

*What role do the Gospel's play in the Church's teaching about Jesus?*

The Gospels' play an important role in the Church's teaching about Jesus. The Gospels are the link between Jesus and people who claim to be his followers. Although they are not the only source of information about Jesus, they are one of the most reliable.

Because almost all the information that the Church teaches about Jesus comes through the Gospels, not from them, they serve as a verification for the Church's teachings.

*Identify each of the following persons and summarize what they, as a group, contribute to the study of Jesus:*

Josephus - A Jewish Historian in 90 C.E. that had no reason to believe in Jesus unless there was a solid reason to, as he was not Christian. In his works, he spoke about Jesus like he was "a wise man," and as a "doer of wonderful works."

Tacitus - Tacitus was a Roman historian in 110 C.E. that wrote about Jesus in his account of the fire that burned Rome in 64 C.E., the fire that the emperor blamed the Christians. As a result, Tacitus disliked Christians.

Pliny the Younger - Pliny the Younger was a Roman governor in Asia Minor in 110 C.E. He wrote to emperor Trajan, mentioning Jesus and asking for help in dealing with the Christians.

Suetonius - Suetonius was a Roman historian and lawyer in 120 C.E. who documented riots the Christians caused "on the instigation of [Christ]." His account proves, historically, Jesus' existence.

All these four figures contribute to the study of Jesus. Their historical accounts, which mention all sorts of actions done by Jesus, prove that he did indeed exist, especially since they themselves were not Christian nor were they supporters of Jesus.

*Define the following terms:*

Jesus of History - The Jesus of History is a historical figure. He was a Palestinian Jew from two thousand years ago who worked to spread the message of God and help those around him.

Christ of faith - The Christ of Faith refers to how believers speak of Jesus. They say that he was a divine figure, someone who was always one with God.

Christian Scripture - Christian Scripture refers to a whole collection of sacred writings, including the Old and New Testament.

Old Testament - The Old Testament refers to the first section of the Bible, spanning forty-six different books written by different people over a thousand years. It documents God's

relationship with the Israelites and the covenants God made with them long before the birth of Jesus.

New Testament - The New Testament refers to twenty-seven books that all talk about the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and how he dedicated his time on earth to helping those who believed in him.

Inspired text - Inspired text refers to how Catholic Christians believe that the authors of the Bible were inspired by God. They weren't directly spoken to or possessed by more so prompted by God to convey His message. That is why everything in the Bible is truthful.