

Unit 1 Reading Guide

Jesus and Faith

Chapter 1: Getting to Know Jesus

Article 1: Discovering Jesus: The Adventure Begins

1. The Church's history is filled with stories of _____ who have turned their lives around after placing their _____ in Jesus Christ. One dramatic example of this is _____ of Tarsus, better known now as Saint _____.
2. Paul is first introduced as a _____ figure standing in the background, witnessing _____ being stoned to death. Paul goes on to _____ many other followers of Jesus Christ.
3. A _____ is a person who voluntarily suffers death because of his or her beliefs.
4. Then one day, it all _____ for Paul when he meets the _____ Jesus Christ. Saint Paul not only becomes a _____ but also one of Christianity's most zealous _____, spreading the saving _____ of Christ crucified and _____ everywhere he goes.
5. _____ is responding to Jesus' offer of love by turning away from sin and its effects and actively seeking to do God's will.
6. _____ helps us in our efforts to avoid sin and live our lives as Jesus teaches. His _____ helps us to discover and follow _____ for our lives.
7. Clearly, there is something _____ about the life and message of Jesus Christ.

Article 2: The Life and Times of Jesus

1. The culture at that time was _____. For the most part, _____ held the political, economic, and religious power. The primary social role of a woman was to be a _____ and _____. Some of the ways Jesus interacted with _____ seemed to break these social norms.
2. What did the _____ do to make a _____? Most of their work was _____. Many were _____. Some were _____. A few were _____, like Jesus and his foster father, _____.
3. If one primary cultural value defines life in first-century Palestine, it is commitment to _____.
4. Another kind of work that ordinary people could do during the time of _____ was to hire themselves out as _____ servants. People could do this because a very small percentage was very wealthy and needed many _____ to keep their estates running _____. Often



called the _____, these _____ owned large, beautifully decorated homes in the big cities, with _____ plumbing and many _____ for entertaining. They owned the _____ of the land in the _____, which they leased out to _____ farmers. They took _____ of the rest of the population through _____ wages and _____ taxation.

5. This _____ of haves and have-nots is not God's _____ for humankind as _____ in the Bible.
6. First-century Palestine was part of the _____. The Romans took control of Palestine about sixty years before the birth of Christ (63 BC).
7. King _____ the Great was the Jewish (actually half-Jewish) king at the time Jesus was born. Pontius _____ was the Roman governor who was sent by Rome to rule over Jerusalem after _____ proved to be poor rulers.
8. The _____ were a group of Jews known for its strict adherence to all the laws of the Old Testament. They believed in the _____ of the dead. The _____ consisted largely of the elite, wealthy class; many were chief priests. They did not believe in the _____ of the dead. The _____ were scholars and teachers of the Jewish Law and Scripture. The _____ believed that God wanted _____ to be an independent nation again, free from _____ rule. They preached a violent overthrow of the Roman occupiers.

Article 3: The Gospel of Mark, Part 1: The Human Face of God

1. Many scholars believe the Gospel of Mark was written around AD _____ for Christians living in _____.
2. In AD 64, fire broke out in Rome. The emperor, _____, blamed the fire on the _____. This led to _____ of the Christians. During this time, many Christians were so frightened that they denied their faith in an effort to escape persecution. Those who denied their faith, and perhaps even turned in their fellow _____ to save their own lives, were called _____. This atmosphere of _____ and _____ is part of what _____ addresses in his Gospel.
3. From the beginning, we see that Jesus, the _____ of _____, though welcomed by some, will be in a _____ against evil in his efforts to _____ us from our sins.
4. In the chapters that follow, numerous accounts of _____ helping people reveal not only Jesus' _____ but also his _____.
5. The Gospel of Mark reveals a _____ who definitely knows what it feels like to be _____ and even _____. Throughout the first eight chapters of Mark, Jesus repeatedly runs into _____, and Mark describes the variety of Jesus' emotions.
6. It is reassuring to know we have a _____ who understands what it is like to be _____. However, there are two important _____ between Jesus and us. First, Jesus is fully _____ but also fully _____. Second, Jesus is like us in all things except _____.



Article 4: The Gospel of Mark, Part 2: Who Do You Say That I Am?

1. The placement of these _____ in the middle of the Gospel of _____ is an intentional _____ technique used by the _____ of the Gospel. Everything that has happened so far leads up to Jesus' _____, and everything that happens in the _____ half of the Gospel flows from the _____ to his questions.
2. Like John the Baptist, Jesus calls people to _____ and preaches about the Kingdom of God. Elijah is a _____ who confronts _____. Jesus also works _____ and confronts _____. Finally, Jesus speaks for God like the _____ do, so it makes sense to think he might be a _____.
3. Peter gives the right answer: "You are the _____." At the time, many Jews believed the _____ would be an earthly _____ or _____ ruler, like King David in the Old Testament. They hoped the messiah would overthrow Rome's rule and return the _____ to the Jewish People.
4. Peter is the perfect example of this confusion over the _____ of the Messiah. He does not accept the idea that the Messiah must _____ and _____. It may sound _____ when Jesus tells Peter, "Get behind me, _____," but Peter, and the other _____ as well, were struggling to see how Jesus' suffering was _____.
5. We quickly learn that if Jesus, the Messiah, is willing to _____, his followers must be willing to suffer as well.

Article 5: The Gospel of Mark Part 3: The Empty Tomb Changes Everything

1. As the Gospel of Mark moves toward Jesus' Passion, _____, and Resurrection—events that together form the _____—Jesus' identity as the _____ Messiah comes into full view.
2. The disciples' _____ and eventual _____ of Jesus is highlighted more in Mark than in the other three Gospels. Consider these events: While praying in the garden, Jesus is in emotional agony. Where are the disciples? They are asleep. . . . As Jesus is being interrogated by the High Priest, _____ denies being one of Jesus' disciples three times. As Jesus is dying in agony . . . none of his followers are with him. Only a few of the _____ are brave enough to look on from a distance.
3. However, Jesus' suffering, abandonment, and _____ are not the final events of his life. The women enter the tomb and to their shock, they find not Jesus' _____, but a _____ dressed in _____. The young man announces the _____ news—Jesus is _____ from the dead! He [the young man] instructs the women to go tell the _____ the Good News. However, the women do just the _____, running away in _____ and telling no one.
4. The _____ ending of the Gospel of Mark is a cliffhanger, ending with the empty tomb and no accounts of the _____.



5. You probably noticed that there is a _____ to the Gospel. Despite our uncertainty about its origins, we are _____ that it is part of the _____ of Scripture. It is the _____ Word of God and has something to _____ to us.
6. So, what difference does Christ's Resurrection make? It makes all the _____ in this world and the next. It is the _____ that God's plan for salvation has been accomplished.
7. The _____ also gives new meaning to suffering. When connected to God's plan, suffering for the sake of _____ becomes something we as _____ can offer in imitation of _____.
8. We are a people of hope, knowing that _____ and _____ do not have the last word. Our Church community is a gathering of people committed to belief in Jesus Christ's _____ and the _____ that he offers.

Chapter 2: Jesus Revealed

Article 6: How the Gospels Came to Be

1. The most tangible way that God reveals himself to us is through the Person of _____. Jesus is the fullness of God's _____, and the _____ in the New Testament are a _____ way to learn about Jesus' _____ and saving mission.
2. The first stage in the formation of the Gospels is the actual _____ and _____ of Jesus Christ.
3. Many of these disciples become _____, traveling across the Roman Empire to share this _____ with others. Greek is their common _____, and in Greek the word for "good news" is _____, so their message became known as the _____ (Good News) of Jesus Christ.
4. This is the second stage in the formation of the Gospels, which is called the _____. As the Gospel spreads by _____ of _____, when questions arise, the Apostles and other eyewitnesses provide _____.
5. When the original _____ to Jesus' life, death, and Resurrection started to pass away, they [Church leaders] had to rethink things. To preserve the eyewitnesses' teaching and preaching about Jesus, they [Church leaders] began to write down their accounts about the life of Christ.
6. The third stage in the formation of the Gospels is the _____. Over time, the written Gospels were combined with the other writings now in the _____ of _____, forming the New Testament.

Article 7: Four Gospels, Four Authors, Four Viewpoints

1. So why are there four Gospels instead of one? The answer has to do with each Gospel being written by different _____, in different _____ situations, for different _____.



2. The Gospel of Matthew is like the _____ view. It focuses on showing the _____ between Jesus and the _____ found within the _____ Testament.
3. Mark's brevity and _____ presentation of Jesus' ministry is a little like watching highlights of a game. Mark is the Gospel that gives us the most _____ details. Mark shows the _____ of Jesus as he relates to his closest followers.
4. The Gospel of Luke is kind of like this _____ view. In Luke, Jesus' life and mission are presented in a way that _____ society's limited perspectives. Luke presents the _____ appeal of Jesus' message, recognizing that Jesus came to save _____.
5. The Gospel of John is like this camera. It is _____ when compared to the other three Gospels. It gives us a perspective from on _____, with its _____ theology that focuses on Jesus' identity as God's _____. Jesus' dialogue in the Gospel of John circles around just like the camera on a wire.
6. John also _____ in to grass level. John focuses five chapters on the _____, giving us an enormous amount of _____ about Jesus' relationships with his _____, with God the _____, and with the Holy Spirit.

Article 8: The Synoptics: Similar but Not the Same

1. They [the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke] all tell the same story from a similar perspective. Together we call them the _____ Gospels. The word _____ comes from a Greek word meaning "_____."
2. Most scholars believe that _____ was written first and that the authors of _____ and _____ probably used the Gospel of _____ as a starting point for writing their own Gospels.
3. One thing the _____ Gospels have in common are the many _____ Jesus uses to teach (John has no _____!). In the end, Jesus' _____ challenge the listeners not only to _____ about their world _____ but to act _____ as well.
4. Jesus' many _____ are also central to the synoptic Gospels. As we will learn later, the Gospel of _____ has only a few miracles but calls them _____.
5. As mentioned earlier, Mark is writing to a community that is being _____. Some people are denying their _____ in _____. Mark highlights Jesus' _____ and _____ as an example to the community.
6. Matthew's community is quite different. He is writing for a predominately _____ audience. The author of Matthew emphasizes Jesus' connections to _____ and uses those _____ to present Jesus as the fulfillment of all that the _____ (the Christian Old Testament) foretell.



7. Finally, the author of Luke is writing for a predominantly _____ (_____) Christian audience. They are influenced by _____ and are relatively unfamiliar with _____. The Gospel emphasizes the _____ of Jesus' message. Luke's accounts focus on how Jesus' offer of salvation is extended to _____, especially the _____ and _____.

Article 9: Scripture and Tradition: Why We Need Both

1. This living transmission of the Gospel in the Church is called _____, or sometimes the _____ Tradition.
2. Catholics, however, recognize the authority of both _____ and Sacred Tradition. It is through _____ that God is fully revealed and his _____ is made known to us.
3. Tradition and _____ are inseparable. They work together to achieve the same _____ of handing down the Gospel. Scripture and _____ help to maintain the purity of the _____ message. Scripture and Tradition support and _____ each other and will never be in _____.
4. In contrast, tradition with a lowercase *t* refers to a custom. They [traditions] are not part of God's authoritative _____, so they can be changed or altered to suit different _____, time periods, and cultures.

Article 10: The Magisterium: Passing On God's Revelation

1. As the Church's _____ is passed from one generation to the next, what keeps it from changing like the messages in the telephone game? The answer is the _____.
2. When Jesus chose the Apostles, he commissioned them to share in his ministry of preaching the _____ and proclaiming the _____ of _____.
3. The Pope, who is the bishop of _____, and all the bishops of the Church, are the modern-day _____ of the Apostles. Together they are called the _____, the official _____ authority of the Church.
4. Definition: The uninterrupted passing on of authority from the Apostles directly to all bishops is called _____.
5. Definition: _____ is the gift given by the _____ to the Church whereby the Magisterium of the Church, the _____, and the bishops in union with him, can definitively _____ a doctrine of _____ and _____ without error.
6. The Church places great _____ on seeking _____ among Christians and with all _____ of good _____.



Chapter 3: The Two Natures of Jesus

Article 11: True Man

1. It has been revealed through _____ and _____ that Jesus Christ is both true _____ and true _____. This means that even though he is one Divine Person, he has two _____—his _____ nature and his _____ nature.
2. _____ is the study of Jesus Christ—the _____ of God and the _____ Divine Person of the Trinity—and his _____ ministry and _____ mission.
3. Jesus is not just God appearing to _____. He has a physical, _____ body.
4. Jesus thought with a _____ mind. On the other hand, because of Jesus' divine nature, his _____ of God and of God's _____ was _____ and complete.
5. One characteristic that defines what it means to be human is our _____. In his human nature, Jesus too had a _____ will. The difference between our will and Jesus' will is that Jesus' _____ will is in complete _____ with his _____ will.
6. Like Celia, Jesus lived the _____ experience of being _____. And though Jesus died, his story is not _____.
7. If we forget his _____ nature, then we reduce Jesus to just another good moral _____ or _____ teacher.

Article 12: True God

1. Sacred Scripture is clear that Jesus Christ is the _____ of _____ who existed before all time.
2. Emmanuel is a Hebrew name meaning, “_____.”
3. Throughout the Gospels, Jesus displays powers that only God possesses. On several occasions, he displays _____.
4. During Jesus' earthly life, others recognized and _____ that he is the Divine _____ of God. Twice God the Father's booming voice from the heavens declares Jesus as his _____.
5. There are also _____ who make this connection. What is holding us back from believing that Jesus is God _____? If we take the risk of believing the _____ claims, we might be able to see the _____ impact that belief in Jesus' _____ nature can have on our _____.



6. Believing in Jesus' _____ nature gives us hope that _____ is attainable despite our sins and flaws. It helps us believe that everything Jesus taught is _____. However, our belief in Jesus' divine nature must be balanced with our belief in his _____.

Article 13: True God and True Man

1. Ashanti's dad told her that the correct term for God taking on flesh and becoming man is called the _____.
2. Christ was at all times *one* Divine Person with *two* _____. The theological term for this mystery of the _____ in one Divine Person is _____ union. The two natures of Jesus Christ do not simply exist one _____ the other; instead, they are _____ so completely that _____ are always _____ present.
3. Because Jesus is one Divine Person, a _____ of a fully _____ nature and a fully _____ nature, we know and experience Jesus' divinity *through* his _____. We come to know Jesus as _____ among us through knowing Jesus the _____.
4. A good way to understand how Jesus' human nature _____ God's true nature is to compare the images of _____ that come through the Old Testament to the image of _____ revealed through Jesus in the _____.
5. But Jesus' compassion reveals that the _____ is just a guide and that God loves us without _____.
6. Jesus' humanity makes it clear that God's saving _____ comes through _____ love.

Article 14: Why Does the Incarnation Matter?

1. God took on a human form because God is beyond our _____. In order for us to have any concept of God, grace, or salvation, God has to approach us in a way that we can understand.
2. God's taking on _____ in the Person of Jesus provides the frame needed to _____ more fully God and his saving love for us.
3. Artists portray Jesus as a _____ of their own culture so that we can _____ more closely with him.
4. God became flesh in the _____ of Jesus Christ because he is identifying with our _____.
5. God humbles himself and becomes _____ because he wants to be sure that we _____ his message of salvation.



Chapter 4: It Comes Down to Faith

Article 15: The Gift of Faith

1. Through faith, we come to accept and _____ the truth God has revealed to us. However, believing in and loving God is ultimately our _____.
2. Often when we encounter truths that we _____ to accept, these are the very areas of our faith that God is calling us to dig deeper to understand.
3. A life of faith means trusting that God wants _____ for us.
4. The word *obedience* comes from a Latin root meaning “to _____, _____, or pay _____ to.”
5. What can we do to strengthen and nourish our faith? One way to grow in faith is to read _____ regularly and prayerfully.
6. Spending _____ with other people is another way we can _____ our faith. We also nourish our _____ through prayer.
7. Jesus founded the _____ knowing that our personal faith thrives best in a _____ of faith.

Article 16: Learning about Faith from Paul’s Letters

1. Chart: Paul’s letters usually follow a pattern made of up of four parts: _____, _____, _____, and _____.
2. Understanding Paul’s letters can be challenging. The problems and _____ that Paul is addressing are not always _____ to use because we have only Paul’s _____ of the _____.
3. Another challenge is that Paul _____ and _____ in a time very different from our own. To help us understand what Paul is trying to _____ and ultimately what God is trying to _____ to us through Paul’s _____, we must seek to understand the _____ and ways of communicating used at the time.
4. One of the most interesting things we learn is the _____ of ways Paul calls others to _____. Sometimes we see Paul as a fatherly _____. Other times, he is like a _____ rabbi. Still other times, we see Paul utterly frustrated and _____ individuals who are leading others _____.
5. Yet, no matter what means Paul uses, his _____ for the Gospel and his _____ for others to put their _____ in Jesus is always clear.



Article 17: Galatians and Ephesians: Faith and Unity

1. Why was Paul so successful at establishing Christian communities? One reason is that Paul was willing to embrace people's _____ and _____.
2. Imagine his distress when he heard that the _____ community in Galatia had abandoned this teaching after _____ missionaries told them that they had to follow _____ Law before they could become _____!
3. "O _____ Galatians!" (Galatians 3:1). Sometimes the journey to faith has _____ along the way, and the _____ apparently hit one of those _____.
4. As Paul goes on to defend the _____ message, we learn more about _____ in Jesus. He explains that _____ in Jesus Christ is _____ for _____.
5. _____ flows from God's forgiveness of our _____ and the gift of God's _____ grace to _____ our holiness. The truth Paul proclaims is that the Old Law brings _____ only; only _____ in Jesus Christ brings _____ and our _____.
6. Apparently, in Ephesus the _____ Christians were not getting along with the _____ Christians. The divisions were going against _____ teachings and had the potential to _____ the spreading of the _____.
7. Then Paul speaks about our _____ in Christ. _____ is another word used to describe how God's _____ plan works. It is the process by which one is brought back from _____ to sin into _____ relationship with _____.
8. We need only accept God's _____ of salvation in _____. Once transformed, believers are called to live _____ lives that reflect the _____ unity between God and _____. By treating one another with _____ and _____, Christians are a sign of the _____ that God desires for all _____.

Article 18: First Corinthians: Faith Overcomes Division

1. During Paul's time, Corinth was a bustling _____ city, which meant it was a _____ for travelers from all over the world. Like most large first-century Roman cities, Corinth was a mix of _____ and _____. Corinth also had a reputation for _____ and sexual _____.
2. Unfortunately, instead of focusing on Jesus, they [the Corinthians] have divided themselves into cliques. Some groups say they are followers of _____, and others are following a preacher named _____. Paul is reminding the Corinthians that they are followers of _____, not a particular Church leader.
3. Sadly, the divisions among the Corinthians have also shown up at _____. Some _____ people bring food to eat before the celebration while others in the _____ go hungry. This emphasizes the _____ between the rich and the poor.



4. Apparently, Paul was asked if _____ were morally allowed to eat _____ that had been offered as a sacrifice to an idol, or pagan god. In the letter, Paul says that the answer is both _____ and _____. On one hand, Christians would be _____ to eat it, knowing that there are no gods besides the one, true God. On the other hand, Paul also cautions that it is not okay to eat this meat if another Christian whose _____ is _____ or uncertain would be _____ by your behavior.
5. For Paul, “being _____” is not as important as preserving the _____ that we have with other Christians.
6. Paul’s reminder to keep our focus on _____ does help us to _____ and _____ one another.

Article 19: We Celebrate Our Faith in Community

1. More than anything else, faith is a _____ with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Faith makes it possible for us to believe in all that he [God] has revealed about himself and to respond to his _____ with our whole heart, mind, and will.
2. Having faith in God can be likened to _____ in _____. When we fall in love, our whole _____ is changed.
3. Although they are different from each other, true faith is intimately connected with authentic _____.
4. We commit to our faith as _____ and then express our faith together in our religious _____ and _____. Expressing our faith in community involves _____, _____, and _____—in other words, _____ practices.
5. In religious worship, we acknowledge our utter _____ on God and offer grateful _____ for all God’s works. It is through _____ that we give back to God all that we, as his _____, owe him. As _____, our most _____ way of worshipping God is through the _____ of the _____.
6. In _____, we lift our mind toward God and celebrate his _____ mercy and love.
7. Though participating in the _____ is the _____ and _____ of our faith lives, it often seems that getting up to go to church is even harder than getting up to be on time for school! We have to make _____ a priority and be _____ with our entire selves.
8. In sacrificing our _____, money, or other _____ for the good of others, we unite ourselves more _____ with the _____ Christ offered on the cross and make our whole lives a _____ to God.

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