NAME: _____

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The Nature of God

THE GOSPELS

Art by: Philip Martin

The first four books of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) are called the Gospels. The word 'gospel' means "good news."

The gospel writers were so excited about their "good news" that they wanted to share it with others. They wanted people to know that Jesus was the Messiah. They also wanted to preserve the message of Jesus for future generations.
The four gospels teach about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The divine nature of Jesus is revealed in the gospels (Christ, Son of God, Lord, Saviour etc.). The gospels teach that God has power to perform miracles and to forgive sins. Lessons on how to live are included in all of the gospels.
Christians have been given the responsibility to spread the good news about Jesus to others (Matt. 28:19).
Individuals can spread the good news by showing love and helping others. The good news can be also spread through the print media, television and the internet.

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Divisions of the Bible

New Testament – Gospels

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John

The word '***gospel***' means '**good news**' *Matthew*, *Mark, Luke* and *John* tells the life story of Jesus – the good news that he came to earth to teach us about God and to die for our sins.

Matthew: was one of Jesus' twelve disciples. **Mark** was John Mark, a cousin of Barnabas described in the book of Acts. **Luke** was a doctor. **John** was a disciple and was probably Jesus' cousin.

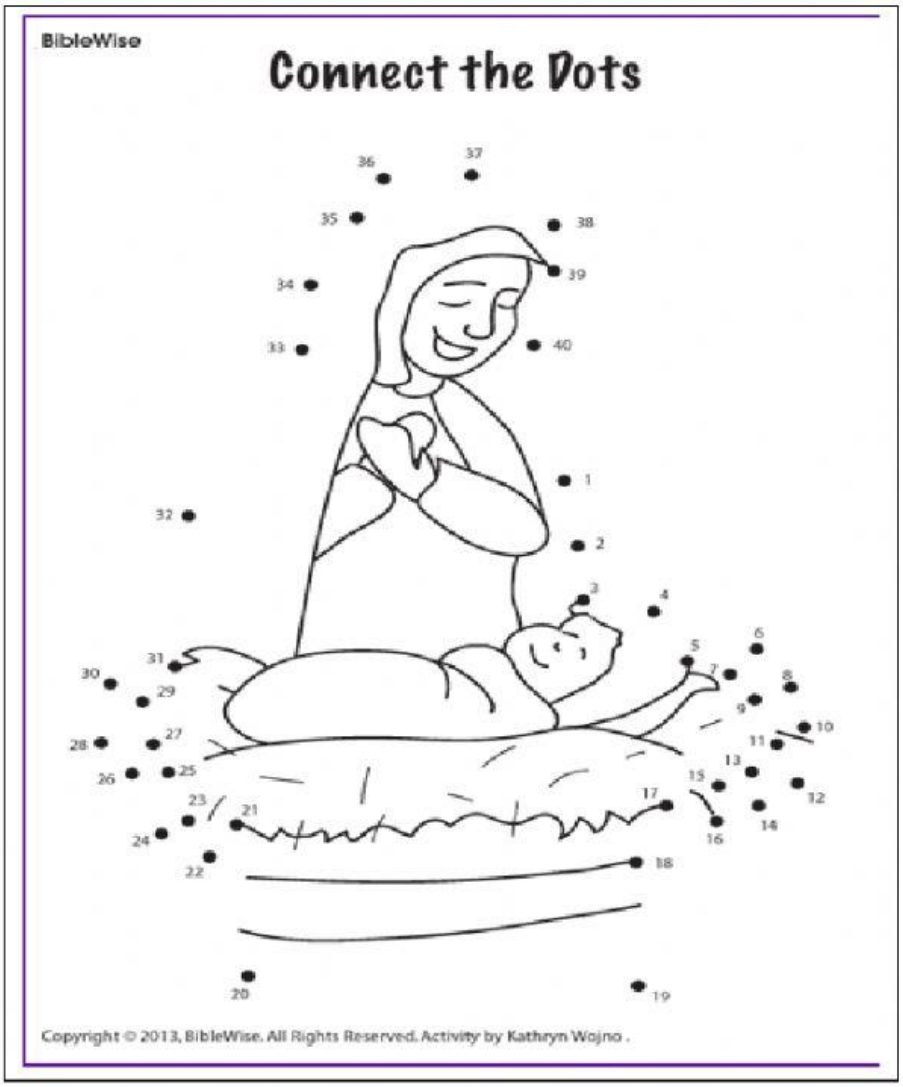
Some stories about Jesus are in all four books, and some are in just one book.

<u>The Birth of Jesus</u>

The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and visit from the shepherds is found in Luke 2:1-20

Matthew 2:1-21 tells how the wise men came to visit Jesus later.

Connect the dots for a reminder of how Jesus first came to earth.



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Names for Jesus

The book of John uses many different names for Jesus. Draw a line from each name to the matching picture.

The Word (John 1)

The Bread of Life (John 6)

The Light of the World (John 8)

The Good Shepherd (John 10)

The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14)

The Vine (John 15)