



A
HARMONY
OF THE GOSPELS

NEW YEARS TO EASTER
BIBLE READING PLAN

First

Baptist Church of Lodi

A Harmony of the Gospels

offers a comparative study of the four gospels. Scholars have to guess at some of the chronology since the evangelists did not spell out all details for us, but a harmony is an attempt to help us see all the stories in order. You will also see that sometimes the evangelists put stories or sayings by theme and not by chronology. This harmony is taken from Blue Letter Bible. You can follow it at <https://www.blueletterbible.org/study/harmony/index.cfm>. If you simply hover over the Bible reference at this website, then that text appears for you and you don't have to look them all up. If you are using this guide in a digital form, simply click on the verse reference and then choose the option "go to the page." The verse will come up in KJV, but you can change it to another version if you desire. The readings are grouped by weeks. Read as much as you want each day with a view of finishing that group of readings by the end of the week. Pause for the brief reflection exercise after each section and see what God may teach you through it.

Options for reading this harmony:

#1 Read every single passage listed. Sometimes the telling of a story in another gospel gives a few details not found in the first reading.

#2 Read one version of each story or teaching. If you are finding too much repetition in reading all the versions, just read one or maybe glance at another to see what details it might add.

WEEK ONE

Pre-Christ Narratives

Luke's preface - Luke 1:1-4

"God the Word" - John 1:1-14

Reflection: Think about the incarnation and try to visualize what it meant for God to become flesh. This is mind blowing! Read Hebrews 4:14-16 and consider what it means to have this kind of sympathetic high priest and to approach God's throne boldly. Thank him for this awesome privilege.

The Birth and Early Childhood of Christ

Birth of John Baptist foretold - Luke 1:5-25

Annunciation of the birth of Jesus - Luke 1:26-38

Mary visits Elizabeth - Luke 1:39-56

Birth of John the Baptist - Luke 1:57-80

The two genealogies - Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38

Birth of Jesus Christ - Matthew 1:18-2:20

The circumcision and presentation in the temple - Luke 2:21-38

The wise men from the East - Matthew 2:1-12

Flight into Egypt, and return to Nazareth -

Matthew 2:13-23; Luke 2:39

Christ in the temple with the doctors - Luke 2:40-52

Reflection: Think about the humiliation of Jesus. Read Philippians 2:5-11. He didn't just become a man. He became one in the lowliest of circumstances - unmarried parents and homeless among the poor. Consider how God might be wanting you to humble yourself and reach out to others of lower status.

The Baptism of Christ

Ministry of John the Baptist -

Matthew 3:1-12; Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:15-31

Baptism of Jesus Christ -

Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-34

Reflection: Think about the meaning of baptism - symbolically washing away sins, committing yourself to the new life in Christ. Reflect on the details of your own baptism. Thank God for the person(s) who brought you to faith and express to God your recommitment to follow Christ. If you haven't been baptized since coming to faith in Christ, contact one of our pastors about doing this.

The Temptation of Christ

The temptation - Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1:12-13; Luke 4:1-13

Reflection: Notice how Jesus combated his temptations. Reflect on how many scriptures you have available to combat yours. Find a verse to memorize to help you out in your battles.

The Early Ministry of Christ

Andrew and another disciple and Simon Peter - John 1:35-42

Philip and Nathanael - John 1:43-51

The marriage in Cana of Galilee - John 2:1-11

Passover and cleansing the temple - John 2:12-25

Nicodemus comes to Jesus by night - John 3:1-21

Christ and John baptizing - John 3:22; 4:2

Christ at the well of Sychar - John 4:3-42

John the Baptist in prison - Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14; Luke 3:19-20; John 3:24; Matthew 14:3; Mark 6:17

Christ returns to Galilee -

Matthew 4:12; Mark 1:14-15; Luke 4:14-15; John 4:43-45

The synagogue at Nazareth - Luke 4:16-30

Andrew and Simon, James and John called -

Matthew 4:13-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Reflection: In these readings we see some remarkable conversations that Jesus had with people. Look at how he handled those conversations. What can you learn from this? Pray that God will give you such wisdom in conversations with others this week. Be on the lookout for divinely appointed opportunities to ask strategic questions and to bring light to others.

WEEK TWO

Miracles of Christ

The nobleman's son at Capernaum healed - John 4:46-54

The demoniac in the synagogue healed -

Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37

Simon's wife's mother healed -

Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:29-34; Luke 4:38-41

Circuit around Galilee -

Matthew 4:23-25; Mark 1:35-39; Luke 4:42-44

Healing a leper - Matthew 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16

Christ stills the storm -

Matthew 8:18-27; Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-25

Demoniacs in the land of the Gadarenes -

Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39

Jairus' daughter, woman healed -

Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-43; 8:40-56

Blind men and demoniac - Matthew 9:27-34

Healing the paralytic - Matthew 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26

Matthew the tax collector -

Matthew 9:9-13; Mark 2:13-17; Luke 5:27-32

"Your disciples do not fast" -

Matthew 9:14-17; Mark 2:18-22; Luke 5:33-39

Reflection: Jesus demonstrated his power over nature, illness, and demonic forces through these miracles. Where would you like Jesus to show his power in your life? Turn those thoughts into prayer requests. Jesus does not promise that he will eliminate all our problems, but he is able to do above and beyond all we ask of think.

The Feast and Miracle at Bethesda

The feast at Jerusalem - John 5:1

The pool of Bethesda - John 5:2-15

Jesus and the irate Jews - John 5:16-47

Reflection: These religious leaders were more concerned about fulfilling their religious rules and traditions than about helping people. Ask God to show you where your religious rules and traditions might get in the way of your helping people.

WEEK THREE

Ministry and Parables

Plucking ears of corn on the Sabbath;

Matthew 12:1-8; Mark 2:23-28; Luke 6:1-5

The withered hand. Miracles -

Matthew 12:9-21; Mark 3:1-12; Luke 6:6-11

The twelve apostles -

Matthew 10:2-4; Mark 3:13-19; Luke 6:12-16

The sermon on the mount - Matthew 5:1-7:29; Luke 6:17-49

The centurion's servant healed - Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10

The widow's son at Nain - Luke 7:11-17

Messengers from John - Matthew 11:2-19; Luke 7:18-35

Woe denounced to the cities of Galilee - Matthew 11:20-24

Call to the meek and suffering - Matthew 11:25-30

Anointing the feet of Jesus - Luke 7:36-50

Second circuit round Galilee - Luke 8:1-3

Parable of the sower - Matthew 13:1-23; Mark 4:1-20; 8:4-15

Parable of the candle under a bushel -

Mark 4:21-25; Luke 8:16-18

Parable of the seed growing secretly - Mark 4:26-29

Parable of the wheat and tares - Matthew 13:24-30

Parable of the grain of mustard seed -

Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19

Parable of the leaven - Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21

On teaching by parables - Matthew 13:34-35; Mark 4:33-34

The wheat and tares explained - Matthew 13:36-43

The hid treasure, the pearl, the net - Matthew 13:44-52

His mother and His brethren -

Matthew 12:46-50; Mark 3:31-35; Luke 8:19-21

Reception at Nazareth - Matthew 13:53-58; Mark 6:1-6

Third circuit round Galilee -

Matthew 9:35-38; Mark 6:6; Matthew 11:1

Reflection: There is a lot of teaching material in this week's section. What is one idea from this section that you think God wants you to focus on and apply to your life?

WEEK FOUR

Sending forth of the twelve -

Matthew 10:5-42; Mark 6:7-13; Luke 9:1-6

Herod's opinion of Jesus -

Matthew 14:1-2; Mark 6:14-16; Luke 9:7-9

Death of John the Baptist - Matthew 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29

Feeding of the five thousand -

Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:30-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-15

Christ walking on the sea -

Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-52; John 6:16-21

Miracles in Gennesaret - Matthew 14:34-36; John 6:53-56

"The bread of life discourse" - John 6:22-65

The washed hands - Matthew 15:1-20; Mark 7:1-23

The Syrophenician woman - Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30

Miracles of healing - Matthew 15:29-31; Mark 7:31-37

Feeding of the four thousand - Matthew 15:32-39; Mark 8:1-9

The sign from heaven - Matthew 16:1-4; Mark 8:10-13

The leaven of the Pharisees - Matthew 16:5-12; Mark 8:14-21

Blind man healed - Mark 8:22-26

Reflection: In this week's reading we have the feeding of the 5000 and the feeding of the 4000. How are these stories the same and how are they different? What can we learn from them? Many see the boy giving what little he had in the first of these feeding miracles and having Jesus multiply it to feed a multitude as a paradigm for us. When we offer what meager and flawed resources we have to Jesus in our time, our money, our skills, our personalities, he can multiply our gifts way beyond what we thought was possible. Review your resources and make a fresh offering of them to Jesus right now.

WEEK FIVE

Outside of Galilee

Peter's profession of faith -

Matthew 16:13-19; Mark 8:27-29; Luke 9:18-20; 6:66-71

The passion foretold -

Matthew 16:20-28; Mark 8:30-38; 9:1; Luke 9:21-27

The transfiguration - Matthew 17:1-9; Mark 9:2-10; Luke 9:28-36

The coming of Elijah - Matthew 17:10-13; Mark 9:11-13

The lunatic healed - 17:14-21; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-42

Reflection: Think about Jesus' path to glory. The transfiguration gives us a glimpse of what is ahead. But first there is the cross. Where in your life are you facing something in God's call to you that will bring pain? Then think about the glory to come as you follow God's call. Read 1 Peter 5:6 as an encouragement.

Back in Galilee

The passion again foretold -

Matthew 17:22-23; Mark 9:30-32; Luke 9:43-45

The fish caught for the tribute - Matthew 17:24-27

The little child - Matthew 18:1-5; Mark 9:33-37; Luke 9:46-48

One casting out devils - Mark 9:38-41; Luke 9:49-50

Offenses - Matthew 18:6-9; Mark 9:42-48; Luke 17:2

The lost sheep - Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:4-7

Forgiveness of injuries - Matthew 18:15-17

"Binding and loosing" - Matthew 18:18-20

Parable of the unmerciful servant - Matthew 18:21-35

"Salt with fire" - Mark 9:49-50

Reflection: Forgiveness is hard for most of us. Who remains unforgiven in your life? Who are you holding a grudge against? If you are unwilling to forgive them, how can you presume upon God's forgiveness? Keep in mind that forgiving doesn't necessarily mean that all the pain of the offense is gone or that the other has even apologized correctly. It doesn't mean you will "forgive and forget." If I was physically beaten up by someone, I could never forget even if I could forgive. Forgiving means letting go of the grudge and the hope that the other will be punished. Read Colossians 3:13 to see the kind of forgiveness we are called to.

WEEK SIX

Ministry in Jerusalem

Journey to Jerusalem - Luke 9:51; John 7:1-10

Fire from heaven - Luke 9:52-56

Answers to disciples - Matthew 8:19-22; Luke 9:57-62

Teaching at the feast of tabernacles - John 7:11-53

Woman taken in adultery - John 8:1-11

Dispute with the Pharisees - John 8:12-59

The man born blind - John 9:1-41

The good shepherd - John 10:1-21

Feast of the dedication - John 10:22-30

Departure beyond Jordan - John 10:40-42

Reflection: Luke 9:51 tells us that Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem or, as the KJV puts it, "he steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem." Jesus was determined to follow the Father's call even though he knew it would end in death. We see echoes of Isaiah 50:6-7 in this verse: "I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. Because the Sovereign Lord helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore have I set my face like flint, and I know I will not be put to shame." Is there a place in your life where this same attitude is needed? Maybe you have to deal with a difficult person, find a way to overcome a persistent area of spiritual failure, or handle a disappointment in a godly way. Commit your problem and pain to the Lord and know he is there to help you.

WEEK SEVEN

In Galilee

Mission of the seventy - Luke 10:1-16

The return of the seventy - Luke 10:17-24

The good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

Mary and Martha - Luke 10:38-42

The Lord's prayer - Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:1-4

Prayer effectual - Matthew 7:7-11; Luke 11:5-13

The blasphemous Pharisees reproved - Matthew 12:22-37;

Mark 3:20-30; Luke 11:14-23

The unclean spirit returning - Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-28

The sign of Jonah - Matthew 12:38-42; Luke 11:29-32

The light of the body -

Matthew 5:15; Luke 11:33-36; Matthew 6:22-23

The Pharisees - Matthew 23:1-39; Luke 11:37-54

What to fear - Matthew 10:26-33; Luke 12:1-12

Covetousness - Matthew 6:25-33; Luke 12:13-31

Watchfulness - Luke 12:32-54

Galileans that perished - Luke 13:1-9

Woman healed on the Sabbath - Luke 13:10-17

The grain of mustard-seed -

Matthew 13:31-32; Mark 4:30-32; Luke 13:18-19

The leaven - Matthew 13:33; Luke 13:20-21

Reflection: Find one lesson from these stories that challenges you today. Maybe it is about being a good neighbor to someone you don't like. Maybe it is about covetousness or the need to spend time with Jesus. Ask God to help you in this matter and show you his grace and power.

WEEK EIGHT

Towards and At Jerusalem

Journey towards Jerusalem - Luke 13:22

"Are there few that be saved?" - Luke 13:23-30

Warning against Herod - Luke 13:31-33

Prophecy against Jerusalem -

Matthew 23:37-39; Luke 13:34-35

Dropsy healed on the Sabbath day - Luke 14:1-6

Choosing the chief seats - Luke 14:7-14

Parable of the great supper - Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:15-24

Following Christ with the cross -

Matthew 10:37-38; Luke 14:25-35

Parables of the lost sheep, piece of money, prodigal son -

Luke 15:1-32

Parables of the steward, rich man and Lazarus - Luke 16:1-31

Offenses - Matthew 18:6-15; Luke 17:1-4

Faith and merit Matthew 17:20; Luke 17:5-10

The ten lepers - Luke 17:11-19

How the kingdom comes - Luke 17:20-37

Parable of the unjust judge - Luke 18:1-8

Parable of the Pharisee and the publican - Luke 18:9-14

Divorce - Matthew 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12

Infants brought to Jesus -

Matthew 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17

The rich man inquiring -

Matthew 19:16-26; Mark 10:17-27; Luke 18:18-27

Promises to the disciples -

Matthew 19:27-30; Mark 10:28-31; Luke 18:28-30

Laborers in the vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16

Death of Christ foretold -

Matthew 20:17-19; Mark 10:32-34; Luke 18:31-34

Request of James and John -

Matthew 20:20-28; Mark 10:35-45

Blind men at Jericho -

Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43

Zaccheus - Luke 19:1-10

Parable of the ten talents - Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-28

Raising of Lazarus- John 11:1-44

Meeting of the Sanhedrin- John 11:45-53

Christ Departs to Ephraim - John 11:54-57

The anointing by Mary -

Matthew 26:6-13; Mark 14:3-9; Luke 7:36-50; John 12:1-11

Christ enters Jerusalem -

Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:29-44; John 12:12-19

Cleansing the temple (second) -

Matthew 21:12-16; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-48

The barren fig tree -

Matthew 21:17-22; Mark 11:11-14; Luke 11:19-23

Reflection: Many of these passages challenge us - those dealing with money or the stewardship of our lives or dealing with inequalities in this life. Pray about one of these and ask God to deepen your discipleship in this area.

WEEK NINE

Exhortation to prayer and forgiveness -

Matthew 6:14-15; Matthew 11:24-26

The questioning of the chief priests -

Matthew 21:23-27; Mark 11:27-33; Luke 20:1-8

Parable of the two sons - Matthew 21:28-32

Parable of the wicked husbandmen -

Matthew 21:33-46; Mark 12:1-12; Luke 20:9-18

Parable of the wedding-garment -

Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24

The tribute money -

Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26

The Sadducees confuted -

Matthew 22:23-33; Mark 12:18-27; Luke 20:27-40

The great commandment - Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34

David's Son and David's Lord -

Matthew 22:41-46; Mark 12:35-37; Luke 20:41-44

The hypocrisy and ambition of the Pharisees -

Matthew 23:1-39; Mark 12:38-40; Luke 20:45-47

The widow's mite - Mark 12:41-44; Luke 21:1-4

Christ's second coming foretold -

Matthew 24:1-51; Mark 13:1-37; Luke 21:5-36

Parable of the ten virgins - Matthew 25:1-13

Parable of the talents - Matthew 25:14-30; Luke 19:11-27

The last judgment - Matthew 25:31-46

Greeks visit Jesus. Voice from heaven Mark 12:20-36

The judgment of unbelief - Mark 12:37-50

Last passover. Conspiracy of Jews -

Matthew 26:1-5; Mark 14:1-2; Luke 22:1-2

Judas Iscariot - Matthew 26:14-16; Mark 14:10-11; Luke 22:3-6

The Last Supper - Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-23; John 13:1-35

Contention of the apostles - Luke 22:24-30

Peter's fall foretold - Matthew 26:31-35; Mark 14:27-31; Luke 22:31-39; John 13:36-38

Last discourse. The departure. The Comforter - John 14:1-31

The vine and the branches. Abiding in love- John 15:1-27

Work of the Comforter in the disciples - John 16:1-33

The prayer of Christ for them - John 17:1-26

Gethsemane -

Matthew 26:36-46; Mark 14:32-42; Luke 22:40-46; John 18:1

Reflection: We again see many challenges to what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We are also reminded of our human weakness as we see Peter fall so badly in his denials of his Master. List the various kinds of encouragement we can find from God's resources for us in John 14-17 and then thank God for each of them.

WEEK TEN

The Betrayal and Trial of Christ

The betrayal -

Matthew 26:47-56; Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-11
Christ before Annas and Caiaphas. Peter's denial - Matthew 26:57-58, Matthew 26:69-75; Mark 14:53-54, Mark 14:66-72; Luke 22:54-65; John 18:12-27

Christ before the Sanhedrin -

Matthew 26:59-68; Mark 14:55-65; Luke 22:66-71

Christ before Pilate - Matthew 27:1-2, Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-6; John 18:33-40

The traitor's death - Matthew 27:3-10

Christ before Herod - Luke 23:7-12

Accusation and condemnation - Matthew 27:15-26; Mark 15:6-15; Luke 23:13-25; John 18:29; 19:16

Reflection: Look at the many times Jesus had to face trial on this fateful day. Think of the emotional pain of being misunderstood and abused again and again even before his death. Revisit Hebrews 4:14-16. Consider the sympathy he can offer you when you are misunderstood, abused or misjudged by others. Offer up these problems to him and let him take your burdens.

WEEK ELEVEN

The Crucifixion and Burial of Christ

Treatment by the soldiers - Matthew 27:27-31; Mark 15:16-20;
Luke 23:36-37 John 19:1-3

The crucifixion - Matthew 27:32-38; Mark 15:21-28; Luke
23:26-34; John 19:17-24

The mother of Jesus at the cross - John 19:25-27

Mockings and railings -

Matthew 27:39-44; Mark 15:29-32; Luke 23:35-39

The penitent criminal - Luke 23:40-43

The death of Christ -

Matthew 27:50; Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; John 19:28-30

Darkness and other portents -

Matthew 27:45-53; Mark 15:33-38; Luke 23:44-45

The bystanders -

Matthew 27:54-56; Mark 15:39-41; Luke 23:47-49

The side pierced - John 19:31-37

The burial - Matthew 27:57-61; Mark 15:42-47; Luke 23:50-56;
John 19:38-42

The guard of the tomb - Matthew 27:62-66; Matthew 28:11-15

Reflection: Think about what it means for Jesus to have died for you. Meditate on the following verses: Romans 5:8-11; Romans 8:31-32; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15; 1 Thessalonians 5:10; 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Hebrews 9:15. Pick out one thought to keep with you throughout the day today or tomorrow.

WEEK TWELVE

The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ

The resurrection -

Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-11; Luke 24:1-12; John 20:1-18

Disciples going to Emmaus - Mark 16:12-13; Luke 24:13-35

Appearances in Jerusalem, Doubts of Thomas -

Mark 16:14-18; Luke 24:36-49; John 20:19-29

Appearance at the sea of Tiberias - Luke 21:1-23

Appearance on the mount of Galilee - Matthew 28:16-20

Unrecorded works - Matthew 20:30-31; Luke 21:24-25

The ascension - Mark 16:19-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:1-11

Reflection: The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our victory.

Read these verses which celebrate that victory: 1 Peter 1:3-5; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Romans 8:3-11. What does it mean for you to live each day in light to this victory?