

# Jesus Prepares for His Ministry

Keep these ideas in mind as you study **Unit 3, Session 11**.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, inspired by the Holy Spirit, wrote the Gospels—the first four books in the New Testament. The Gospels tell us about the life of Jesus and his role as our Savior and Redeemer. Though the Gospels have ideas in common, they are not identical and were not written simultaneously. **PAGE 79**

The four Gospel writers, called the Evangelists, wanted to preserve the teachings of Jesus for future generations. Each tells what is important to know about Jesus and gives a point of view shaped by culture and historical time. **PAGE 80**

The Apostles' successors, who are the bishops and the pope, continue to pass on the Good News to us today. **PAGE 80**

Jesus' public ministry was service and work done for others. His disciples witnessed the way Jesus lived and how he cared for others. **PAGE 80**

*Epiphany* means "manifestation, striking appearance." The Church recognizes four events in the life of Christ that qualify as epiphanies. Jesus' baptism is an epiphany because it reveals Jesus as the Son of God. **PAGE 82**

Temptation is an attraction, either from outside us or inside us, which can cause us to disobey God's commands and lead us further from him. In the desert, Satan enticed Jesus with three temptations. **PAGE 83**

Jesus remained in the desert for 40 days, living among wild animals. During that time, Satan urged Jesus to compromise his relationship with the Father or to live by values that were completely different from those of the Father. **PAGE 83**

Jesus understands our difficulties when we face temptation because he faced temptation too. The story of Jesus' temptation in the desert shows us how the Word of God is rooted in Jesus, how it helped him, and how it can help us. **PAGE 84**

Jesus used parables to explain his teachings and to answer questions. In the parable of the sower, only the seed sown in rich soil flourishes and bears much fruit. **PAGES 84 AND 85**

Because we are human, we should expect temptation so that we can prepare for it. We benefit when we turn to Jesus in prayer, receive the sacraments, listen to Scripture, and remain determined to live a good life and follow God. **PAGE 85**

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