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Bible Discoveries: The Gospels

These Discovery Sheets were designed to help you explore Scripture on your own and draw some conclusions from that exploration.

They were designed for small-group activities, where 4-6 people could do them together and benefit from what others might already know, but they can be done individually or in larger groups if you prefer. Doing them will give you a greater confidence in your ability to explore the Scriptures and get further background on important aspects of the story.

Please don't take these too seriously, or get frustrated in trying to find the "right answer." That's not their purpose. They are meant to be fun and simply help people realize that they can read various sections of Scripture and see them as part of a larger story.

They were designed to be completed in 10-15 minutes of quick reading and discussion. A few may take a bit longer, but not much. If you're in a group see what kind of discussion about particular issues or the Scriptures themselves will arise from these discoveries.

The Miracles of Jesus

Assignment: Organize the Miracles of Jesus by type. Next, decide what message each type intends to convey.

Process:

1. List as many of Jesus' miracles as you (or your group) can think of in 5 minutes.
2. Organize the miracles by common themes or similar elements into groups.
3. Try to find the meaning behind the miracles in each group. What do they tell us about God? What do they tell us about his heart or his people? What do they tell us about the nature of salvation?

Conclusion: What role did miracles play in the ministry of Jesus?

The Message of Jesus

Assignment: Outline Jesus Ministry by the things that he taught.

Process:

1. List the themes of as many of Jesus' sermons that you can think of in five minutes.
2. Organize the list into an outline by drawing similar thoughts together.
3. Write out at least 5 major themes of Jesus' teaching.

Major Themes

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Conclusion: Can you think of one Scripture that sums up the message of Jesus' ministry?

The Disciples of Jesus

Assignment: Familiarize yourself with some of the men who became Jesus disciples.

Process: Fill out the chart below for each of the listed disciples, noticing how each responded to the Lord's call. And then, answer the questions below.

	What were they doing when Jesus called them?	What was their job?	What was their personality?
Peter (Luke 5:1-11)			
Andrew (John 1:35-42)			
James and John (Mark 1:16-20)			
Matthew (Matthew 9:9-13)			
Nathaniel (John 1:43-51)			

Question: How did Jesus finally choose his twelve apostles?

Conclusion: What kind of men was Jesus looking for to have as his disciples?

The Parables of Jesus

Assignment: Examine the parable of the persistent friend. Read Luke 11:1-10 and answer the following questions.

1. Who did Jesus tell this parable to?
2. What was he talking about when he began the parable?
3. What point is he trying to make in this parable? How do you know?
4. Who does the man in the house represent?
5. What does this parable teach us about God's nature?
6. Now, make up your own parable that would communicate this same point to our generation:
7. From your examination of this one parable, summarize what you learned about parables in general.

The “I Am” Statements of John

Assignment: Find the seven “I am” references in John. Then find the miracle that John used to illustrate that aspect of Jesus’ ministry. Finally conclude from the “I am” reference and it’s corresponding miracle what each statement means.

“I Am...(Reference)	Miraculous Illustration	Meaning/Application

The Trial of Jesus

Assignment: To explore and understand why and how they put Jesus to death.

Process: Using the Scriptures provided, fill out the following chart of the meetings that led up to the sentencing of Jesus to death.

Reference	Who met and what authority did they have?	What decision did they reach?	Why did they come to that decision?	How do you see God involved?
John 11:47-53				
John 18:12-14, 19-24				
John 18:28-19:3				
John 19:4-8				
John 19:9-16				

Conclusion: Who was responsible for the execution of Jesus?