

Possible Essay Questions: Be able to write a one-paragraph response to each of the following questions.

1. Read Luke 4:1-12 and Matt 4:1-11. What is this story about? What is another name for the “temptation”? What is the main difference in the two versions and how do you account for that difference in terms of the redactive method?
2. Read Acts 10:1-16. What is Peter’s vision about? What do the creatures represent and what does God say about those creatures? Why is this story fitting for Acts of the Apostles (note: who is the author)?
3. Discuss the New Moses motif in the Gospel of Matthew. What evidence do we have to make such a claim about Matthew’s Jesus? Show at least 3 examples from the text. Then read Matt 5:21-26. Is Jesus changing Jewish law? Explain.
4. The Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles seem to be 2 parts of the same writing. Give at least 2 examples to prove that this is the case.
5. Read Mark 4:30-32. Interpret this parable on your own. What do you think Jesus is saying about the Kingdom of God?
6. Read Acts 9:10-30 and Galatians 1:11-20. What do you find striking about these two accounts of Paul? How do you account for this discrepancy?
7. Besides the genealogies, what are the key differences between Matthew and Luke’s birth narratives? Who are the main characters? What is Jesus’ hometown?
8. Discuss the starting places of each of the 4 Gospels. How do the starting points reflect the divinity of Jesus in each of the Gospels?
9. What two first century Jewish sects does Jesus most resemble? How does He resemble them and how was He different?
10. The scriptures can be seen as a window to God. God makes himself available to us through our experience of him. God’s name given was to Moses at the burning bush, “I am who I reveal myself to be.” How do you think God reveals himself to us through the Scriptures in light of your experience this year?

Parables: Be prepared to answer question about the following parables. This might include symbolism, meaning, and context.

1. The Parable of the Sower: (Mt.13:1-9)
2. The Good Samaritan: (Lk.10:30-35)
3. The Laborers: (Mt.20:1-16)
4. Building on Sand and Rock: (Mt.7:24-27)
5. The rich man and Lazarus: (Lk.16:19-31)

Geography: Be able to know the significance of the places in the New Testament world.

The Synoptic Diagram: Be able draw the diagram and answer questions about it.

The four Jewish Sects: Know the difference between the four Jewish sects.

The Four Gospels: Know the difference between the four Gospels