



Resources for Teaching
our budding rocks of faith

The Gospels and the Four Evangelists

Activities for teaching young Orthodox Christian children about the Gospels and their authors.





The icons on this page can be printed, cut out, and glued on the worksheet of the following page.



Russian icon from the first quarter of XVIII century, Iconostasis of Transfiguration church, Kizhi monastery, Karelia, Russia

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https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Matthew_Evangelist.jpg

APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MATTHEW



FEAST DAY:

Matthew is one of the Twelve Apostles. He was initially a publican, a tax-collector. At the time, tax-collectors were very much hated because they often took advantage of people. Upon meeting our Lord, he greatly repented and immediately followed Him. He preached the Gospel in Palestine, Syria, Media, Persia, and Ethiopia. In Ethiopia he worked many miracles by the Grace of God, and baptized thousands. At the end, he was tortured and put to death for his Christian faith, thus becoming a martyr.

Where in the world?



[Map of the world single color](#) by [FreeVectorMaps](#).

Cut and glue
icon here

How can I be like the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew?

My prayer to the Apostle and Evangelist Matthew:

CALENDAR CARD

For instructions on how to make a Saint card calendar, please visit our November Saints webpage at orthodoxpebbles.com/saints/november-saints.

Saint card



If hanging the card horizontally, cut it on the dotted line.



CALENDAR CARDS



.....
Your name



.....
Your name

Name tags

If using, glue on the top part
of the Saint cards



.....
Feast date



Evangelist Matthew

Saint Matthew is one of the Twelve Apostles. He was initially a tax-collector. Tax-collectors were hated because they often took advantage of people. Upon meeting our Lord, he greatly repented and immediately followed Him. He preached the Gospel in many places and was eventually tortured and put to death for his Christian faith.



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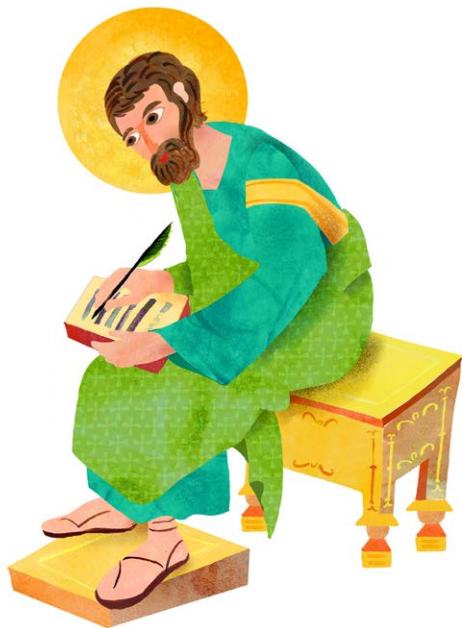
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APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST MARK



FEAST DAY:

Saint Mark worked closely with the Apostles Paul and Peter, and with Saint Barnabas, who was his uncle. They preached in Asia Minor, Cyprus, Egypt and other places in North Africa. He returned to Alexandria in Egypt, where he lived for a long time, establishing a vibrant and very active Church, also becoming its first bishop. In 68 A.D., he was tortured and put to death for his Christian faith. In the 9th century, the Saint's relics were moved from Alexandria to Venice, at the famous cathedral dedicated to him.

Where in the world?



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My prayer to the Apostle and Evangelist Mark:

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Saint card

Feast date



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CALENDAR CARDS

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Your name

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Name tags

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Feast date



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[Public domain] via Wikimedia Commons:
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APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST LUKE



FEAST DAY:

Saint Luke was born in Syria and was of Greek origin. He studied philosophy and medicine, eventually becoming a physician. He was working in Greece when he met the Apostle Paul; he immediately became Paul's faithful disciple and companion. After the martyrdom of Saints Paul and Peter in Rome, Luke preached the Gospel in Greece, Libya, Egypt, and the Thebaid. He had reached an old age when he became a martyr. According to Church Tradition, Luke was the first-ever iconographer, and this is why he is sometimes shown painting an icon of the Theotokos.

Where in the world?



[Map of the world single color](#) by [FreeVectorMaps](#).

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How can I be like the Apostle and Evangelist Luke?

My prayer to the Apostle and Evangelist Luke:

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CALENDAR CARDS



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Your name



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Your name

Name tags
If using, glue on the top part
of the Saint cards



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Feast date



Evangelist Luke

Saint Luke studied philosophy and medicine, eventually becoming a physician. He was working in Greece when he met the Apostle Paul; he immediately became Paul's faithful disciple and companion. He preached the Gospel in Greece, Libya, Egypt, and the Thebaid, and became a martyr at his old age. According to Church Tradition, Saint Luke was the first-ever iconographer.



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[Public domain] via Wikimedia Commons:
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APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST JOHN THE THEOLOGIAN



FEAST DAY:

The youngest of the 12 Disciples and Apostles of our Lord, and the only one among them to follow Him through His Passion and Crucifixion. Before following our Lord, he was a disciple of Saint John the Forerunner. After our Lord's Passion, and at His direction, John took the Theotokos with him and stayed with her until Her Dormition. He then began his apostolic mission in Asia Minor. He was exiled on the Greek island of Patmos, where he wrote four holy books: his Gospel account, the Apocalypse (Revelation), and three Catholic Epistles. Saint John was over a hundred years old when he reposed peacefully in Ephesus.

Where in the world?



[Map of the world single color](#) by [FreeVec-](#)

Cut and glue
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How can I be like the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian?

My prayer to the Apostle and Evangelist John the Theologian:

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Feast date



Saint John the Theologian

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Feast date



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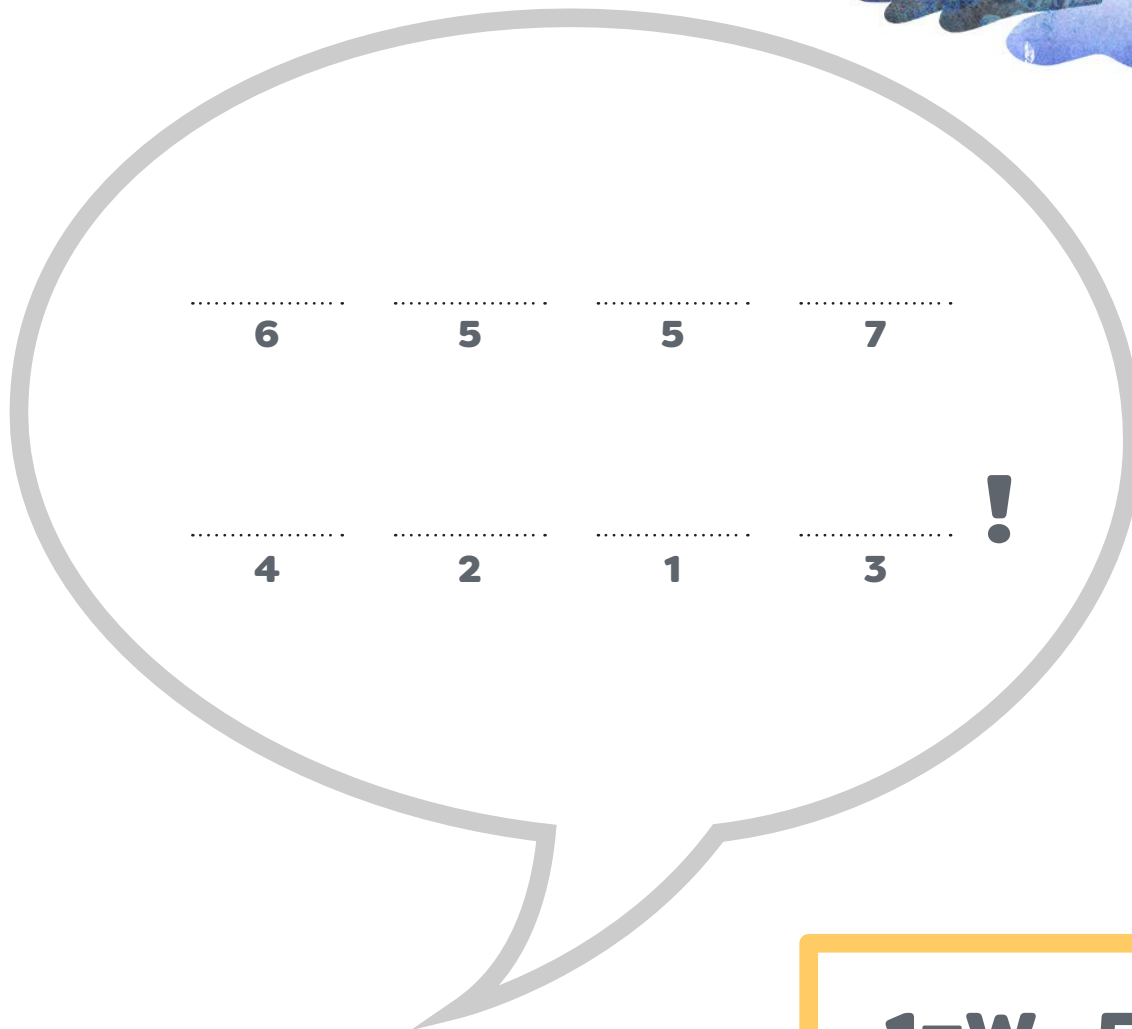
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THE GOSPELS - WORD PUZZLE

Name

What does the word "**EVANGELION**" mean? Use the code to find out.



1=W	5=O
2=E	6=G
3=S	7=D
4=N	

THE GOSPELS - CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Name:

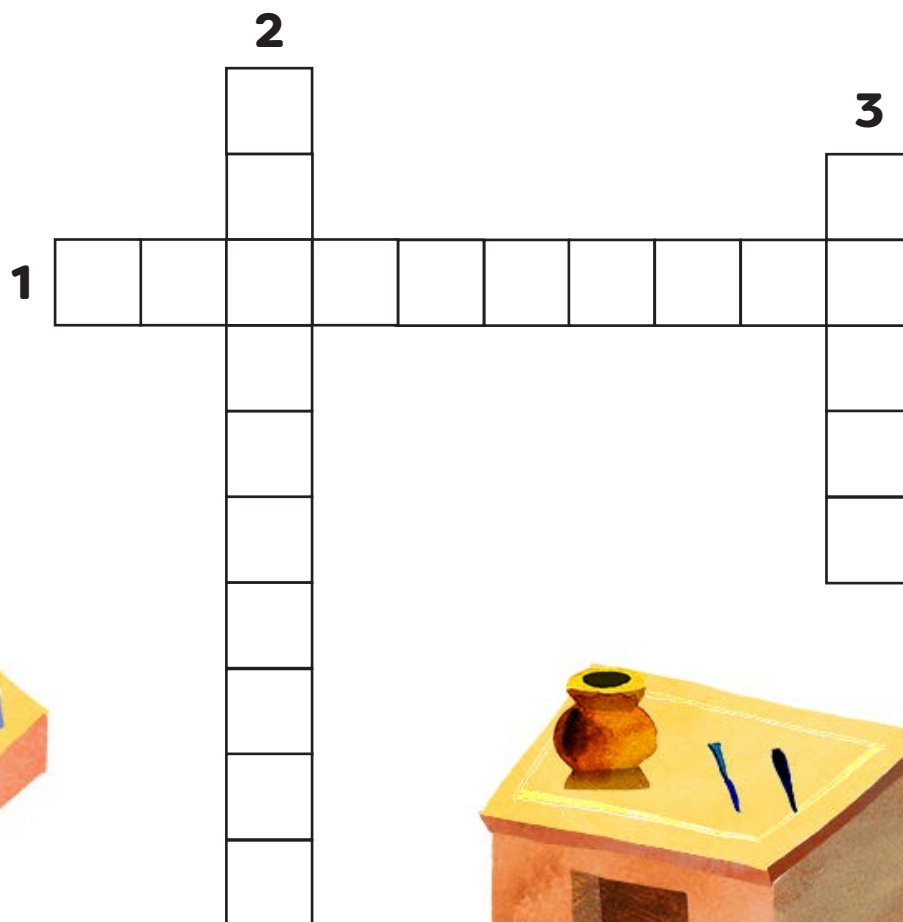
Fill in the crossword puzzle using the following words:

STAND - EVANGELION - EVANGELIST

1. The Saint who wrote a Gospel Book is called an

2. Another word for "Gospel" is

3. When we hear the Gospel at church, we should



THE GOSPELS - MAZE

Name:

Help each Evangelist find the way to his symbol.



Saint Matthew



Saint Mark



Saint Luke



Saint John the Theologian



Eagle



Ox



Angel



Lion



THE EVANGELISTS & THEIR SYMBOLS

MEMORY GAME

Print this page and the following page a few times; the number of copies will depend on the number and the age of the children you are teaching - for younger children, fewer copies are needed. For sturdiness, you can print on plain printer paper and laminate, or use premium printer paper or card stock. A fun option is to print on the white (wrong) side of scrapbook paper and then laminate - that way the finished cards will have a nice design on the back. Cut out the cards.

To play, spread the cards face down on the playing surface (table or floor). Each child turns over two cards. If the cards form a pair of an Evangelist and his symbol, the child gets to keep the pair. If not, the cards are placed back in their original position and the next child takes a turn. The game is over when all the cards have been used. The winner is the player who collected the largest number of pairs.

NOTE:

If you print the cards more than once, some players may have more than one copies of the same pair at the end of the game.



Saint Matthew



Saint Mark



Saint Luke



Saint John the Theologian

THE EVANGELISTS & THEIR SYMBOLS

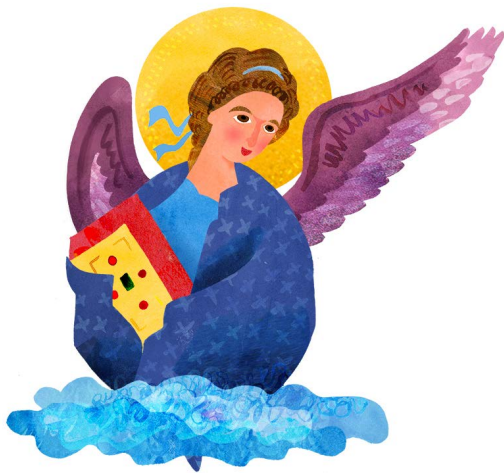
MEMORY GAME



Eagle



Ox



Angel



Lion

THE GOSPELS - FILE FOLDER BOARD GAME

The following two pages can be printed out and glued on the inside of a file folder to make a game board. Spread open the file folder to play, then fold it closed to store.

To play the game, you will need:

- The file folder board
- Colored board game pawns or any small colored objects that can be used as placeholders (buttons, large beads etc.)
- A die - if you would like a fun die alternative, you can use the spinner provided in the following pages
- The game questions provided in the following pages

How to play

All placeholders are placed on **START**. The first player rolls the die (or spins the spinner) and moves his/her placeholder a corresponding number of spaces. Depending on the type of square the placeholder landed on, the player performs one of the following actions.

- **EMPTY square:**
The player is asked a question. If the question is answered correctly, the placeholder stays where it landed. If not, it returns to its previous position.
- **GOSPEL square:**
The player's placeholder exchanges positions with the leader's placeholder.
- **EVANGELIST SYMBOL square:**
The player has to identify the Evangelist associated with the symbol. If s/he answers correctly, the placeholder stays where it landed. If not, it returns to its previous position. **Optional fun twist:** The player also has to act out the specific symbol (pretend to be an angel, eagle, ox or lion).

After the action is performed, the next player takes a turn. The first player to reach **FINISH** wins. If there is no time to cover the whole board, the player who moved closer to FINISH wins.

NOTE: If all the questions are used before the game is over, they can be repeated as needed, starting with the ones the children didn't answer correctly.



START



**THE GOSPELS
& THE FOUR
EVANGELISTS**

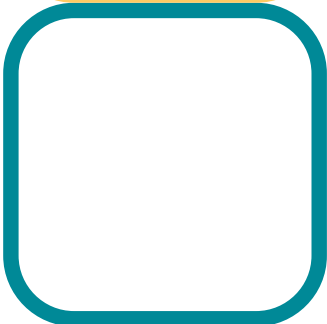
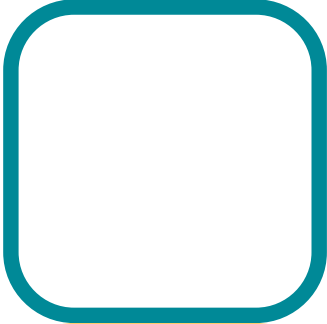


Saint Mark



Saint Matthew





Saint Luke

Saint John the Theologian

THE GOSPELS - FILE FOLDER BOARD GAME

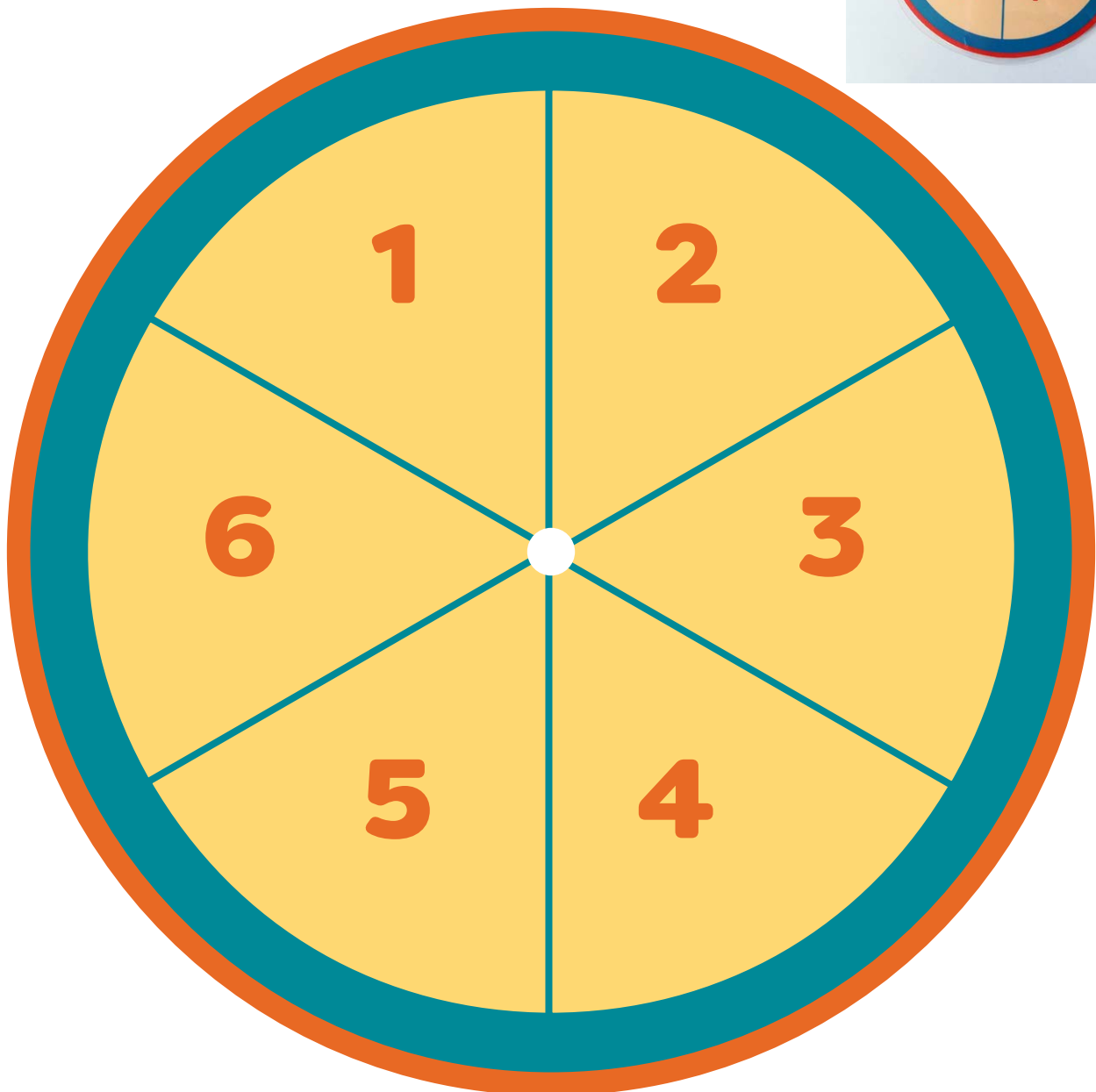
SPINNER

Print out this page. For sturdiness, print on plain paper and laminate, or use premium printer paper or card stock. Cut out the circle below.

To make the spinner, you will need:

- The circle cut-out
- A brad (metal paper fastener)
- A paper clip
- A piece of packing tape

Punch a small hole in the center of the paper circle. Insert the brad through the hole. Fold the back of the brad mid-way, not at the top, so that the brad is poking up from the paper circle about half an inch. Tape the brad on the back of the circle. Slide the paper clip on the brad. Ready to spin!



QUESTIONS

The following questions vary in difficulty and are only suggestions. The teacher can pick and choose the ones that work better for the group of children s/he is working with, or make up his/her own.

- What are the two meanings of the word Evangelion? (Evangelion means “good news” - it is also a holy book)
- What is the “good news” of the Evangelion? (The glad tidings of our salvation by the One True God)
- How many Gospel Books are there? (Four)
- What do we call the Saint who wrote a Gospel Book? (An Evangelist)
- How many Evangelists are there? (Four)
- Why are the Gospels important to us? (They describe our Lord’s earthly life and teachings; they show us the way to become children of God)
- At church, how can we show reverence to the Gospels? (When we hear the Gospel reading we stand up and listen carefully; we make the sign of the cross and kiss the Gospel Book)
- What are the names of the four Evangelists? (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John)
- What is another name for the Evangelist John? (John the Theologian)
- Which are the synoptic Gospels? (The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke)
- Why are they called “synoptic”? (Because their content is similar)
- In what way is the Gospel according to John different from the other three Gospels? (The synoptic Gospels mainly focus on our Lord’s earthly life, work, and teachings. St. John’s Gospel includes additional details and explains theological truths)
- How did the Evangelists know what to write in the Gospels? (Saints Matthew and John lived together with our Lord, as they belonged in the chosen Twelve Apostles. Saints Mark and Luke were companions of the Apostles Peter and Paul)
- Which was the first Gospel to be written? (The Gospel according to Mark)
- Which Gospel was written for the Christians of Jewish origin? (The Gospel according to Matthew)
- In which language were the Gospels written? (Matthew’s Gospel account was first written in Hebrew, then translated into Greek; the other three Gospels were directly written in Greek)
- Do we see the Evangelist symbols in Orthodox icons of the Evangelists? (Usually no)
- Where do we usually see the Evangelist symbols in the Orthodox tradition? (Inside the church building and in manuscript decorations)
- Tell us something from the life of Evangelist Matthew (Accept any correct answer)
- Tell us something from the life of Evangelist Mark (Accept any correct answer)
- Tell us something from the life of Evangelist Luke (Accept any correct answer)
- Tell us something from the life of Evangelist John (Accept any correct answer)
- Why is the Evangelist Luke sometimes shown painting an icon of the Theotokos? (According to Church tradition he was the first-ever iconographer)
- What are the Evangelists usually holding in their icons? (Their Gospel Book and writing instruments)



CUT-AND-GLUE CRAFT

Make your own icon of Evangelist Mark

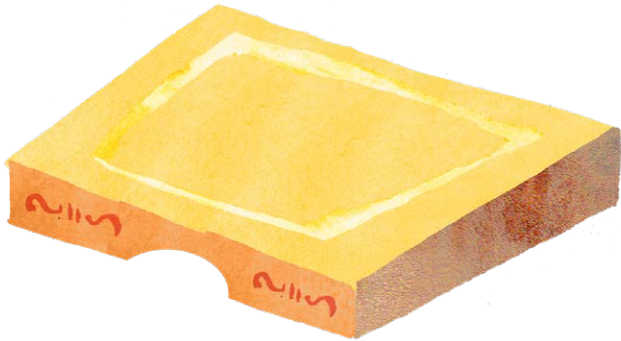
Cut out the images on this page and glue them on a large piece of paper or on colored card stock.
Decorate as desired to make your own icon.



CUT-AND-GLUE CRAFT

Make your own icon of Evangelist Matthew

Cut out the images on this page and glue them on a large piece of paper or on colored card stock.
Decorate as desired to make your own icon.



CUT-AND-GLUE CRAFT

Make an icon of Evangelist Luke

Cut out the images on this and the following page and glue them on a large piece of paper or on colored card stock. Decorate as desired to make your own icon.



CUT-AND-GLUE CRAFT

Make an icon of Evangelist John the Theologian



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