

## WEEK 41 — JESUS BEGINS HIS MINISTRY

**Date:** about 6 BC to AD 27

**The Story:** God brings his Son into the world as a baby boy. When he is grown—and shortly after the prophetic ministry of John the Baptist—he launches into a ministry of healing, teaching, and driving out demons. In Jesus people find hope in God: hope for forgiveness, for divine instruction, for freedom from physical brokenness and death, for life at peace with God. But not everyone is pleased with Jesus...

\* Kids' readings may not align with the daily full readings. Parents, see the content ratings on the back page.

### OCTOBER 9 LUKE 2 • MATTHEW 2-3

**Today's reading** begins with Luke's glorious account of the birth of Jesus followed by young Jesus' first appearance at God's temple in Jerusalem. Note that this appearance some forty days after his birth (compare Luke 2:22 with Leviticus 12) took place before the visit of the Magi and Jesus' family's escape to Egypt (Matthew 2). After Luke shares our sole story from Jesus' childhood years, we rewind to the Magi's visit shortly after his birth, which was followed by King Herod's attempt to kill Jesus, with its horrific results (Matthew 2). Then, in Matthew 3, the story jumps most of three decades to the ministry of John the Baptist, now an adult and a prophet. His ministry gives birth to the ministry of Jesus, whom he baptizes as Jesus prepares to begin his work.

**Date:** about 6 BC to AD 26

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 2:1-21 • Luke 2:41-52 • Matthew 2-3

**Kids' Reading\*:** Luke 2

### OCTOBER 10 LUKE 3 • JOHN 1

**Today's reading** brings us Luke's and John's stories of the ministry of John the Baptist and introductions to Jesus from both Luke and John (the apostle). Luke provides an excerpt of the moral teaching of John the Baptist, which led to the people's interest in whether John might be the Messiah. Luke, as he introduces Jesus, tells us that Jesus "was about thirty years old when he began his ministry" (3:23); John the Baptist would have been about six months older than Jesus. John (the apostle) introduces Jesus not as an adult (like Mark) or an infant (like Matthew and Luke), but as the preexistent Word of God who "became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14). He then tells about John the Baptist, whose ministry focuses around preparing the Jewish people for the "Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (1:29).

**Date:** about AD 26-27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Luke 3:1-23 • John 1

**Kids' Reading\*:** Matthew 2-3

### OCTOBER 11 JOHN 2 • MATTHEW 4 • LUKE 4

**Today's reading** finds Jesus beginning his ministry. In John, he begins with a quiet miracle that catches the attention of his disciples, then with a rousing and public rebuke of improper conduct at the temple (he will enact much the same rebuke at the temple again, toward the end of his ministry). In Matthew and Luke he submits to a time of fasting and being tempted by the devil, then begins to preach, heal, and gather followers.

**Date:** about AD 26-27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** John 2 • Matthew 4 • Luke 4:14-44

**Kids' Reading\*:** John 1:19-51

### OCTOBER 12 MARK 1 • JOHN 3

**Today's reading** adds the book of Mark to our accounts of the life of Jesus. Mark, a fast-moving narrative, opens with John the Baptist and quickly segues into Jesus' baptism, teaching, and healing. Meanwhile

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS — Summit View Church of Christ

John—who usually includes stories not told by the other three writers—shares Jesus’ encounter with a Jewish leader, Nicodemus, and then offers more of the testimony of John the Baptist about Jesus.

**Date:** about AD 26-27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Mark 1 • John 3

**Kids’ Reading\*:** John 2 • Matthew 4

## OCTOBER 13 JOHN 4 • LUKE 5

**Today’s reading** comes from John and Luke. John shares the story of Jesus’ encounter with a Samaritan woman, which spills over into two days of ministry to her whole town. He also tells of Jesus’ healing of an official’s son from a distance. Luke gives more accounts of Jesus’ teachings and healings, including his calling of Simon (Peter) and of Levi (who in Matthew’s gospel is called Matthew).

**Date:** about AD 27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** John 4 • Luke 5

**Kids’ Reading\*:** John 4

## OCTOBER 14 MATTHEW 5-7

**Today’s reading** makes up Jesus’ famous Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ first extended teaching in Matthew. It begins with the Beatitudes, a series of blessings (5:3-12), then continues with various instructions and closes with the parable of the wise and foolish builders (7:24-27). Notice Jesus’ interpretations of commands from the Law of Moses (5:17-48), warnings against hypocrisy (6:1-8) leading into his model prayer (6:9-13), and instruction not to worry, but to seek God’s kingdom first in all things (6:25-34).

**Date:** about AD 27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Matthew 5:1-16 • Matthew 6-7

**Kids’ Reading\*:** Matthew 5:1-16 • Matthew 5:43 to 6:15 • Matthew 7:24-29

## OCTOBER 15 MATTHEW 8-10

**Today’s reading** resumes Matthew’s stories of Jesus’ ministry of teaching and healing with several stories in chapters 8-9. Notice the surprises here: Jesus commends the faith of a non-Israelite (the centurion), controls the weather, drives out violent demons, claims the authority to forgive sins, calls a tax collector (named Levi in Luke 5:27) to follow him, neglects a fast that others observe, and raises a girl from the dead. In chapter 10, Jesus instructs the twelve apostles and sends them out for a period of ministry.

**Date:** about AD 27

**In a hurry? 10-minute reading:** Matthew 8:5-34 • Matthew 9:18 to 10:42

**Kids’ Reading\*:** Matthew 8

### Parents’ Guide

PG preview for young children

**Mt 5:**21-22 (T, V), 27-30 (S, T, V),  
31-32 (T), 38-39 (V)

**Mt 8:**12 (T), 21-22 (T), 28-34 (T)

**Mt 9:**18-24 (T)

**Mt 10:**15-19 (T, V), 22-29 (T, V)

**Lk 2:**21 (C), 34-35 (T)

**Lk 4:**29 (V)

**Jn 2:**15 (V)

PG-13 preview for under age 13

**Mt 2:**13-18 (T, V)

**Mt 10:**21 (T, V), 34-35 (T, V)

R shocking, graphic, or disturbing

none

C = Circumcision

N = Nudity

S = Sexuality

T = Dark/Sensitive Themes

V = Violence