

Teaching the Gospels Using a Harmony Approach

It is recommended that teachers use this manual as it is written and teach the Gospels in a sequential manner. However, some teachers may choose to teach the New Testament Gospels as a “harmony,” meaning that the events of the Savior’s life are taught chronologically, combining the material from each Gospel. Advantages of teaching the Gospels in this manner include the ability to treat the teachings and events in the Savior’s life more thoroughly; the life and ministry of Jesus Christ are put in some sort of chronological order; and the redundancy is eliminated that is sometimes felt when teaching the Gospels sequentially. Those who choose to teach the Gospels using a harmony approach should make this decision in consultation with their coordinator or institute director, based on the needs of students and the guidance of the Spirit. This chart provides a suggested way to reorder the ideas found in this manual to support a harmony approach. Before choosing to teach this course using a harmony approach, it is important to consider the following:

- Teaching a harmony of the Gospels can make it difficult to understand the context of each Gospel and the sequence of scripture passages. Teachers need to help students understand the textual and historical context of each passage as they move from one account to another.
- Teaching a harmony of the Gospels tends to obscure the distinct intentions and themes of each individual Gospel writer. Teachers should give careful attention to the guidance about these themes provided in the teacher manual and student manual so they can help their students identify and appreciate them.
- As currently written, the teaching ideas in this manual are designed to flow smoothly from one part of the lesson to the next. Transition statements are written into the existing manual to facilitate moving from one teaching idea to the next. When these teaching ideas are rearranged into a harmony approach, as the chart below illustrates, the teacher will need to prepare ways to make transitions between the suggested ideas.

Because the Gospels are taught as a harmony in many Church settings and materials, some teachers who have never taught the Gospels sequentially may be hesitant to try it. This manual has been prepared to help teachers be successful in teaching each Gospel individually.

Note: Those teachers who choose to teach using a harmony approach can find valuable help in the Harmony of the Gospels, found in the Bible appendix.

Teaching the Gospels as a Harmony		
Lesson Number	Main Teaching Ideas	Supplemental Teaching Ideas
1	Purposes of the Four Gospels (in lesson 1) The Historical Setting of the New Testament (in lesson 1) John 1:1–14. The Premortal Existence of Jesus Christ <i>As you introduce the course, you might find portions of the following teaching ideas helpful:</i> Introduction to the Gospel According to St. Matthew Introduction to the Gospel According to St. Mark Introduction to the Gospel According to St. Luke The Testimony of St. John	Coming Forth, Canonization, and Translations of the New Testament (in lesson 1) The Bible Plays a Central Role in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (in lesson 1) John 1:1. Jesus Christ Is the Word of God John 1:4–11. John Testified of Jesus Christ as “the True Light”

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2	<p>Matthew 1–2. Genealogy and Birth of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Luke 1:5–55; 2:1–38. Many Received Glad Tidings of the Births of John and Jesus</p> <p>Luke 1:30–35, 41–43; 3:21–38. The Parentage of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>Matthew 1:1–17. Matthew’s Genealogy of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Matthew 1:19–24; 2:13–15, 19–23. Joseph Was an Example of a Righteous Husband and Father</p> <p>Matthew 1:20–24; 2:12–14, 19–22. Revelation through Dreams</p> <p>Luke 1:11–20, 26–38; 2:9–14. Angels Announced the Births of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ</p> <p>Luke 1:26–56. Mary Was Called to Be the Mother of the Son of God</p> <p>Luke 2:40–52. Jesus Christ Taught at the Temple as a 12-Year-Old Boy</p>
3	<p>Matthew 3:1–12. John the Baptist Preached in Judea</p> <p>Luke 1:57–80; 3:1–22. The Mission of John the Baptist</p> <p>John 1:15–36. John the Baptist Testified of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Matthew 3:13–17. The Baptism of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>John 1:12–17. Becoming Sons and Daughters of God</p> <p>Joseph Smith Translation, John 1:18. Heavenly Father Bore Witness of His Only Begotten Son</p> <p>John 1:28–29. Jesus Christ Was Baptized near Bethabara</p> <p>John 3:25–36. John the Baptist Willingly Deferred to the Savior</p>
4	<p>Matthew 4:1–11. The Savior Was Tempted in the Wilderness</p> <p>John 1:35–51. Jesus Christ Began to Call Disciples</p> <p>John 2:1–11. Jesus Christ Turned Water into Wine</p> <p>John 2:13–22. Jesus Christ Cleansed the Temple</p>	<p>Matthew 4:17–25. Jesus Christ Began His Mortal Ministry</p>
5	<p>John 3:1–8. The Savior Taught Nicodemus about Spiritual Rebirth</p> <p>John 3:9–21. Jesus Christ Testified to Nicodemus of His Divine Sonship</p> <p>John 4:3–30. Jesus Christ Taught a Woman at Jacob’s Well in Samaria</p>	<p>John 4:28–42. Many Samaritans Believed in Jesus Christ</p> <p>John 4:43–54. Jesus Christ Healed a Nobleman’s Son</p>
6	<p>Luke 4:14–32; 7:1–10. The Savior Was Rejected in Nazareth; He Healed a Centurion’s Servant</p> <p>Luke 5:1–11. Jesus Christ Called Fishermen to Be His Disciples</p> <p>Matthew 8–10. The Calling of the Twelve Apostles</p>	<p>Matthew 9:14–17. New Cloth and New Bottles</p> <p>Matthew 10:28–39. The Savior Taught His Disciples That He and His Father Are Mindful of Them</p> <p>Luke 5:16. The Savior Often Prayed Alone</p>
7	<p>Matthew 5:1–12. The Beatitudes</p> <p>Matthew 5:17–48. Jesus Christ Taught Us How to Become Like Heavenly Father</p>	<p>Matthew 5:13–16. “The Salt of the Earth” and “the Light of the World”</p> <p>Luke 6:20–26. The Savior Taught about Blessings and Woes</p> <p>Luke 6:34–38. Jesus Christ Instructed Us to Be Generous and Merciful</p>

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8	<p>Matthew 6:1–18; 7:7–11. The Savior Discoursed on Worshipping the Father</p> <p>Matthew 6:19–34. Seeking First the Kingdom of God</p> <p>Matthew 7:21–29. Doing the Will of the Father</p>	<p>Matthew 6:14–15; 7:1–6, 12. How We Treat Others Affects Our Relationship with God</p> <p>Matthew 5–7; see also Matthew 2:13–16, 19–20; 3:16; 8:27, 34; 17:2. Similarities between Jesus Christ and Moses</p>
9	<p>Mark 1:1–11, 21–31; 2:1–12; 3:15, 22–30; 4:35–41. The Authority and Power of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Mark 1:4–5, 14–15, 40–45. Repentance and the Healing of a Leper</p> <p>Mark 2:1–17. The Healing of a Paralytic and the Calling of Levi</p> <p>Mark 5:21–24, 35–43. Jesus Christ Raised Jairus’s Daughter from the Dead</p> <p>Mark 5:25–34. The Healing of a Woman with an Issue of Blood</p>	<p>Mark 1:23–27, 34; 3:11, 14–15, 22–30. Jesus Christ Cast Out Unclean Spirits and Devils</p> <p>Mark 2:1–12. The Healing of the Paralytic</p> <p>Mark 2:23–3:7. The Sabbath Day</p> <p>Mark 4:26–29. The Parable of the Seed Growing by Itself</p>
10	<p>Luke 4:14–32; 7:1–10. The Savior Was Rejected in Nazareth; He Healed a Centurion’s Servant</p> <p>Luke 7:11–17. Jesus Christ Raised the Son of a Widow of Nain from Death</p> <p>Luke 7:36–50. The Savior Taught about Love and Forgiveness</p> <p>John 5:1–29. Jesus Christ Healed a Man at the Pool of Bethesda</p>	<p>Matthew 11:1–19. John the Baptist</p> <p>John 5:25–28. The Savior Foretold His Ministry in the Spirit World</p> <p>John 5:31–47. Many Witnesses Testified of Jesus Christ</p>
11	<p>Matthew 11:28–30. “Come unto Me” and “Take My Yoke upon You”</p> <p>Matthew 12. The Choice to Follow or Oppose the Savior</p> <p>Matthew 13. Jesus Christ Taught in Parables</p>	<p>Matthew 12:31–32, 43–45. Blasphemy against the Holy Ghost</p> <p>Matthew 12:43–45. Parable of the Empty House</p> <p>Matthew 13:1–52. Joseph Smith Interpreted Parables Found in Matthew 13</p> <p>Matthew 13:10–17. Why Jesus Christ Spoke in Parables</p> <p>Luke 8:1–3. Many Women Assisted the Savior in His Ministry</p>
12	<p>Mark 6:30–44. The Feeding of the Five Thousand</p> <p>Matthew 14:22–36. Jesus Christ Walked on Water</p> <p>John 6:22–69. The Bread of Life Discourse</p>	<p>Mark 5:1–43; 6:30–44; 7:24–37. The Savior’s Compassion</p> <p>Mark 6:5, 13; 7:32. Laying On of Hands and Anointing with Oil</p> <p>Mark 6:14–29. The Death of John the Baptist</p>
13	<p>Mark 7:1–23. False Traditions and the Commandments of God</p> <p>Mark 8:18–33. The Gradual Healing of a Blind Man and Peter’s Rebuke of the Savior</p> <p>Mark 8:31–38; 9:31–37, 43–48; 10:32–45. The Will of the Father for Jesus Christ and His Disciples</p> <p>Mark 9:14–29. “Help Thou Mine Unbelief”</p>	<p>Mark 8:1–9. The Feeding of the Four Thousand</p> <p>Mark 9:33–37; 10:35–45. The Savior’s Teachings about Service and Leadership</p>

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14	<p>Matthew 16:1–18. Jesus Christ Taught His Disciples near Caesarea Philippi</p> <p>Matthew 16:19–20; 17:1–13. Peter, James, and John Received Priesthood Keys on the Mount of Transfiguration</p> <p>Matthew 18:21–35. Parable of the Unmerciful Servant</p>	<p>Matthew 15:21–31. The Savior Healed the Daughter of a Gentile Woman and Taught Gentile Multitudes</p> <p>Matthew 16:6–12. Beware of the Leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees</p> <p>Matthew 17:1–13. Significant Events Occurred at the Mount of Transfiguration</p> <p>Matthew 17:24–27. The Savior Worked a Miracle in Paying Tribute Money</p>
15	<p>Luke 9:57–62; 14:15–33. Teachings on Discipleship and the Parable of the Great Supper</p> <p>Luke 10:25–37. The Parable of the Good Samaritan</p> <p>Luke 10:38–42; 12:13–21; 14:7–14. Jesus Christ Taught Mary and Martha and Gave the Parable of the Foolish Rich Man</p>	<p>Luke 9:51–56; 13:1–9. Jesus Christ Taught the Necessity of Repentance</p> <p>Luke 10:1–20. The Seventy Were Called, Taught, and Sent Forth to Preach and Heal</p> <p>Luke 11:1–13. Jesus Christ Taught about Prayer</p> <p>Luke 14:7–14. The Savior Taught about Humility and Service</p>
16	<p>Luke 15. Parables of the Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, and Prodigal Son</p> <p>Luke 16:1–12. Parable of the Unjust Steward</p> <p>Luke 16:14–31. Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus</p> <p>Luke 18:1–8. The Importuning Widow and the Unjust Judge</p>	<p>Luke 16:22–26. Two Conditions in the Postmortal Spirit World</p> <p>Luke 17:5–19. The Parable of the Unprofitable Servant and the Cleansing of the Ten Lepers</p>
17	<p>John 7:1–53. Jesus Christ Taught during the Feast of Tabernacles</p> <p>John 8:1–11. The Woman Taken in Adultery</p> <p>John 8:12–59. Jesus Christ Taught about Light, Truth, and Freedom</p> <p>John 9:1–41. Jesus Christ Healed a Man Born Blind</p>	<p>John 8:53–59. Jesus Christ Identified Himself as Jehovah, the God of Abraham</p>
18	<p>Matthew 19:3–12; 22:23–33. The Savior’s Teachings on Marriage</p> <p>Matthew 19:16–29; 20:1–16. The Rich Young Man and the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard</p> <p>Luke 18:9–14; 19:1–10. The Parable of the Pharisee and the Publican; Zacchaeus the Publican</p>	<p>Matthew 19:13–15. Little Children</p> <p>Matthew 20:30–34; 21:1–15; 22:41–46. “Son of David”</p> <p>Mark 10:46–52. The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus</p> <p>Luke 19:11–27. The Parable of the Pounds</p>
19	<p>John 10:1–31. Jesus Christ Is the Good Shepherd</p> <p>John 11:1–46. The Raising of Lazarus from the Dead</p>	<p>John 10:17–18. Jesus Christ Had Power to Lay Down His Life and Take It Up Again</p> <p>John 11:1–15; 12:1–8, 23–27; 13:18–21, 31–32. Jesus Christ Prophesied of His Death and Resurrection</p>

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20	<p>Matthew 21:1–16, 23–46; 22:1–14, 35–46. The Triumphal Entry, Cleansing of the Temple, and Teaching through Parables</p> <p>John 12:12–34. Reactions to the Savior’s Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem</p> <p>Matthew 21:17–22; 23:1–33. The Barren Fig Tree and Hypocrisy</p> <p>Mark 11–16. The Last Week of the Savior’s Mortal Ministry (Consider the parts that apply to this lesson, and note parts that will apply in upcoming lessons.)</p> <p>Mark 12:41–44; 14:3–9. Two Faithful Women: The Poor Widow and the Woman of Bethany</p>	<p>Matthew 22:35–40. The Two Great Commandments</p> <p>Mark 14:3–9. The Woman of Bethany Would Be “Had in Remembrance in Generations to Come”</p> <p>John 12:1–9. Mary Anointed the Savior</p> <p>John 12:34–50. Discourse on Light and Darkness</p>
21	<p>Joseph Smith—Matthew; Matthew 24. Jesus Christ’s Teachings about the Destruction of Jerusalem and the Second Coming</p> <p>Matthew 25. Three Parables about Preparing for the Second Coming</p>	<p>Joseph Smith—Matthew 1:1–21; Matthew 24:1–5, 9–23. Jesus Christ Foretold the Destruction of Jerusalem and the Rejection of His Apostles</p> <p>Matthew 25:14–30. “The Joy of Thy Lord”</p> <p>Luke 21:19, 34–36. The Savior’s Teachings in Luke about Being Prepared for His Coming</p>
22	<p>John 13:4–17, 34–35. Washing the Disciples’ Feet</p> <p>Matthew 26:17–30. Instituting the Sacrament at the Last Supper</p> <p>Luke 22:7–20. The Savior Instituted the Sacrament</p>	<p>Matthew 26:29. A Future Sacrament Meeting</p> <p>Luke 22:31–32. The Savior’s Words to Simon Peter and the Disciples</p> <p>John 12:3–8; 13:18–30. Judas Iscariot Arranged to Betray the Savior</p>
23	<p>John 14–15. Jesus Christ Taught about Love and Obedience</p> <p>John 14:15–27; 15:26–27; 16:7–14. Jesus Christ Taught about the Mission of the Holy Ghost</p> <p>John 16:15–33. The Lord Jesus Christ Overcame the World</p>	<p>John 14:1–6. There Are Many Mansions in Heavenly Father’s House</p> <p>John 14:15–23. Jesus Christ as Comforter</p> <p>John 14:7–10, 20–23; 15:8–10, 15; 16:27. Jesus Christ Testified of His Father</p> <p>John 15:18–25; 16:1–4. The Savior Foretold the Opposition and Persecution His Followers Would Experience in the World</p>
24	<p>John 17. The Intercessory Prayer</p> <p>Matthew 26:36–46. Submitting to His Father’s Will in Gethsemane</p> <p>Mark 14:32–36; 15:34. Mark’s Account of the Savior’s Atoning Suffering</p> <p>Luke 22:39–44. The Savior Suffered in Gethsemane</p>	<p>John 17:11, 14–16. The Savior’s Followers Are to Be “in the World” but Not Partake “of the World”</p> <p>John 17:11, 21–23. The Atonement and the Savior’s Prayer That We Might Be “One”</p>

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25	<p>Matthew 26:1–5, 14–25, 47–68. Jesus Christ’s Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial before Caiaphas</p> <p>Luke 23:1–56. Jesus Was Tried before Roman Officials and Crucified (Consider parts of the teaching suggestions that relate to the trials of Jesus before Roman officials.)</p> <p>John 18–19. Important Details from the Final Hours of the Savior’s Mortal Ministry (Consider parts of the teaching suggestions that relate to the arrest and trials of Jesus.)</p>	<p>Matthew 26:1–5, 14–25, 47–68. Jesus Christ’s Betrayal, Arrest, and Trial before Caiaphas</p> <p>Mark 15:1–39. Jesus Christ Defined What His Mission Was as the Messiah</p> <p>Luke 23:1–25. Pilate Yielded to the Crowd</p>
26	<p>Matthew 27:1–54. The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Luke 23:1–56. Jesus Was Tried before Roman Officials and Crucified (Consider parts of the teaching suggestions that relate to the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.)</p> <p>John 18–19. Important Details from the Final Hours of the Savior’s Mortal Ministry (Consider parts of the teaching suggestions that relate to the Crucifixion.)</p>	<p>Matthew 27:11–49. The Arrest, Trials, and Crucifixion of Jesus Christ Fulfilled Ancient Prophecies</p> <p>Matthew 27:51. The Veil of the Temple Was Torn in Two</p> <p>Luke 23:32–33, 39–43. The Savior’s Conversation with the Thief on the Cross</p>
27	<p>Matthew 27:51–53; 28:1–10. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Mark 16:1–15. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ</p> <p>Luke 24:1–53. Jesus Christ Was Resurrected</p> <p>John 20. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ</p>	<p>Luke 24:25–32, 44–47. The Savior Taught from the Scriptures</p> <p>John 20:30–31. The Purpose of John’s Record</p>
28	<p>John 21:1–17. The Resurrected Jesus Christ Appeared to His Disciples at the Sea of Tiberias (Sea of Galilee)</p> <p>Luke 24:49–53. The Savior Blessed the Apostles</p> <p>Matthew 28:16–20. Jesus Christ Commissioned His Apostles</p>	<p>Mark 16:17–18. “Signs Shall Follow Them That Believe”</p> <p>John 21:18–23. The Savior Foretold the Martyrdom of Peter and the Translation of John the Beloved</p>

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