

Chapter 15

Answer Key for Double-Check Questions

1. *What are Gospels, and what does the word gospel mean?*

The Gospels are the principal source for accounts of Jesus Christ's life and teaching and work of salvation. They are the four books attributed to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The word *gospel* is translated from a Greek word meaning "good news."

2. *What are the three stages in the formation of the Gospels?*

Scholars have designated three stages in the process of forming the Gospels: the life and teachings of Jesus, the oral tradition, and the written tradition.

3. *Why are the Gospels different from one another?*

Each Gospel is addressed to a specific Christian community. The Evangelists focus on the teachings and the aspects of Jesus' life that are most meaningful to their respective communities. The needs differ from community to community, so the Evangelists emphasize different religious truths that address the questions or problems they faced.

4. *What are the synoptic Gospels?*

The synoptic Gospels are the three Gospels that are very similar in their style and content: Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

5. *What should we remember to help us better understand Jesus' parables?*

To understand Jesus' parables, it is helpful to remember that the endings are usually unexpected. To get the point of the parables, you have to put yourself in the shoes of the audience Jesus first addressed and take into consideration their cultural viewpoints and biases at that time.

6. *Define miracle, and name the four different types.*

Miracles are signs or wonders, such as healing or the control of nature, that can be attributed to divine power only. Jesus' miracles can be categorized into four types: healings, exorcisms, control over nature, and restoration of life.

7. *Describe the prologue in John's Gospel.*

The prologue is a poem about creation that illuminates the relationship between the Word (the Son of God), the Father, and the Holy Spirit. It is through the Word that creation comes into existence. The Word is also the light of the human race, who became flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ.

8. *How is John's account of the Last Supper different from the accounts in the synoptic Gospels?*

Unlike the other Gospels, John does not describe the Last Supper as a Passover meal. Instead, he focuses on the meaning of discipleship as a path of love and service to others. This is symbolized when Jesus washes the disciples' feet and commands them to do it for others.

9. *Why is there no further need for more of God's public Revelation?*

God fully reveals himself in his Son, Jesus Christ. Because God's Word has already been fully revealed to us, no more revelation is needed.

