

## *From Jesus to Us: Six Stages in the Transmission of the Gospel Tradition*

### **Stage One: Historical Jesus**

Jesus says and does things that are considered remarkable.

### **Stage Two: Early Tradition**

#### **Oral**

People remember what Jesus said and did and share these memories with others.

**and/or**

#### **Written**

People write down brief accounts of things that Jesus said and did.

### **Stage Three: Composition of the Gospels**

The Gospel writers compile their books, drawing on both oral tradition and early written sources to form narratives of Jesus's life and work.

### **Stage Four: Preservation of Manuscripts**

People make copies of the Gospel narratives and distribute them.

### **Stage Five: Translation**

Scholars translate copies of the Gospel narratives into other languages, including, eventually, our own.

### **Stage Six: Reception**

In modern editions of the Gospels we hear or read about what Jesus said and did.