**GOD’S STORY – YOUR STORY**

**SESSION 1**

**It’s a Boy! It’s the Messiah!**

Readings

Matthew 1 and 2 Luke 1 and 2

Mark 1:1-8 John 1:1-18

The New Testament

Language - Greek

When written?

The letters were written first. These were written to various churches about 20 – 40 years after Jesus’ resurrection.

The gospels were written about 40 to 60 years after Jesus’ resurrection.

Revelations was written about 60 – 70 years after Jesus’ resurrection.

 Four different types of writing

Gospels

Matthew

Matthew (70-90 AD) well structured, 5 teaching sections, the most Jewish of the gospels, emphasis that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament

(Matthew 1:21-23 and Matthew 28:18-20)

 Mark

Mark (before 70 AD) eager to get to the cross and passion narrative, includes more demonic references

(Mark 1:1 and Mark 16:8)

 Luke

Luke (85-95 AD) MD, best written, most parables, emphasis on God saving all people, including the powerless, women, children, the poor, hungry, people on the fringes

(Luke 1:1-4 and Luke 24:44-49)

 John

John (90-95 AD) 7 signs, points to beyond itself, I Am statements, Jesus in control, most quotations from Jesus

(John 1:1-18 and John 20:30-31; John 21:24-25)

The four gospels give a different, yet interweaving, account of Jesus’ life. The writers had different perspectives, personalities, audiences, and wrote at slightly different times.

Church history

The Acts of the Apostles (written by Luke)

The Letters (Epistles)

Pauline letters

General letters

Apocalyptic Literature

Revelation to John

The Nativity

Matthew

Matthew begins with a genealogy stressing Jesus’ descent from Abraham through David and names him the Messiah.

Contains Joseph’s dreams, the Magi, and the slaughter of the innocents

Mark

Mark begins at the time of Jesus’ public ministry, no details of nativity

John the Baptist

Luke

Luke begins with the announcement of John the Baptist’s birth.

Includes the Annunciation and Magnificat

Includes more details of Jesus’ birth and early life

 Birth

 Shepherds and angels

 Jesus’ presentation, Simeon and Anna

 Jesus in the temple at 12 years of age

 Genealogy – Luke 3

John

John begins with the declaration of Jesus as the Word, and the Light of the world …. connection with Genesis

The Word becomes flesh and lives among us.

Summarizes John the Baptist’s mission of bearing witness to the Light.

**Looking ahead:**

Romans 1:16-17

Hebrews 1:1-4