

The Gospels are the four accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection found in the beginning of the New Testament (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). They individually cover some of the same parts of Jesus' life, but from slightly different perspectives, emphasizing different themes in the story of Jesus. In a literary sense, the Gospels are narratives. They tell a story (a true story), and as we read them we need to bear in mind how stories work.

Here are some COMA questions that are especially useful for the Gospels and Acts:

**Context** questions:

- What has happened so far in the narrative? Have there been any major events, characters, or themes?
- What has happened just prior to the section you are reading?

**Observation** questions:

- What do you learn about the main characters in this section? How does the author describe them? How do they describe themselves?
- Is time or place significant in the events that happen in this passage?
- Is there a conflict or high point in the passage?
- Do you think there is a main point or theme in this section of the story?
- What surprises are there?

**Meaning** questions:

- Are there any 'editorial' comments from the author about the events in the narrative? How do these comments illuminate what is happening?
- Does someone in the narrative learn something or grow in some way? How? What does this person learn?
- What does the passage reveal about who Jesus is, and what he came into the world to do?
- How could you sum up the meaning of this passage in your own words?

**Application** questions:

- How does this passage challenge (or confirm) your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- What does this passage teach you about being a disciple of Jesus?