



BIBLE

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **7th Grade | Unit 8**

BIBLE 708

The Life Of Christ: Part II

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Author:

Barry Burrus, M.Div., M.A., B.S.

Editors:

Maynard C. Mostrom, B.A., M.Div., S.T.M.

Jennifer L. Davis, B.S.

Dawn M. Tessier, B.A.

Tricia A. Haley, B.A.

Biblical Illustrations:

Greg Osborne, A.A.

Grant C. Lounsbury, B.A.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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The Life Of Christ: Part II

Introduction

The four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John—tell the story of the most important person who ever walked the face of the earth. They tell the story of Jesus, the Son of God. These Gospels tell us about the events of Jesus’ life and the words that He spoke in different ways and in a different **sequence** of events. The reason for these differences among the four Gospels is that the human writers of the Gospels were writing the story of Jesus from different perspectives, guided they were by the Holy Spirit. Each human author, whether it was Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, wanted to emphasize a particular aspect of Jesus’ life.

For example, John emphasized the divinity and majesty of Jesus. Luke, a physician, emphasized Jesus’ healings and His ministry to the lowly and unfortunate. Luke also showed Jesus at prayer more than the other three Gospels. Mark, who wrote the shortest of the four Gospels, tells us the bare essentials of Jesus’ life and ministry and often emphasizes the sufferings that Jesus and his disciples endured. Matthew is the most “Jewish” of the Gospels. Matthew emphasizes in several places how Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament.

Even though there are distinct differences among the four Gospels, there are also many similarities. In the essentials, all four Gospels are the same. All four Gospels are in substantial agreement about the importance of Jesus Christ and about His life, death, and resurrection. They all agree in the essentials because the one true author of all four Gospels is God, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit inspired all four human writers of the Gospels to write the truth about the life and ministry of Jesus.

Over the centuries, many people have attempted to write a continuous historical narrative about the life and ministry of Jesus by drawing from all

four Gospels. Modern people usually expect such a continuous historical narrative when reading about the life of an important person; that is, they want to know the sequence of events in a person’s life from one year to another. This series of three LIFEPACs—Bible 707, 708, and 709—are written in such fashion. They attempt to draw from all four Gospels in order to give a historical account of Jesus’ public life and ministry over a period of about three-and-a-half years. While it is possible to write such a historical narrative of the life of Christ, we should remember two things:

1. The original Gospels were not written this way, and the writer of each Gospel did not try to assure the same historical sequence of events as the other Gospels.
2. Bible scholars will differ over details of when particular events happened in the life of Jesus and in His ministry.

Therefore, the account of the life of Christ that you will study in this series of three LIFEPACs represents an **approximation** of the historical events in the life of Jesus based upon the information revealed in the four Gospels.

In the preceding LIFEPAC® (Bible 707—*The Life of Christ: Part I*), you studied the eternal pre-existence of the Son of God and His incarnation as Jesus Christ, true God and true man. You then studied some aspects of his childhood. Finally, you learned about the initial events of his public ministry and His early ministry in the region of Galilee.

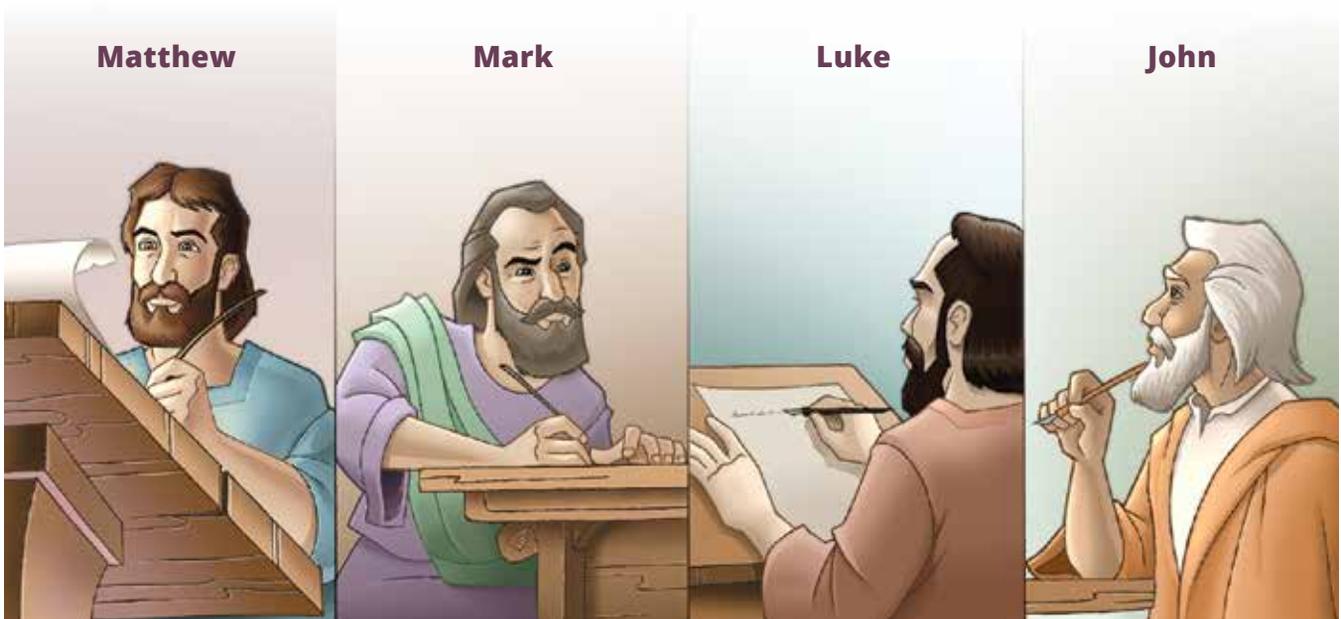
In this LIFEPAC, you will study an extended period of Jesus’ ministry that began in Galilee and ended in Judea near Jerusalem. In Section One you will examine some of Jesus’ public miracles and some of the parables that He told to the crowds in Galilee.

1. PUBLIC MINISTRY IN GALILEE

In the previous LIFEPAK (Bible 707), you studied the early ministry of Jesus in the region of Galilee. In this section, you will examine more of Jesus' public ministry in Galilee. To better understand Jesus' Galilean ministry, you should understand two important aspects of this ministry. First, Jesus conducted two types of ministry in Galilee—one that was *public* and one that was *private*. In his public ministry in Galilee, Jesus spoke and ministered to the crowds and people who came to Him from various places. In His private ministry in Galilee, Jesus spoke and ministered mainly to his disciples, especially the twelve that He chose to be His apostles. In His public ministry, Jesus was very open and healed the hurts of all who came to Him. In his private ministry, Jesus tried to help His disciples learn more about Him and about the Kingdom of God. In private, He often explained to His disciples the meaning of His teachings known as **parables**.

The second important aspect of Jesus' Galilean ministry is that Jesus conducted both *tours* in Galilee and *retreats* from Galilee during the period of time in which He ministered there. Jesus made the small village of Capernaum His home and "mission base" in Galilee. During His three *tours* in Galilee, Jesus publicly presented Himself as the Messiah. During His *retreats* from Galilee, He thoroughly taught His chosen disciples and trained them to carry His Word into the world.

In the previous LIFEPAK, you covered the first tour that Jesus made in Galilee which ended with the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5–7). In this section of this LIFEPAK, you will study Christ's second and third tours in Galilee. You will first study some of the miracles performed by Jesus during those two tours, or **campaigns**, then you will study some of the parables taught by Jesus to those who followed Him during these campaigns.



| The Four Gospels tell us the story of Jesus, the Son of God.

Section Objectives

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the public Galilean ministry of Jesus.

Vocabulary

Study these words. Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFEPAK.

approximation (ə prək' sə mā' shən). Quality or state of being close or near to.

bier (bēr). A platform supporting a coffin.

campaigns (kam pānz'). Courses of action for some special purpose.

compassion (kəm pash' ən). Sympathetic consciousness of another's distress together with the desire to alleviate it.

entourage (än tə razh'). A group of people who usually accompany someone; an association of people.

inhabited (in hab' it ed). Having occupants in residence.

legion (lē' jən). A very large number; multitude.

omnipotence (om nip' ə təns). The quality of being all-powerful.

parables (par' ə bəlz). Stories that teach a divine truth, usually taken from everyday life.

paralytic (par ə lit' ik). Affected with loss of the ability to move.

prodigal (prôd' ə gəl). A person who is wasteful and careless with his possessions.

sequence (sē' kwəns). Order of succession.

squandered (skwon' dərd). Spent extravagantly or foolishly.

synoptic (si nop' tik). Presenting or taking the same or common view. It is often used to describe the three similar Gospels: Matthew, Mark, and Luke; i.e., the "synoptic Gospels."

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAK appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, Ice; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʃh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

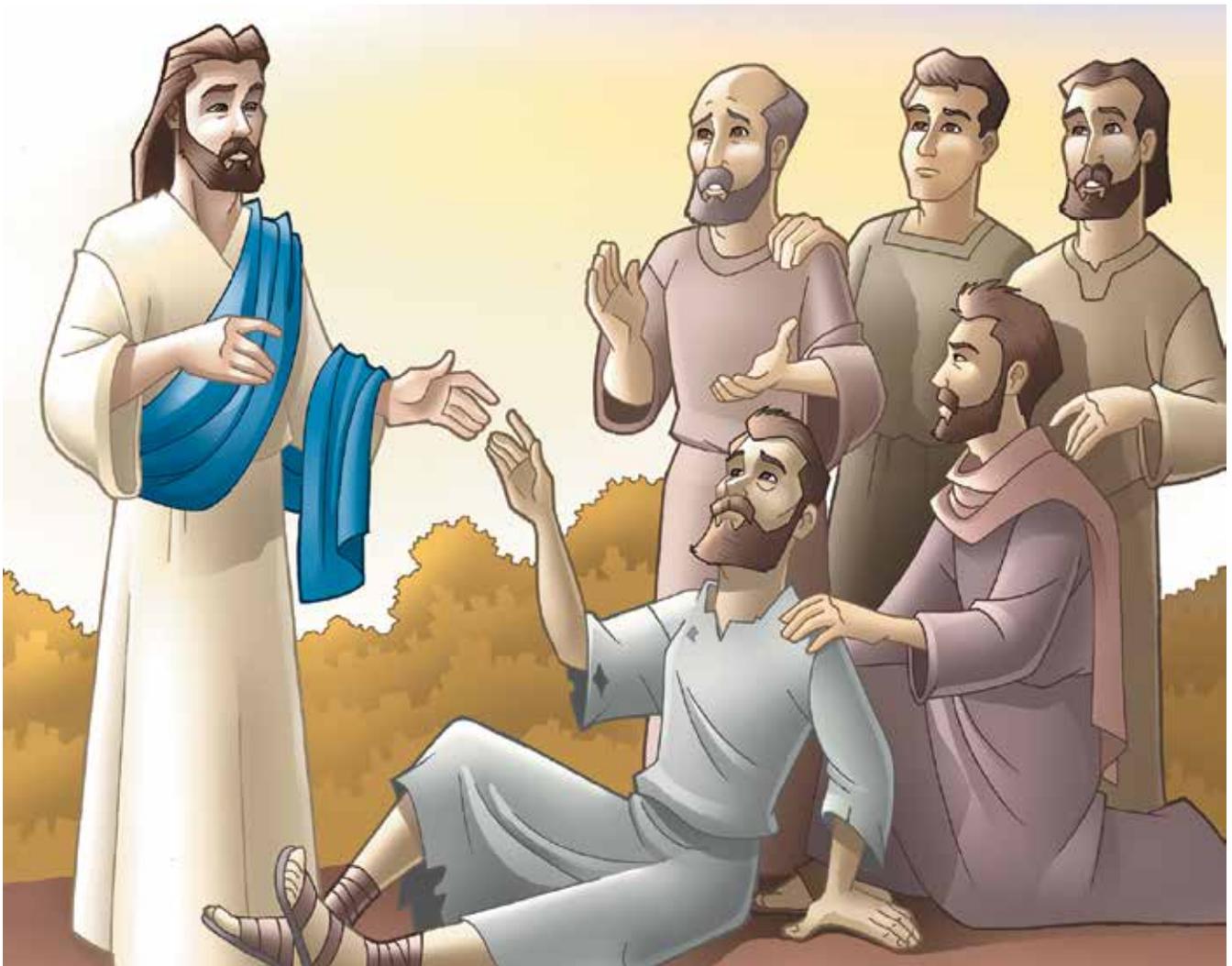


Miracles

Much of Jesus' public ministry was accompanied by miracles. These miracles were extraordinary and supernatural occurrences in nature and in the lives of people. Examples of miracles included physical healings, deliverances from evil spirits, calming of storms and winds, restoring the dead to life, and multiplying food. In all, thirty-five specific miracles of Jesus are recorded in the four Gospels. Sixteen of those miracles occurred in the latter part of Christ's public Galilean ministry. You will study some of these miracles in this section of the LIFEPAAC.

Most of Christ's miracles occurred during the first portion of His three-and-one-half-year public ministry. As opposition to Jesus increased from Jewish religious leaders during the time of His public ministry, Jesus decreased the performance of miracles and increased the use of *parables* as a way of explaining the nature of His mission and the Kingdom of God. You will examine some of Christ's parables later in this section.

Four Main Purposes. The miracles of Jesus had four main purposes, and they could accomplish more than one of these purposes at the same



| Christ performed many miracles such as the healing of a paralyzed man.



| Jesus' miracles taught His disciples to put faith in Him.

time. First, Jesus' miracles were *a sign of His Person and of His work*. In other words, these miracles gave people insight into who Jesus was and what He had come to do. For example, when He healed a paralytic, Jesus said, "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins..." (Mark 2:10). Jesus wanted people to know that He had the power to forgive sins, and He demonstrated that power by physically healing the paralyzed man.

A second purpose of Jesus' miracles was to reveal His divine **compassion**. There are many

places in the Gospels where Jesus portrays his compassion for people. For example, when great crowds followed Him, Matthew records (Matthew 9:36), "But when he [Jesus] saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad as sheep having no shepherd."

A third purpose of Jesus' miracles was to *instruct His disciples about the importance of faith*. The **synoptic** Gospels tell the story of a storm that blew up on the Sea of Galilee while Jesus and the disciples were crossing it

on a boat (Matthew 8:23–27; Mark 4:35–41; Luke 8:22–25). The disciples became fearful and thought they were going to drown. Jesus rebuked the storm, and the wind and the waves calmed down. The disciples were amazed at this nature miracle of Jesus. Jesus then asked them (Luke 8:25), “Where is your faith?” Jesus used this situation and performed a miracle in order to teach the disciples to have faith in Him and not be afraid.

A fourth purpose of the miracles of Jesus was *to glorify the heavenly Father*. You will soon study the miraculous raising from the dead

the son of a widow from the village of Nain in Galilee. When the boy was miraculously raised to life again, the townspeople who saw the miracle “glorified God” (Luke 7:16). When Jesus displayed the marvelous power of God, many people were moved to give glory to the Father in heaven.

Jesus’ miracles both revealed and demonstrated His power and authority. The following chart shows the miracles that were performed during the later Galilean ministry of Jesus. Study this chart to learn more about these miracles of Jesus.

Later Miracles in Galilee

Miracle	Place	Authority Over	Reference
Healing of the centurion’s servant	Capernaum	Illness	Matthew 8:5–13
Raising of the widow’s son	Nain	Death	Luke 7:11–17
Casting out the blind and mute spirit	Galilee	Demonic powers	Matthew 12:22
Stilling of the storm	Sea of Galilee	Nature	Matthew 8:23–27
Deliverance of the Gadarene demoniac	Gadara	Demonic powers	Mark 5:1–20
Raising of Jairus’ daughter	Capernaum	Death	Mark 5:21–43
Healing of the woman	Capernaum	Illness	Mark 5:25–34
Healing of the two blind men	Capernaum	Blindness	Matthew 9:27–34
Feeding of the five thousand	Bethsaida	Nature	Luke 9:10–17
Jesus walking on the water	Sea of Galilee	Natural laws	Mark 6:47–56
The Syro-Phoenician’s daughter	Phoenicia	Demonic powers	Matthew 15:21–28
The deaf man with a speech problem	Decapolis	Deafness and speech	Mark 7:31–37
Feeding of the four thousand	Decapolis	Nature	Mark 8:1–9
Healing of the blind man	Bethsaida	Blindness	Mark 8:22–26
Demon cast out of the boy	Mt. Herman	Demonic powers	Matthew 17:14–20
Money in the fish’s mouth	Capernaum	Nature	Matthew 17:24–27

In the following parts of this section of the LIFE PAC, you will study three of these miracles in more detail:

1. the raising of the widow’s son at Nain,
2. the deliverance of the Gadarene demoniac, and
3. the feeding of the five thousand.

It would be helpful to read about some of the other Galilean miracles listed in the chart in order to see the ways that Jesus ministered to many people.



Complete the following statements.

- 1.1 The four Gospels tell us about the events of Jesus’ life and His words in different ways and in a different _____ of events.
- 1.2 The Gospel of John emphasizes the a. _____ and b. _____ of Jesus.
- 1.3 Matthew is the most _____ of the Gospels.
- 1.4 In the _____, all four Gospels are the same.
- 1.5 The one true author of all four Gospels is _____.
- 1.6 Jesus conducted two types of ministry in Galilee—one that was a. _____ and one that was b. _____.
- 1.7 Jesus conducted both a. _____ in Galilee and b. _____ from Galilee during His ministry there.
- 1.8 Jesus made the small village of _____ His home and “mission base” in Galilee.
- 1.9 Christ’s _____ were extraordinary and supernatural occurrences in nature and in the lives of people.
- 1.10 Most of Christ’s miracles occurred during the _____ portion of His public ministry.



Complete the following activities.

1.11 What are two things to remember when reading a historical narrative of the life of Christ such as the one presented in this LIFEPAK?

a. _____

b. _____

1.12 List four purposes of Christ's miracles.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

1.13 Choose two of the miracles (other than the three that are covered in the following parts of this section) listed in the chart entitled "Later Miracles in Galilee." After reading the passages noted, decide which of the four purposes that the miracles accomplished. (**Note:** there may be more than one purpose for each miracle.) Write your answers below. Also, write what lessons you learned about Jesus from each of the two miracles.

Miracle: _____

Scripture reference: _____

Purpose(s) of miracle: _____

Lessons learned about Jesus: _____

Miracle: _____

Scripture reference: _____

Purpose(s) of miracle: _____

Lessons learned about Jesus: _____

TEACHER CHECK


_____ initials

_____ date



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Match the following items (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------------------|----|--|
| 1.01 | _____ | Matthew | a. | Jesus' "mission base" in Galilee |
| 1.02 | _____ | John | b. | contains stories that are only partly true |
| 1.03 | _____ | Mark | c. | caused Jesus' shift from miracles to parables |
| 1.04 | _____ | Luke | d. | extraordinary and supernatural occurrences |
| 1.05 | _____ | the Holy Spirit | e. | a story that teaches divine truth in examples from everyday life |
| 1.06 | _____ | public and private | f. | the son of a widow from this town was raised from the dead |
| 1.07 | _____ | parable | g. | emphasizes the suffering that Jesus and His disciples endured |
| 1.08 | _____ | disbelief in Christ | h. | the most Jewish of the Gospels |
| 1.09 | _____ | miracles | i. | emphasizes healings and prayer of Jesus |
| 1.010 | _____ | Capernaum | j. | emphasizes the divinity and majesty of Christ |
| | | | k. | two types of Jesus' Galilean ministry |
| | | | l. | true author of the four Gospels |

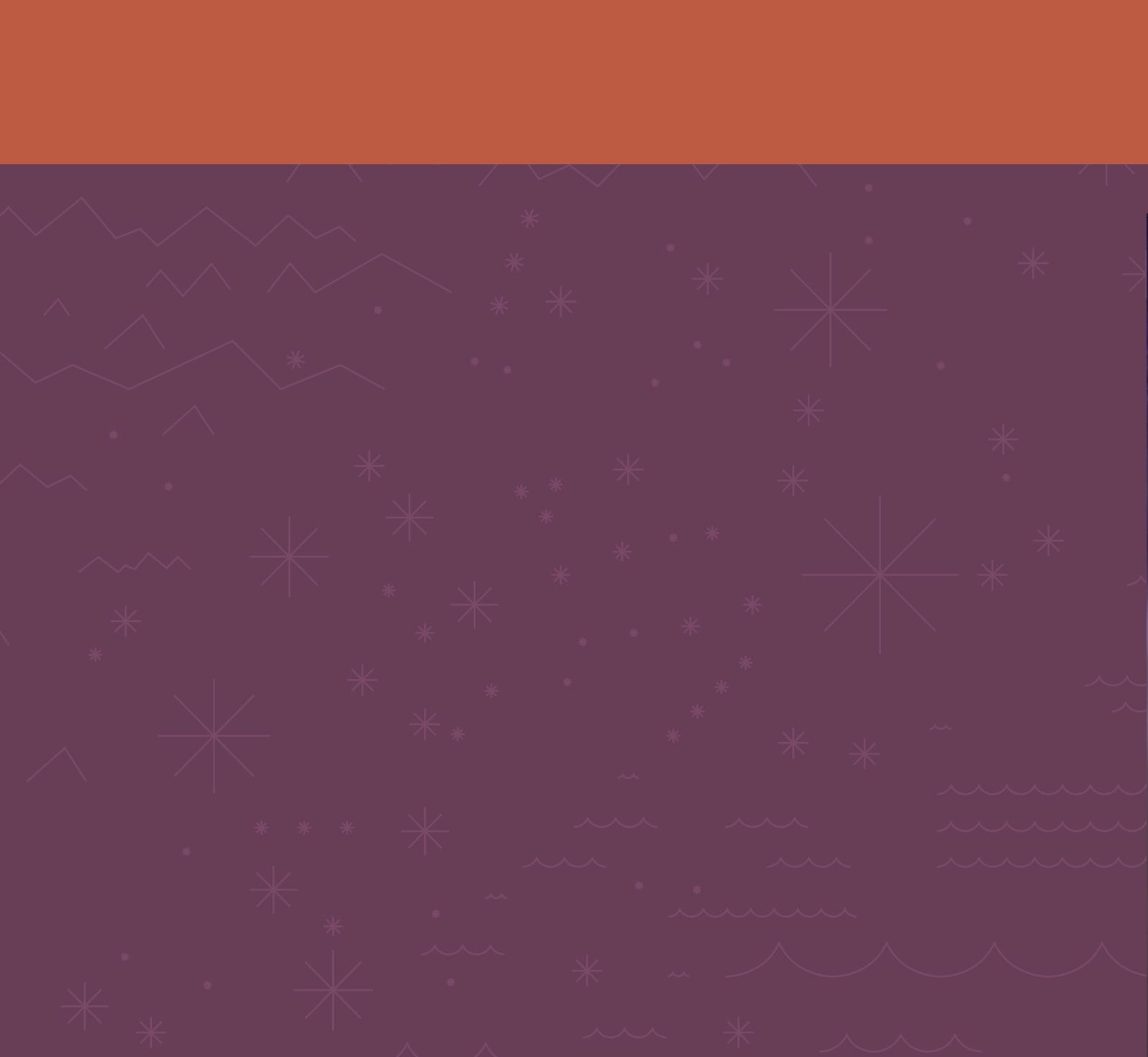
Answer true or false (each answer, 2 points).

- 1.011 _____ All four Gospels are in substantial agreement about the importance of Jesus and about His life, death, and resurrection.
- 1.012 _____ Jesus conducted both tours in Galilee and retreats from Galilee during the time of His ministry there.
- 1.013 _____ Nain was a small village of Judea, located about six miles north of the Sea of Galilee.
- 1.014 _____ Jesus, the Son of God, came to destroy the works of the devil.
- 1.015 _____ The townspeople from Gadara who came to see Jesus welcomed Him and wanted Him to stay with them.
- 1.016 _____ Jesus showed His omnipotence by multiplying food for the five thousand.

- 1.017** _____ After experiencing opposition from religious leaders, Jesus increased the use of miracles and decreased the use of parables.
- 1.018** _____ By using parables, Jesus was using something familiar to explain truths that were unfamiliar.
- 1.019** _____ In the parable of the sower, Jesus described four kinds of people.
- 1.020** _____ In the parable of the prodigal son, the older brother rejoiced when his younger brother returned home.

Complete these questions (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.021** One of the purposes of Jesus' miracles was to reveal His divine _____
_____.
- 1.022** In the story of the Gadarene demoniac, a _____ of unclean spirits possessed a man, but Jesus set him free.
- 1.023** In James 4:7, the Bible says, "Resist the _____ and he will flee from you."
- 1.024** The miracle of _____ is the only miracle of Jesus that is recorded in all four Gospels.
- 1.025** The Jewish people expected a _____ like Moses who would also be the Messiah.
- 1.026** Through the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand, we should recognize that Jesus can _____ our every need.
- 1.027** The purpose of Jesus' parables was to both a. _____ and
b. _____ the truth.
- 1.028** In the person of Jesus, the _____ was breaking in on the world in a new way.
- 1.029** Jesus showed through His actions and words that He had come to _____ sinners, not to condemn them.



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804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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