

## Activity: Different Views

By Karen Noal



**FAMILY TIME**  
TRAINING

Teaching Goal: The Gospels sometimes contain different information but are still consistent.

Scripture: Matthew 26  
Mark 14  
Luke 22-24  
John 12-20

Materials: Tray with about 10 small items on it  
Towel or cloth to cover tray  
Watch with a second hand  
Paper and pencil for each person  
2 like coins (quarters work well)

- I. Play theme song
- II. Pray
- III. Review last lesson
- IV. Lesson and discussion

✓ Words written in **bold** are when the leader is speaking. Feel free to use your own words.

A. **ACTIVITY #1:** Ahead of time, place 10 small, different items on a tray and cover the tray with a towel. Do not let anyone know what is on the tray until you remove the towel.

**I have several (do not tell how many) items on this tray. When I take the towel off I want you to look at the tray for 20 seconds. Remove towel and let group look at tray for 20 seconds then re-cover the tray and move it out of sight. Give each person in the group a sheet of paper and a pencil. Now you will have 60 seconds to write down as many items as you can remember. No sharing answers. Ready, go!**

Reveal the tray again and compare answers. **What items did everyone get? Was there something special that made those items stand out? Size, color, location. We all saw the same things but remembered them differently.**

**The first four books of the New Testament are called the Gospels and they all tell the story of the life of Jesus but each tells it a little bit differently. It should not surprise us that 4 people watching or hearing about the life of Jesus would remember some of the same events and highlight some different events.**

**Let's look at the disciples' different perspectives in just one specific time, the final days of Christ.**

**1. When Matthew tells about Judas agreeing to take money to betray Jesus, he includes in his story the amount of money that Judas took – 30 pieces of silver.**

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**Matthew 26:15** says Judas received 30 silver coins from the chief priests to betray Jesus.

**Mark 14:11** says Judas was promised money by the chief priests to betray Jesus.

**Luke 22:5** says the chief priests agreed to give Judas money to betray Jesus.

**John** does not mention this at all.

**The interesting part of this story is that Matthew was a tax collector. What do tax collectors do? *Collect money for the government* Since Matthew's life had focused so much on money, it make sense that he would mention the amount of money.**

**2. Only Mark mentions a young man in the garden of Gethsemane who loses his clothes.**

**Matthew, Luke and John** do not mention this event.

**Mark 14:51-52** While Jesus is being arrested and everyone is fleeing, a young man wearing a linen cloth garment was seized and as he fled away he left behind his garment and ran away naked.

**Perhaps the other writers didn't see or hear about this or they were more concerned about the arrest to notice this young man. Some say this young man could have been Mark himself but he was too embarrassed to say so. Perhaps it was a friend of his that made his memory more vivid. Whatever the reason, he especially remembered this and included it when none of the other writers of the gospels did.**

**3. Look at what Luke, a doctor, adds about the arrest of Jesus. At the time of the arrest, the ear of a servant of the high priest was cut off.**

**Matthew 26:51** says that one of Jesus' companions cut off the ear with his sword.

**Mark 14:47** says one of those standing near drew his sword and cut off the ear.

**Luke 22:49-50** says one of Jesus' followers struck with his sword and cut off the ear and Jesus healed the ear.

**John 18:10** gives more detail and names Peter as the one who drew the sword and cut off the right ear of the servant named Malchus.

**Since Luke was a doctor he would be more likely to notice that the ear was restored and mention it in the gospel while the others left that part out.**

**Even though each Gospel author gives a different perspective of some of the events, all four of them give the same account of Judas betraying Jesus in the garden, the arrest, crucifixion, death and resurrection.**

**B. ACTIVITY #2:** Without letting the kids see the items, lay a quarter on opposite ends of a table; one "heads" the other "tails." Have 2 volunteers look at one of the coins and describe what they see without calling it a quarter. **Each person was looking at a quarter. Were the descriptions different? Both saw some of the same things but each saw something different as well. How is this experience of describing the quarters like what the writers of the Gospels recorded?**

**C. What different perspective—view, skills—do you bring to the family, to your classroom, to the church?**

V. Close in Prayer

VI. Pass It On. Make an extra copy of this lesson and *pass it on* to another family.