



## Reading Guide 1: The Bible Jesus Read

The “Gospels” contain the story of the earthly life and ministry of Jesus Christ. The four books which are commonly referred

to as “the gospels” are \_\_\_\_\_, M\_\_\_\_\_, L\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_. They make up the first four books of the part of the Bible known as the New Testament.

Matthew appears to have been written, primarily, to an audience which had a \_\_\_\_\_ background (this means they studied and followed the teachings of the Old Testament).

Read Matthew 1:1-17. A genealogy can appear “boring” and pointless. It is, however, an effective form of “shorthand” that allows both the writer and the reader to review and share history.

How many generations from Abraham to David? \_\_\_\_ Solomon to Jeconiah? \_\_\_\_ Jeconiah to Jesus? \_\_\_\_

Hebrew genealogies rarely mention women (it is generally a patriarchal society).

What does “patriarchal” mean?

How many women are named in the genealogy of Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, list the women mentioned and one or two facts about each.

What are some possible reasons for Matthew including these women in this genealogy?

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To understand the story of Jesus, to begin to comprehend some of the depth and richness of many of the words of the epistles, one is helped by an acquaintance with the Hebrew Scriptures. Some of the most important (and well known) words of Jesus make the assumption the reader knows, or has access to one who will know, the Old Testament origins. Matthew 22 and Mark 12 both record a time(s) when Jesus was asked to name the greatest command. List his answer, and where it comes from, in the space below.

The Bible Jesus read is what Christians refer to as the Old Testament. Luke 4:14-30 records a time when Jesus went to a Synagogue, was handed a scroll and asked to read to the people. His sermon assumed a knowledge of the Old Testament.

What is a Synagogue?

Why did the people react to him in such a negative fashion?

To see the similarities between the Old Testament and the New Testament look at Genesis 1:1 and John 1:1. How does each book begin?