



God's plan to win your battles.

Session 4: New Testament History



Overview:

Theme: Jesus is our Savior.

The first five New Testament books are the historical books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, and show Jesus as our Savior. Jesus fulfilled over 300 Old Testaments prophecies about His coming.

1. The four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, cover the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ. All four mention the death and resurrection of Jesus. People don't die for a lie. If the disciples knew this was false, they would not have willingly died.
2. The book of Acts covers the history of the birth of the church for the thirty years after Jesus' resurrection, and shows that God came by His Spirit to live in our bodies to form His body, the church. Thousands of people were added to the church during this time by Peter and through Paul's missionary journeys.

God, our Savior, wants to fight and win the battles we have with guilt and life's difficulties. Unfortunately, when we choose to live apart from God, we choose to fight these battles on our own. We need both the death of Jesus and the life of Jesus (the Holy Spirit) to conquer our guilt and fears, and to set us free.

Key Concepts: Savior, Jesus, Gospels, Holy Spirit

- **Savior:** The sacrificial death of Jesus provides forgiveness of sin and the promise of heaven when we die. God's standard is perfection and He is too pure to look upon sin, which then separates us from God. The payment for sin is death, but the good news is that Jesus lived a perfect life and had no sin of His own to die for; therefore, He could *choose* to die to pay for our sins!
- **Jesus** is fully man and fully God. He is fully man by learning to walk, being tempted, and by suffering. Jesus became man and surrendered his rights for a season. Jesus is also fully God because he was without sin. Jesus shows us what God is like.
- **Gospels.** The first four New Testament books (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John) that tell the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. The writings in each Gospel differ in personalities, audience, and vantage point, but they are not a contradiction. All four Gospels mention the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- **Holy Spirit** is the coming of God's Spirit to live in our bodies to form His body, the church. The Holy Spirit not only changes and empowers us, but also leads us where to go and prompts us to do the will of God. Through Jesus' life and resurrection, and the coming of the Holy Spirit, we are transformed from the inside out to produce works in us. It is not by practice or works that we transformed.

Bible Study Guide:

1. Watch the video for session 4.
2. Discuss the review questions on page 122 with your group or as personal review.
3. Personal study: Complete the reading and reflection in the workbook for each day.

Personal Study Questions
New Testament History

Day 1: Old Testament Prophecies are fulfilled.

God had promised Abraham a descendant who would bless the whole world. The New Testament History books show the coming of that seed by providing the historical record of Jesus, who fulfilled many of the Old Testament prophets' predictions written hundreds of years before.

What does this say to you about God?

Day 2: Matthew and Mark.

Matthew and Mark were disciples of Jesus and first-hand eye witnesses to the life of Jesus. Matthew wrote to the Jews to show Jesus as King. Mark wrote to the Romans to show Jesus as servant (one who lovingly serves his fellow mankind).

What acts of Jesus show Him as a King and as a servant?

Day 3: Luke.

Luke was a Gentile and a physician. He researched the life of Jesus from eye-witness accounts. Luke wrote to the Greeks to show the humanity of Jesus as the perfect man.

What did you learn about Jesus' humanity that can help you in your struggles today?

Day 4: John.

The disciple John wrote to all of us, showing that Jesus is God. But believing with our mind is not enough – even the demons believe. We must surrender ourselves to Jesus and completely rely on Him.

In what areas of your life do you need to surrender control and give it all over to Jesus? How will this help you in your life?

Day 5: Acts.

God's Spirit in us not only transforms us as individuals but also unites us to form Christ's body, the church. Acts is the historical link between the Gospels and the New Testament Letters that follow in the rest of the New Testament.

How has the Holy Spirit changed your life?

Battle Plan for Prayer:

Session 4



Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.

(John 15:13)

Jesus, I am asking you to be my Savior. Please forgive me for my sins. I am forever grateful and humbled by your act of great love for me. Thank you for dying on the cross and taking the place of my sins, so that I can be restored and in fellowship with God in Heaven. I surrender my life to you so that you can fight my battles. I cannot do it alone. I pray for the Holy Spirit in my life to guide me, teach me your ways, and to protect me from evil. Thank you for being my Savior.