

God spells



SETTING: Pat's Room

CHARACTERS: Chris and Pat,

PROPS: Table with candles, incense burning

PAT: (Sitting in the midst of candles and incense, silly monotone) May the power of all the, uh, dead dudes in the Bible enter my brain. (Repeats)

CHRIS: (Enters, a bit shocked) What are you doing?

PAT: Dude, you are going to harsh my mellow.

CHRIS: Harsh your mellow? Can you even breathe? If you inhale anymore incense smoke you're gonna go from mellow to unconscious.

PAT: Not that it is any of your business, but we've got that test tomorrow about the four guys who wrote those books in the Bible about Jesus and stuff.

CHRIS: Your specific description about the Gospel writers is astounding.

PAT: Don't tell me my business—not only were they excellent writers but John, Paul, George and Ringo were outstanding musicians.

CHRIS: This is what I was afraid of. You mean Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

PAT: Fine, you busted me. I have no clue. That's why I was trying to use a "God spell" to conjure up any knowledge I can.

CHRIS: God Spell? What do you mean?

PAT: Since those old guys wrote the God Spells, I thought I could kick one out myself and join their cosmic level.

CHRIS: First of all, no more talking. Second of all, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John wrote the Gospels, according to most Christian tradition.

PAT: (Silence)

CHRIS: No witty come-back?

PAT: You told me "no more talking" and I kind of think that's a good idea.

CHRIS: Look—the Gospel, while it comes from the Old English for "God's Spell," is the good news about Jesus. The magic comes from the news that God became human in Jesus.

PAT: And how is that magic going to help me on my test?

CHRIS: It probably won't. But knowing that Christ's death and resurrection is the "spell" that sets us free from sin, and that the story is written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, should help.

PAT: Okay, I'm starting to get it. These

religious Beatles wrote about Jesus' life, death and resurrection. But why four dudes? Couldn't one figure it out?

CHRIS: Each wrote the story of Jesus as he saw it. For example, Matthew wrote to the Jewish community, sharing how Jesus was the messiah they were waiting for. Mark was the first written down. It was shorter and to the point.

PAT: Ah, a man who thinks like me.

CHRIS: Right. Luke was a scholar who wanted to be sure people knew the times and places were factually correct. And John was the poet, the mystic, the dreamer.

PAT: So, Matthew, Mark, Luke...

CHRIS: And John. Now you're getting it.

PAT: Good, 'cause I was getting a headache.

CHRIS: (Rubs temples) I know what you mean.

PAT: Just one more question.

CHRIS: Yes?

PAT: Can I sit by you during the test tomorrow?

CHRIS: Only for moral support, my friend.