

Week 1

Small Group

1. Beginning Discussion Questions (5-10 Minutes):

1. What is your spiritual history?
2. What is your biblical knowledge? Have you done anything like this before?
3. Why did you join the 60 Day New Testament Challenge?

2. Video: Week 1 (24:45 Minutes):

Introduction

Old Testament: The Old Agreement

New Testament: The New Agreement

400 years between the Old Testament and the New Testament

People Groups in Palestine:

1. Jews
2. Samaritans
3. Gentiles

Religious Groups:

1. Pharisees
2. Sadducees

Jewish Institutions:

1. The Temple
2. Synagogues
3. The Sanhedrin

Literature:

1. The Translation of the Old Testament
 - a. Aramaic Version

- b. Septuagint
 - c. Samaritan
2. Oral Law

Authority of the Early Church:

1. The Old Testament
2. The teaching of Jesus
3. The teachings of the Apostles

The Official Canon:

1. Orthodoxy: did this book agree with the accepted doctrines of the church.
2. Is it connected to Apostles or their close circle, Matthew, John, Peter, Mark, Luke, Paul, James, Jude and author of Hebrews.
3. Antiquity: they had to come from the time of the Apostles, before 70 AD.

Nine New Testament Authors

Three Divisions in the New Testament:

1. Historical Section
2. Theological Section
3. Prophetic (Apocalyptic) Section

The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark and Luke)

- Synoptic comes from the Greek word Synopsis.
- Synopsis meaning "with the same eye", having common viewpoint.

Matthew

Author: Matthew

Original intended Audience: Jewish People

Purpose of Matthew: To show that Jesus was the Messiah who fulfilled the Old Testament.

Avoids the name of God to not offend the Jews who feared blasphemy.

- “Father in Heaven” (15 times to once in Mark and none in Luke)
- “Kingdom of Heaven” (33 times) vs. “Kingdom of God” (4 times)

Identifies Jesus as a descendant of Abraham and heir of David

- Jesus is called “son of David” nine times.

50% of his Authority and 75 different allusion to the Old Testament.

Matthew is the only Gospel that mention the Church.

Legal Genealogy of Jesus through Joseph (this is different from the one in Luke which is the Biological Genealogy through Mary)

The Sermon on the Mount:

1. The Beatitudes (Nine different “be-attitudes”)
2. The two Similitudes are metaphors describing how the Church should effect the world.
 - a. You are the Salt of the Earth.
 - b. You are the Light of the World.
3. The Antithesis: Jesus illustrates this using the formula “you have heard...but I say...”

Matthew has 11 unique parables to his gospels.

3. Questions from the Video (5-10 Minutes):

- a. Discuss two things you learned about the New Testament.
- b. What is one thing you learned about Matthew?

4. Discuss what they are hoping to get out of reading the New Testament (3-5 Minutes)

5. Discuss what they are hoping to get out of the reading this week (3-5 Minutes)

6. Prayer (5 Minutes)

- Take prayer requests.
- Pray together as a group.