

Follow Jesus' Steps

Based on the Four Gospels

For Parents/Adults

A Word About... "FOLLOW JESUS' STEPS"

THE CURRICULUM

The primary purpose of this curriculum is to fulfill the Great Commission of making disciples and evangelism (Matthew 28:18-20). It must be emphasized at the outset that the study guide is not the end in itself, but a means to facilitate Christian growth (2 Peter 3:18).

It is a *twin project* written for six-graders (and older) and parents/adults. Both projects follow the same scheme differing only in depth. It is designed to involve the parents in becoming a partner with the Sunday school, in teaching and training their children in Christian faith and values.

THE LIFE OF JESUS

The curriculum covers 35 lessons which constitutes the earthly life and work of Jesus. It is an attempt to weave the Four Gospels into one life story. The writer does not claim that the order of the lessons presented in the study is necessarily in each instance the exact chronological sequence in which they occurred. However, the order as presented is probably not far removed from the actual fact of history.

The reason for studying the life of Jesus are: First, *Christian faith has a content and its content is the teaching, the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus*. Second, it is most desirable to expose the mind, the life of children to that noblest life that has ever walked on earth. Hopefully, it may provide a "life model" for them to pattern after. This study guide would give you a fresh vision of Jesus such as have never experienced before.

THE LESSONS

There are six exercises to a lesson for the children and seven for the adults. The idea behind is one exercise a day. It is designed, especially, to help children foster the habit of studying the Bible while they are young, so that their lives - feelings, thinking, willing, might be shaped by the word of God. In writing the lessons the writer aimed at making the profound truth plain and relevant. Each lesson is carefully planned so it would take the learner through the events or teachings in an orderly manner. It is a comprehensive study utilizing the inductive method with an emphasis on understanding and not a rote learning.

THE METHOD OF QUESTIONING

The method of question and answer has been employed in teaching since the ancient time. It is an effective way of studying the Bible because it involves the learners in the learning process of thinking, feeling, discovering, evaluating, making decisions, etc.... The method was deliberately chosen to make the child think in order to cultivate the good habit of thinking. You will find the study guide to be exceptionally good mental training. The questions are not an endless round of easily answered factual questions, but, are carefully framed to give mental and emotional stimulation. It stretches the mind and imagination.

A Word about the Study Tools

1. For Children

a) Bible: Each child must have a personal copy of the Bible with his or her name on it.

“The Good News”, New Testament, published by American Bible Society (New York) is recommended for children.

Give the following instructions at the very first meeting:

*Turn to the Table of Contents and point out to the children that the New Testament has 39 books and teaches them where to find a particular book. Make sure that the children know where to find the Four Gospels.

*Teach the children how to read Scriptural references. For example, John 3:16 means the Gospel of John or simply John's Gospel, Chapter 3, verse 16. And actually, show them how to locate the verse. Give other exercises.

*Explain the abbreviations which appear in the lessons, such as:

Mt. means Matthew's Gospel (the first book of the New Testament)

Mk. means Mark's Gospel (the second book of the New Testament)

Lk. means Luke's Gospel (the third book of the New Testament) Jn.

means John's Gospel (the fourth book of the New Testament) 3f.

means verse 3 and the following verse (singular). 2ff. means verse 2 and the following verses (plural)

b) Children's Dictionary: Encourage the child to look up any unfamiliar word. It will increase the child's vocabulary.

c) Pencil and Notebook: Build in the child good study habits and increase self-discipline in doing homework.

*Ask the child to write down his answers, prayers and decisions. The notebook can be used for evaluation in the future.

*Train the child to organize and cultivate a sense of orderliness.

d) Folder: Each child should have a folder with his or her name on it for the study lessons. Pass out a lesson a week.

2. For Adults:

a) Bible: NIV, ASV, RSV are recommended. Use paraphrased Bible such as “The Living Bible” and “The Message Bible” only for reference.

b. Unabridged English Dictionary: Always look up an unfamiliar word in a dictionary.

c) Bible Dictionary: Bible Handbook

d) Bible Commentary: Remember, commentaries are a tool, not a crutch!

e) Bible Atlas: Always locate the event on a map. It makes the study interesting.

f) Pen and Notebook: Make it a habit of studying the Bible with a pen in hand.

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- 30 The Last Supper
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- 33 The Crucifixion
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- 35 The Great Commission

ETERNITY FUTURE

ASCENSION (Lk. 24:50-51; Acts 1:9)

THE EARTHLY LIFE OF CHRIST*

"When the time had fully come,
God sent forth his Son..."
(Gal. 4:4)

The Son of man came...to serve, and to give his life as a ransom... Mk. 10:45

PREPARATION

OPENING MINISTRY

EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY

GALILEAN MINISTRY

LATER JUDEAN MINISTRY

PASSION WEEK

POST RESURRECTION

Mt. 28
Mk. 16
Lk. 24
Jn. 20-21
Lessons: (2 Lessons)
34, 35

Mt. 21:1-27:66
Mk. 11:1-15:47
Lk. 19:29-23:56
Jn. 12:2-8; 12:12-19:42
Lessons: (7 Lessons)
27, 28, 29, 30, 31,
32, 33,

Mt. 8:19-22; 19:1-20:34
Mk. 10:1-52
Lk. 9:51-19:28
Jn. 7:10-12:1,9-11
Lessons: (7 Lessons)
19, 20, 21, 22, 23,
24, 26,

Mt. 4:12-8:18; 8:23-18:35
Mk. 1:14-9:50
Lk. 4:14-9:50
Jn. 4:1-3; 4:43-7:9
Lessons: (12 Lessons)
7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12,
13, 14, 15, 16, 17,
18,

Mt. -
Mk. -
Lk. -
Jn. 2:13-3:36; 4:1-42
Lessons: (2 Lessons)
5, 6,

Mt. 3:1-4:11
Mk. 1:1-13
Lk. 3:1-4:13
Jn. 1:19-2:12
Lessons: (2 Lessons)
3, 4,

Mt. 1:1-2:23
Mk. -
Lk. 1:1-2:52
Jn. -
Lessons: (2 Lessons)
1, 2,

INCARNATION (Jn. 1:1,14)

ETERNITY PAST

* It is generally accepted that Jesus was born about 5 B.C. and he began his public ministry at age 30. This study guide is based on opinion that his public ministry lasted three and a half years.

Follow Jesus' Steps

<u>Lesson</u>	<u>Lesson Title</u>	<u>Geographical Location</u>
<u>PREPARATION</u>		
1	The Birth of Jesus	From Nazareth to Bethlehem
2	The Visit of the Shepherds	In the vicinity of Bethlehem
<u>OPENING MINISTRY</u>		
3	The Ministry of John the Baptist	In the region around Jordan
4	The Temptation of Jesus	In the wilderness of Judea
<u>EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY</u>		
5	The Conversation with Nicodemus	At Jerusalem, in Judea
6	The Conversation with the Samaritan Woman	At Sychar of Samaria
<u>GALILEAN MINISTRY</u>		
7	The call of the First Disciples	By the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum
8	The Beginning of Popularity	In Capernaum
9	The Beginning of Opposition	In Capernaum and its vicinity
10	The Sermon on the Mount (I)	In the general vicinity of Capernaum
11	The Sermon on the Mount (II)	
12	The Sermon on the Mount (III)	
13	The Parable of the Kingdom	By the Sea of Galilee near Capernaum
14	A Day of Miracles	At NW & East of Sea of Galilee
15	The Feeding of Five Thousand	Near Bethsaida
16	The Question of Tradition	In Capernaum (?)
17	The Confession of Peter	Near Caesarea Philippi
18	Teaching on Forgiveness	In Capernaum
<u>LATER JUDEAN MINISTRY</u>		
19	Teaching about Himself	In Jerusalem
20	The Parable of the Good Samaritan	In Judea or Peraea
21	Teaching on Prayer	In Judea or Peraea
22	Teaching on Wealth	In Peraea
23	The Healing of the Man Born Blind	In Jerusalem
24	The Parable of the Lost	In Peraea
25	The Teaching on Discipleship	In Peraea
<u>PASSION WEEK</u>		
	The Story of Zacchaeus	In Jericho
27	The Triumphal Entry	From Bethany to Jerusalem
28	A Day of Controversy	In Jerusalem
29	Teaching on His Second Coming	At Mount of Olives
30	The Last Supper	In Jerusalem
31	The Final Instruction	In Jerusalem
32	The Trial	From Gethsemane to Jerusalem
33	The Crucifixion	In Jerusalem
<u>RESURRECTION</u>		
34	The Resurrection	In Jerusalem
35	The Great Commission	Jerusalem, Mount Olives

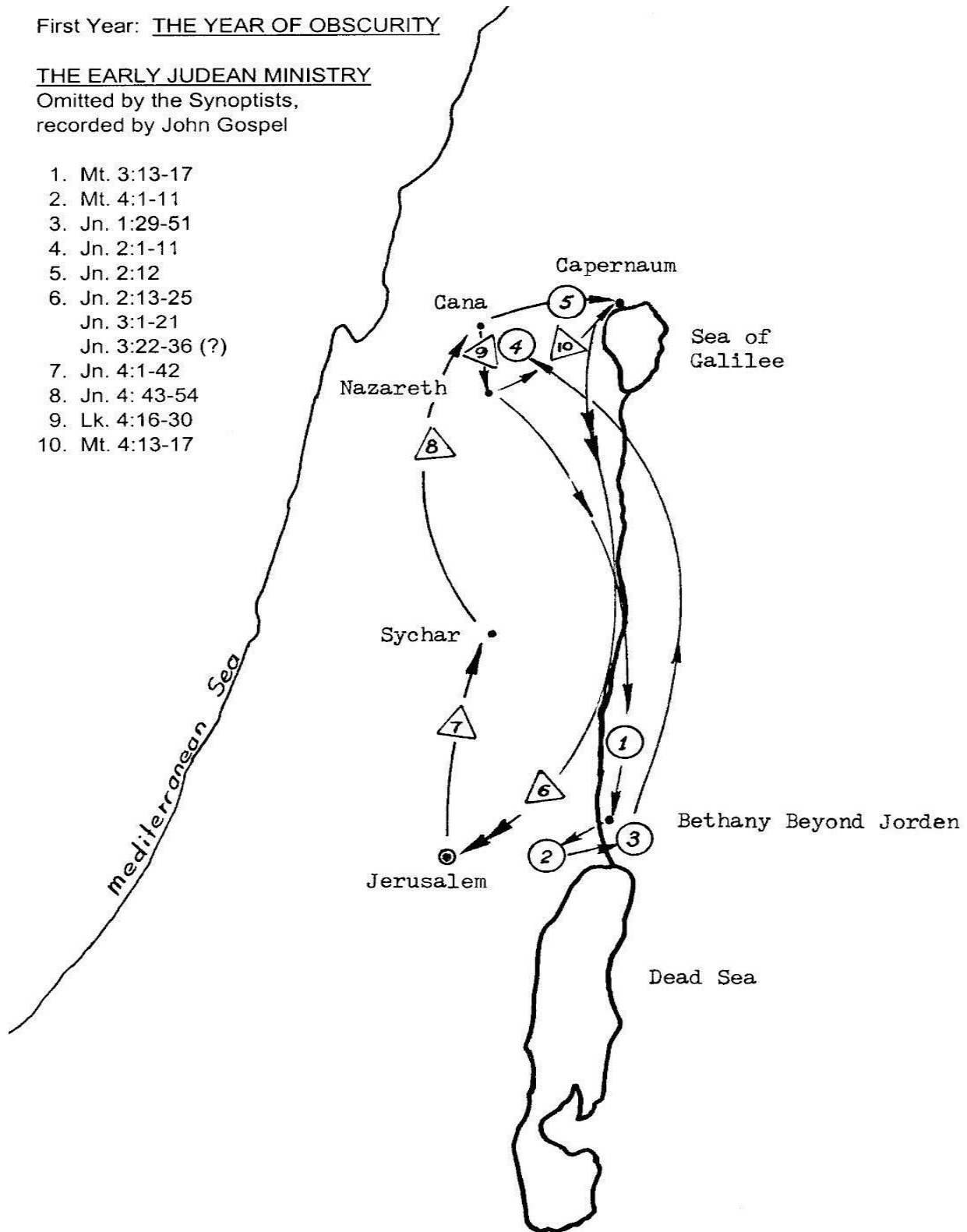
Map: The First Year of Jesus' Ministry

First Year: THE YEAR OF OBSCURITY

THE EARLY JUDEAN MINISTRY

Omitted by the Synoptists,
recorded by John Gospel

1. Mt. 3:13-17
2. Mt. 4:1-11
3. Jn. 1:29-51
4. Jn. 2:1-11
5. Jn. 2:12
6. Jn. 2:13-25
Jn. 3:1-21
Jn. 3:22-36 (?)
7. Jn. 4:1-42
8. Jn. 4: 43-54
9. Lk. 4:16-30
10. Mt. 4:13-17



The Sects and Parties of Palestinian Judaism

The Sadducees

- It was the aristocratic party of the Jews, the collaborator of the Romans, It made up a small group of wealthy, influential men who possessed both the political and religious power, occupied the highest offices in the Temple and in the civil life of the Jews. The priests were all Sadducees.
- They maintained the status quo and opposed any change, be it political, social, or theological.
- They accept only the authority of the Torah (the written law) and reject the tradition of the elders (the oral law) treasured by the Pharisees.
- They were liberal and anti-supernatural in their theology. (Mt, 22:23ff.)
- The sect came to an end with the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple in A.D. 70, and left no religious and theological system.

The Pharisees

- It was a religious sect that played a prominent role in The New Testament times.
- Their activities centered in the Synagogues and had a great influence over the Jewish populace.
- They were active in making proselytes. (Mt. 23:15.)
- They accept the authority over the Torah (the written law) plus the tradition of the elders (the oral law)(Mk. 7:1ff.), and they devoted their lives to the keeping of both the Written and Oral laws. (Lk. 11:24; 18:10-12.)
- They were conservative in theology that believed in the supernatural.
- The sect survived the destruction of Jerusalem in A.D. 70 and became the foundation of modern orthodox Judaism.

The Scribes

- It is a profession that emerged during the exile of the Jews. (Neb. 8:9; Ezra 7:6; 10). In The New Testament time they were known as "lawyers," "teachers of the law," or simply "teachers" or "rabbi." (Mt. 2:4; 22:34, 35; 23:1-4).
- They were scholars, the legal experts, who devoted themselves to the study of the laws, and their main concern was the interpretation and application of God's law to the people.
- It seems that most of the Scribes were Pharisees.

The Zealous

- The Zealous was more a political group than a religious sect. They were fanatical, extremist nationalist, who sought independence of the Jews from Roman rule. They resorted to violence and opposed paying tribute to Caesar, the Roman overlord.
- It seems that Judas the Galilee, who led a group of Jews in revolting against the Romans in A.D. 6. (Acts 5:37) was the founder of the group.
- One of the twelve disciples Jesus chose was a Zealot (Lk. 7:15, Acts 1:13).

The Herodians

- The origin of the group is unknown.
- It was neither a religious sect nor political party. Obviously, they were a small group of Jews who supported the Herodian dynasty and the Roman government. (Mk. 3:6; 12:13-17).