



BOB'S WORD OF THE WEEK: GOSPELS



BEST NAME

John. It's not creative, but the origin is. Zechariah, in his belief, wrote the name his wife Elizabeth suggested. Good man! (Luke 1)

COOLEST CHARACTER

The Woman at the Well. We credit her as having the first theological discourse with Jesus in the book of John. She is intrigued by living water, so intrigued, she convinces an entire village to discover Jesus for themselves. (John 4).

FAVORITE STORY

The Wise Women and Men of Matthew defy Herod. After following the star to Bethlehem, they meet the baby Jesus, and take a less direct route home. Their epiphany -- the authentic power of God over the artificial power of Caesar -- inspires us to seek out justice in our world. And who doesn't love friends bearing gifts? (Matthew 2).



BEST PARTIES

- **John:**
The Wedding at Cana
 - Water becomes wine!
- **Luke:**
The Lost Coin
 - A woman retrieves her coin and throws a party for her neighbors.
- **Matthew and Mark:**
Jesus feeds 5,000 and then 4,000
 - Now that's a man who knows how to tailgate!



DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE Gnostic GOSPELS?

The Nag Hammadi Library is a collection of ancient manuscripts that was re-discovered in Egypt in 1945. The collection includes 52 early Christian and Gnostic texts, the most famous of which are the **Gospel of Thomas**, the **Gospel of Mary**, and the **Gospel of Philip**. Second Century Church leaders condemned these texts as heresy, but they offer significant insight into the diverse theological strands of early Jesus-followers. For the seeker, these texts remind us that faithful followers have always been asking questions that challenge orthodoxy. Click [here](#) to explore the collection.

TROUBLESOME STORIES

Remember that what we read about the life of Jesus was written by people seeking to make sense of his ministry many decades after he actually lived. Pharisees and Sadducees are villainized and misrepresented in these texts because of their theological disagreements with Jewish Christians

THEMES (SOME, NOT ALL!)

Jesus as the revelation/expression of God's presence and solidarity with humanity; faithful discipleship in a volatile world; love of God and neighbor as fulfillment of Torah; God is love; human agency and equality

IF THE GOSPELS WERE A BAND, THEY WOULD BE NAMED...

GOSPEL MEANS TRUTH, SO LET'S GO WITH BRITISH ROCK BAND, THE TRUTH. THEY NEVER MADE IT BIG IN AMERICA SO ONE CAN BE EXCUSED FOR NOT KNOWING THEIR WORK. THEY DID, HOWEVER, DERIVE THEIR NAME FROM THE RAY CHARLES SONG, "TELL THE TRUTH." AND YOU OUGHT TO KNOW WHO RAY CHARLES IS!!!

