

SECTION 2.4 | *The Gospels*



Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 1: Christmas Celebration

What You'll Need: Christmas decorations (optional); Christmas CD and CD player, or Smartphone or tablet (optional)

PREP: Optional: Decorate the classroom with Christmas decorations and play Christmas music in the background.

STEP 1: As kids enter the classroom, tell them Merry Christmas. Explain that they will be learning about the four Gospels in the New Testament. They tell about when Jesus came to earth, so we're having a mini Christmas celebration.

STEP 2: Share these key concepts:

- When people think of the Gospels, they often think of the birth of Jesus. But the Gospels contain much more.
- The Holy Spirit inspired four different men from different backgrounds to share the true story of the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying the Gospels in the Bible.

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Introduction Activity (5 Minutes)

Option 2: What Do You See?

What You'll Need: Computer, printer

PREP: Ahead of time, search the Internet for optical illusions. Print out several images, or be prepared to show those images to your kids in class.

STEP 1: Show images to kids and ask, "What do you see?" and listen to their responses.

STEP 2: Share the following concepts:

- When two people look at these images, they may see two different pictures, depending on their perspectives. If they examine the picture long enough, they may be able to see the second part to the image.
- The Holy Spirit inspired four different men to write about Jesus' birth, life, ministry, death, and resurrection. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John each wrote their Gospel from his own backgrounds and perspectives of how he perceived Jesus and His ministries.

STEP 3: Transition into the main lesson by opening in prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to help you and your kids understand the importance of studying the Gospels in the Bible.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 1: Same Story, Different Perspectives

What You'll Need: Funny objects, crazy costumes, person willing to wear them

PREP: Explain to the person wearing the costume that you will want them to remain hidden from the group until you have the four volunteers with you. Then he or she will need to run through your space, acting a little crazy and saying things that don't make sense, like numbers or animal noises in a random sequence.

STEP 1: Explain that you need four volunteers to stand with you at the front of your space, because you want to ask them a few questions.

STEP 2: When all four are standing with you, have the person wearing the funny costume run through your space, and then leave.

STEP 3: Explain that you need to ask some questions about what everyone just saw. Have volunteers take turns telling what they saw, while the other volunteers cover their ears. If they need a little prompting you can ask more specifically what they saw, heard, and wondered when the person came running through.

STEP 4: Thank your volunteers and have them sit down.

STEP 5: Tell the kids that it seemed that each person had something different to say about what he or she just saw, because each person noticed different details and remembers different parts of the event. In the same way when Jesus came to earth, four different men wrote about what they noticed and remembered about Him

STEP 6: Share these key concepts:

- The first four books of the New Testament are known as the Gospels. They tell the true story of Jesus Christ's life on earth.
- The Gospels are named for their writers. The

Holy Spirit inspired the writers and made sure that everything they wrote was true. All four writers told the true story of Christ's birth, earthly ministry, miracles, death, and resurrection.

- Matthew was one of Christ's followers. He showed that Christ is the true King and the promised Messiah.
- Mark heard about Jesus from Peter. Mark showed that Jesus has power and authority, but came to serve and to sacrifice Himself for others.
- Luke was a historian and a doctor. He recorded details of Christ's miracles and death, and also focused on the truth that Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- John was one of the disciples who was closest to Jesus. He focused on the truth that Jesus is fully God.
- When Jesus came to earth, four different men wrote true accounts about Him. This is a gift to us, because by putting it all together we better understand what things were really like.

STEP 7: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

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Main Lesson Activity (10 Minutes)

Option 2: Gospel Overview

What You'll Need: Gospel Overview Handout (from the Resource Bundle), scissors, Bible

PREP: Bookmark your Bible with Matthew 5:17, Mark 10:25, Luke 19:10, and John 20:31.

STEP 1: Ask for five volunteers to come to the front.

STEP 2: Explain that today you are learning about the Gospels. These are by four different people whose writings help us understand more about who Jesus is.

STEP 3: Give each volunteer a letter, and have them stand in order so that the letters read JESUS. Have each child read the reference inside their letter. As the verse reference is read, use your Bible to read the verse, or have the child read it from your Bible.

This is what the letters will say:

J- Matthew 5:17

E- Mark 10:25

S- The Gospels help us know Him better!

U- Luke 19:10

S- John 20:31

STEP 4: After this, share the following key concepts to help guide your discussion of the Gospels.

- The first four books of the New Testament are known as the Gospels. They tell the true story of Jesus Christ's life on earth.
- The Gospels are named for their writers. The Holy Spirit inspired the writers and made sure that everything they wrote was true. All four writers told the true story of Christ's birth, earthly ministry and miracles, death and resurrection.
- Matthew was one of Christ's followers. He

showed that Christ is the true King and the promised Messiah.

- Mark heard about Jesus from Peter. Mark showed that Jesus has power and authority, but came to serve and to sacrifice Himself for others.
- Luke was a historian and a doctor. He recorded details of Christ's miracles and death, and also focused on the truth that Jesus was fully God and fully man.
- John was one of the disciples who was closest to Jesus. He focused on the truth that Jesus is fully God.
- When Jesus came to earth, four different men wrote about what they noticed and remembered about Him. This is a gift to us, because by putting it all together, we can better understand what things would have really been like.

STEP 5: Follow up with the Lesson Application questions and Sum It Up statements from the Large Group Guide.

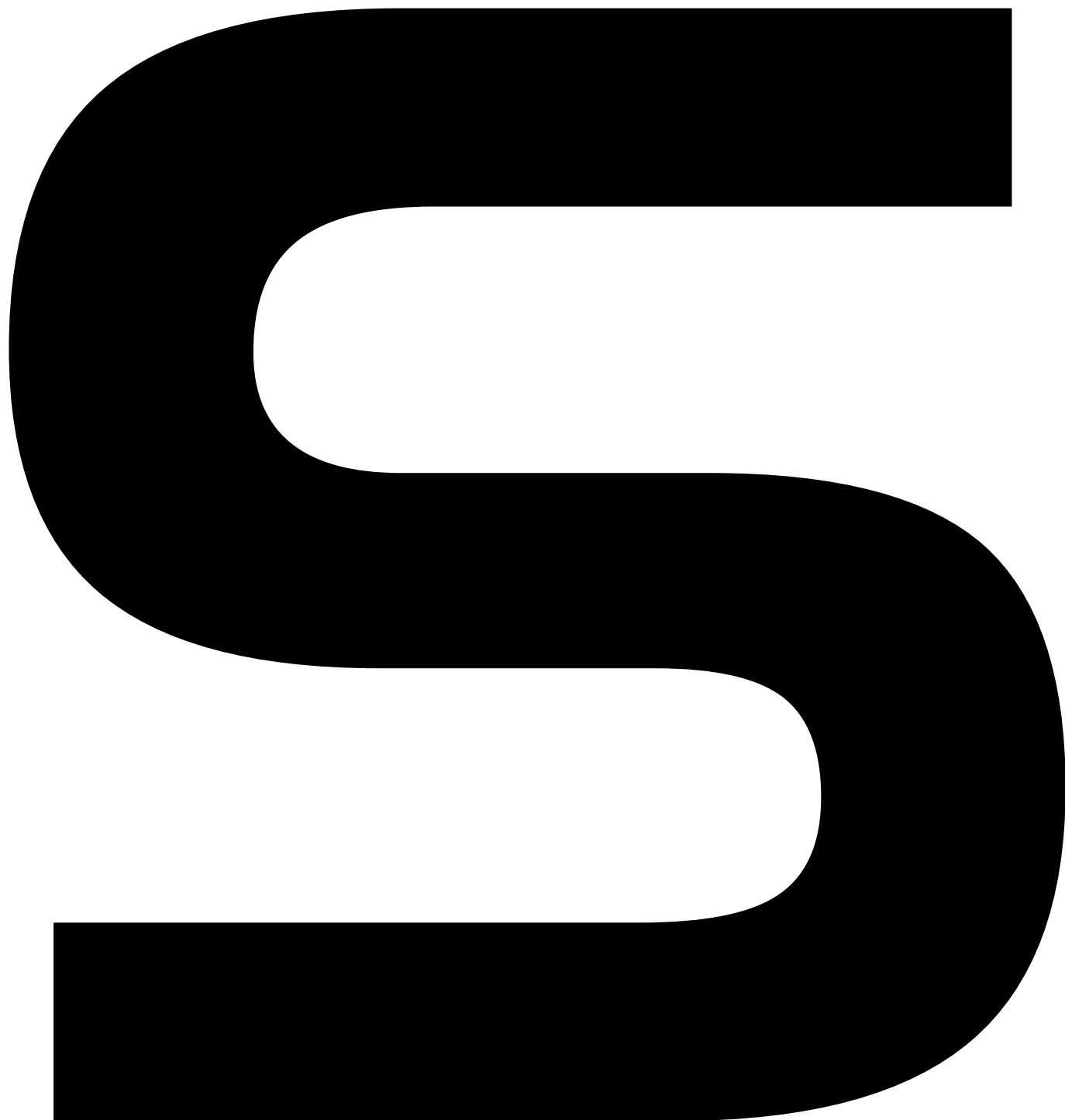
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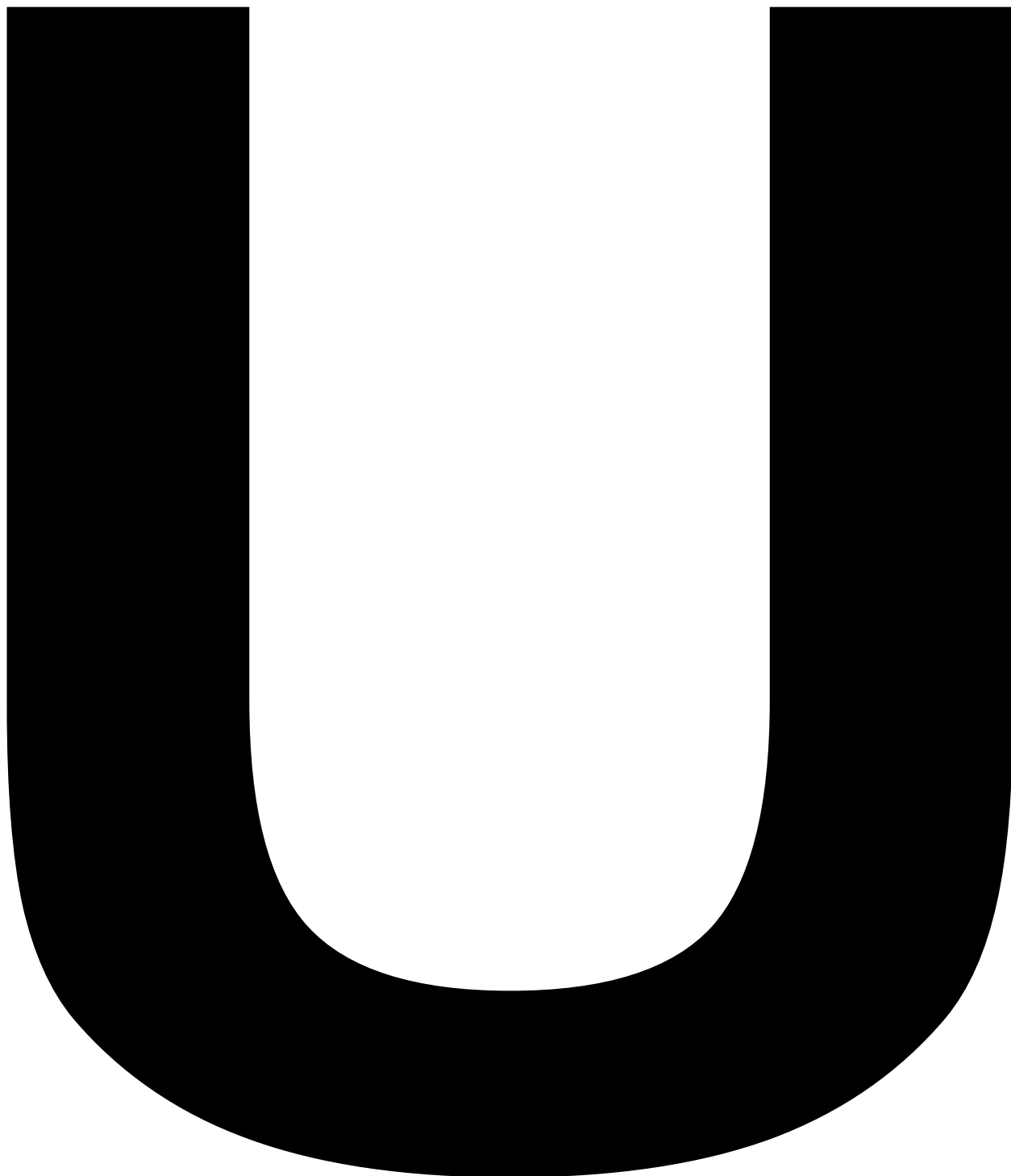
Matthew 5:17



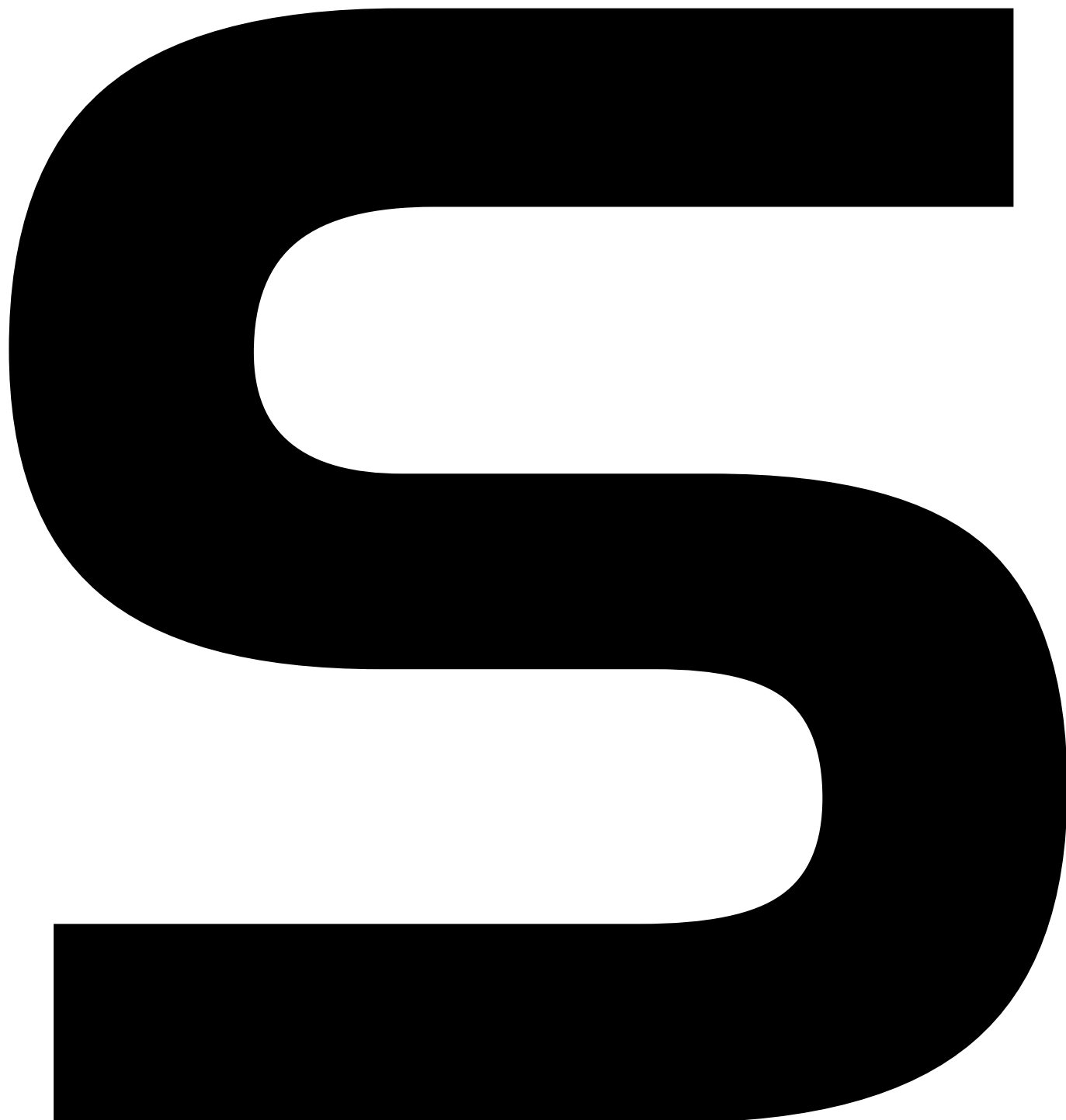
Mark 10:25



The Gospels help us know Him better!



Luke 19:10



John 20:31