

Vocabulary for Unit 7

allegory: A literary form in which something is said to be like something else, in an attempt to communicate a hidden or symbolic meaning.

anawim: A Hebrew word for the poor and marginalized.

Essenes: A group of pious, ultraconservative Jews who left the Temple of Jerusalem and began a community by the Dead Sea, known as Qumran.

Evangelists: Based on a word for “good news,” in general, anyone who actively works to spread the Gospel of Jesus; more commonly and specifically, the persons traditionally recognized as authors of the four Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Gentiles: Non-Jewish people.

Gospels: Translated from a Greek word meaning “good news,” referring to the four books attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, “the principal source for the life and teaching of the Incarnate Word”² (CCC, 125), Jesus Christ.

Herodians: A group of Jewish leaders, including the Temple high priests and Jewish royal families, who collaborated with the Roman governors.

Johannine: Related to the author of the fourth Gospel.

Kingdom of God: The reign or rule of God over the hearts of people and, as a consequence, the development of a new social order based on unconditional love. Also called the Reign of God.

Logos: A Greek word meaning “Word.” *Logos* is a title of Jesus Christ found in the Gospel of John that illuminates the relationship between the three Persons of the Holy Trinity. (See John 1:1,14.)

Messiah: A Hebrew word meaning “God’s anointed one.” Translated as “Christ” in Greek.

messianic hope: The Jewish belief and expectation that a messiah would come to protect, unite, and lead Israel to freedom.

messianic secret: A theme in the Gospel of Mark that portrays the disciples and others as recognizing Jesus’ identity as the Messiah. However, Jesus directed them not to tell anyone else.

mysticism: A word that comes from the Greek, meaning “to conceal.”

parables: Short stories that use everyday images to communicate religious messages.

Paraclete: A name for the Holy Spirit, the Divine Third Person of the Trinity, whom Jesus promised to the disciples as an advocate and counselor.

Pharisees: A Jewish religious group that strictly observed and taught the Law of Moses.



Quelle: Also called the Q Source, a theoretical collection of ancient documents of the teachings of Jesus shared among the early followers of Christianity.

rabbi: An honored teacher in the Jewish tradition.

Sadducees: A group of powerful and often wealthy Jews who were connected to the Temple priests and often disagreed with the Pharisees.

scribes: People associated with the Pharisees or Sadducees who were skilled copyists, professional letter writers, and interpreters and teachers of the Law.

symbol: An object that points to or represents another reality. Sometimes the word *symbol* is used as a synonym of *sign*, and other times it refers to an object that makes present what it signifies.

synoptic Gospels: From the Greek for “seeing the whole together,” the name given to the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, because they are similar in style and content.

Theophilus: The name given to the audience of the Gospel of Luke and the Acts of the Apostles; it means “lover of God” or “God fearer.”

Zealots: People who banded together during the time of Christ to violently resist Roman occupation.

