, 'Tend my lambs.'"