

# The Parables of Jesus

12 Week  
Bible Story Set



# The Parables

From beginning to end, the Scriptures are full of History, Truth, and Stories of God's dealings with His Creation. Believers are left with the power of God's Holy Spirit to guide them through the process of learning and studying His Word.

Throughout the Gospels, we can't help but notice the methods of how Jesus continued to deal with, and teach, His Creation the Truth of His Father and His Kingdom. Many of us are aware that Jesus preached and taught the crowds as He challenged those who may be gathered just to see what He might do next. Jesus also used two other methods that we want to focus some attention on for the purpose of this twelve week story set. Jesus preached, but He also told parables, and asked great questions.

Some of you might ask, Why Parables and Why look at how Jesus asked good questions? And simply, the answer is because Jesus modeled it. Jesus was and is the master teacher and the work of His Holy Spirit combined with the Truth of His Word can never be underestimated. If it was good enough for Jesus, than there must be something to it, and the truth of these parables is still relevant to our lives today.

## **What is a Parable?**

For the sake of us all being on the same page for this story set we wanted to take a minute and define what a parable is and focus on why Jesus used them. A parable was a small story that illustrated a moral from a situation or circumstance that might be well known to the people hearing it. For example, the parable of the sower and the seed is something an agricultural society like the Jews of Jesus time would be familiar with. (Matthew 13:3-9)

## **Why did Jesus Use Parables?**

Jesus many times used the situation around Him or a story for the foundation that He would base many of His parables around. Through His use of these stories Jesus gave His audience of mostly uneducated seekers a way to understand what would have probably been hard through any other method.

## **Why are we Studying Parables?**

Again, one main reason we are taking the time to examine many of the parables that Jesus taught is because it is one of the main ways He taught. Another is to just to be as familiar with scripture as possible, because parables make up about 1/3 of the teachings found in the four Gospels. Again these parables are still relevant to our lives and it's much easier for us to remember truths God is teaching us through stories.

## **Why Great Questions?**

Jesus many times asked great questions that left men and women to draw conclusions about Himself and challenge their thinking about the Father. Jesus didn't argue for His position or debate His way to Lord, but simply confronted man's Head, Heart, and Hands. For example, Peter's confession of Christ. (Matthew 16:13-17)

# Curriculum Notes

At the top of each week's parable page you will see the story's passage location, the parable's main theme and corresponding week number.

Here are some symbols that you will find through out the curriculum and what they communicate to the readers. These symbols will help you walk through each week's parable step by step.



**Fun Facts:** This area will be an “ice breaker” of sorts and will be full of interesting facts about the time and culture of the Bible.



**Background for our Parable:** This area will act as the compass of where we are in Gospels and the context to which Jesus is teaching those following Him. This will also serve as a brief summary of what has happened leading into each week's story.



**The Parable:** This is where the parable of the week will come into focus. Please remember that Jesus taught in short, simple stories to reveal much deeper truths. Again, the reason our focus is on parables is so that the truths of these simple stories may fuel topics of discussion between you and your children throughout the week.



**Rebuild:** Chronologically rebuild the story or passage by asking questions, have the group look for what was added or left out.



**Head, Heart, and Hand Questions:** This area will challenge you and your students by following Christ's example in following up His parables by asking good questions. The questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. Head questions deal with what we need to know from each parable. Heart questions challenge our attitudes and beliefs about God. Hand questions take what we've learned and ask us how we're going to apply it to our lives.

## Notes

## Other Recommendations

**The Process:** We want to encourage you along this journey as much as we can and one way we can do that is to give you a simple example of a process we've found that works.

First, follow the steps in the guide they will lead you step by step through each week if you are not at a comfort level with the study. Next, be prepared each week to first share the parable with your student from memory. This allows us to get in the habit of memorizing scripture, and allows our students to hear the parable from scripture multiple times. Some of our kids will need to hear it and read it. After you've told the parable look at it together in scripture and rebuild the parable. This helps make sure what we've shared is accurate to scripture and we haven't left anything out. I know, not that you would ever make a mistake but just in case.

**Pray for your students:** I know this sounds obvious, but we have been praying that God would continue to encourage growth from His kingdom by opening communication lines in families about the truths of God. Our students face a lot and this twelve-week study, during break from school should provide you with plenty of opportunities to discuss what God is doing in their lives. Just be in prayer about how God is shaping their lives.

**Ask Yourself the Hard Questions:** One of our primary roles as parents is to be the main discipler in our kids' lives. One way we can focus attention here is just by assessing how we're doing periodically. Occasionally ask yourself these tough questions...what am I modeling for my children? Am I showing my children that my relationship with God is a priority? Can my children see the love of Christ in how I deal with my spouse? How often do I talk to my kids about the truths of God's story? Do I know what's going on in my kids' lives? Do I spend time in the word for me?

By asking the tough questions we give ourselves greater opportunities to be challenged and shaped by the word of God. We can only let the truth of God's word shape us as far as what we're willing to invest it in our life.

## Relationship with God?

Throughout this study you will here us talk about a relationship with Christ. We never want to operate under the assumption that everyone doing this study will have a relationship with God, or understand what that means.

What we wanted to do is give you or anyone, access to a guide that walks you through how we take that first step in a relationship with God. Hopefully you find this helpful. And if you already have a walk with God, the intent is that you share this message with others who may not know God on an intimate level.

### The Relationship

A relationship with God is one that could never be earned. In fact, scripture tells us that it's by God's grace that we've been saved. We didn't ever deserve the love of a perfect and holy God, but He gives it to us free. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

Scripture tells us in (Romans 3:23) that all have sinned (done things wrong). We can all think of times where we've failed and made mistakes. Scripture calls that sin, and our sin is what put conflict between us and God. Actually, the sin was such a serious issue that we deserved death. The Bible tells us this in (Romans 6:23), but the good news is that while we were deserving of death because of our sin God offered a gift of Life. This gift of Life is actually a gift of eternal life. This means we then are given the opportunity to live in Heaven if we except God's gift of Life. This gift of Life came from God sending His son Jesus to take our penalty of death on the cross. This is where we see that grace we talked about earlier, because even as you and I were deserving of death and were sinners Christ still died for us (Romans 5:8). It doesn't matter who we are or what we've done, Christ death covered all sins for anyone who would accept it. Scripture says that whoever calls on the name of the Lord will be saved (Romans 10:13). God's salvation is like any gift though, it has to be something that is accepted. The way we take the first step in entering a relationship with God is by accepting His gift. (Romans 10:9-10) Tells us how to do this, by confessing Jesus is Lord, and believing that Jesus was God's son and He was raised from the dead to give us Life.

Entering a relationship with God is easy, but it also takes commitment. Not a commitment that you now have to keep God happy by the things that you do, but that out of your love for what He did on the cross for you, you'll do you best to please Him with your life. It was by grace and God's power that He saved you and it's by His grace and His power that He holds your salvation.

# Sower and Seed- Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

## The Parables of Jesus Week 1

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### **Interesting Fact:**

When the Israelites had cleared out the Promised Land God gave to them, they entered back into a life of agriculture that hadn't been done for 40 years. The weather in the region of the Promised Land was very uncertain, especially when it came to rain. This is why Moses warned the Jewish people to trust in God who would provide what they need. The pagan cultures that worshipped Baal, worshipped him as a storm god.



### **Background for our Parable:**

The parables that Jesus shares in Matthew were to reveal the truth about God's Kingdom to His true followers, while leaving the truth of His kingdom hidden from those outside the Kingdom. Jesus was using a familiar example because agriculture was a large portion of Jewish life. It may have even been likely you could have seen sowers throwing seed from where Jesus taught this parable. The sower would hang the bag of seed over his shoulder and toss seed as he walked through his field.



### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.



# Sower and Seed- Matthew 13:1-9; 18-23

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 1

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach His audience with this parable?  
What were some of the soils represented in the story?  
Who does the sower in this parable represent?

**Heart:**

Do you think the sower wants all the seeds He sows to grow?  
Can we sow seeds? If we do will they all grow?

**Hands:**

How can you sow seeds?  
Where are the best places for you to do that?  
Will you sow seeds?  
your life today.

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Hidden Treasure, Priceless Pearl- Matthew 13:44-46

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 2

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

It was not an uncommon thing for people of Jesus' time to bury valuables in a secret place. It seems like a foreign thought to us, but Israel was a land of war. Jewish history was one filled with battles and armies invading to steal and plunder.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus again was telling another parable to the crowds who were gathered near the banks of the Sea of Galilee. These two brief parables were also about the Kingdom of Heaven. The Jews of Jesus' day had many ideas about what the Kingdom of Heaven was. Jesus was using this parable to teach the Jews not to take the Kingdom of God for granted, and just because they were Jews didn't mean they were getting into Heaven. The only ones who understand the worth and are willing to sacrifice would enter the kingdom.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Hidden Treasure, Priceless Pearl- Matthew 13:44-46

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 2

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**Head:**

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach about the Kingdom of Heaven?  
How do you know the man and the merchant were excited to find their treasures?

**Heart:**

How excited are you about the treasure you've found in God's salvation?  
How do you express that to others and God?

**Hands:**

Do you think those who are saved by God should show their excitement? How?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# The Unforgiving Slave-Matthew 18:21-35

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 3

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

Coins in the Bible were not commonly mentioned until Nehemiah. Coins became much more common and plentiful during the New Testament. The parable we'll be looking at this week refers to Talents. A Talent is about 300 shekels, and the Denarii mentioned was a gold Roman coin. The Romans allowed local coinage to circulate with their own.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus was asked the question before He told this parable, how many times should I forgive my brother? The metaphor Jesus uses in the talents and denarii paint the picture of the amount of debt these slaves owed their master. The 10,000 talents represent a debt that couldn't be paid.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# The Unforgiving Slave-Matthew 18:21-35

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 3

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**Head:**

What do you think Jesus was saying about forgiveness?  
How many times should we forgive those who've hurt us?

**Heart:**

What are some of the struggles you have in forgiving people?  
What is God's response when we refuse to forgive others?  
Do you need forgiveness for something? What ?

**Hands:**

Is there someone you need to forgive now?  
How can you let them know you've forgiven them?  
If you have a relationship with God, do you thank Him for His forgiveness?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# The Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 4

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

During Jesus time the value of certain materials was done by the amount of weight of the material given. A talent was somewhere between 75-80lbs and represented about all a man could lift. It was the largest unit of measurement for weight in the Hebrew culture.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

In the parable you will notice a man who leaves for a journey but is coming back. Obviously, Jesus had a point to this parable that He was teaching about the Kingdom of Heaven. Do you think this parable has anything to do with His returning and our responsibility for His church?



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# The Parable of the Talents - Matthew 25:14-30

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 4

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

What do you think this parable was meant to represent?

Why was the man so angry when he returned?

Does God have expectations for us like this? Why?

**Heart:**

Is it hard to put your abilities to work for God? Why?

**Hands:**

What are some things you have that you could use for God’s glory for His Church, or the needs of others?

Notes, or things I’ve learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Parable of the Vineyard Owner - Mark 12:1-12

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 5

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

Jesus' parables were mostly geographically set in Northern Judea. Judea was a rural area that thrived on agriculture of grapes, figs, olives and wheat. The positioning of Judea allowed them to take advantage of trade routes and the use of share croppers to work farms was a common scenario.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

As Jesus told the parable of the vineyard owners, the people of Judea understood the context of sharecroppers and other farmers working their land for them. However, it was the religious elite who Jesus was addressing with this parable. They were questioning the authority by which He was speaking. Jesus was telling them that their rejection of the Truth and who God had sent was going to have consequences.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.



# Parable of the Vineyard Owner - Mark 12:1-12

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 5

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

From the way the parable ended, what do you see was the response of the Pharisees and Scribes toward Jesus?

What do you think Jesus was illustrating with this parable?

**Heart:**

What are some of the reasons people don't accept Jesus and His message?

Will everyone who hears the message of Christ accept it?

Have you accepted Jesus message that He was God's Son sent here for your sins and mine?

**Hands:**

Do the people who reject God's message still deserve to be loved by you and I?

How can we show them that love?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Signs of the End of the Age - Mark 13:28-37

## The Parables of Jesus Week 6

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### **Interesting Fact:**

Fig trees were valued for their fruit and their shade. Figs also became a symbol of security and prosperity. In the winter the fig trees would lose their leaves and by spring would begin to produce new shoots to show that summer was near. Most fig trees would produce shoots starting around April and the first fruit would be ripe by June.



### **Background for our Parable:**

In this parable Jesus was teaching across from the temple complex in Jerusalem specifically to the disciples about the signs of the end times. A few of the disciples asked Him how they know the end was approaching. Jesus wanted to use this as teaching moment to encourage the disciple to be alert and aware of the signs.



### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Signs of the End of the Age - Mark 13:28-37

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 6

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

What do you think Jesus was trying to teach us from the example of the fig tree?

What do you think Jesus means when He's tell us to be alert?

What role does God's word play in being alert?

**Heart:**

Do you believe Jesus is coming back? Why?

Why do you think Jesus wants you to be prepared and alert for His return?

**Hands:**

What are some ways you can be ready to be alert and look for when Christ return will come?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 7

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

During Jesus time it wasn't out of the ordinary that men would position themselves along popular trade routes to take advantage travelers knowing they would have money and supplies on them. Also, remember the Jews and the Samaritans were not two cultures that got along. The Samaritans were viewed as outcast and outsiders.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus was again teaching and was questioned by a religious teacher. These religious leaders didn't like Jesus, or his teaching and many times tried to trap Him with His words. Jesus knew their intentions and taught through their twisted questions.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:25-37

## The Parables of Jesus Week 7

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

According to the story, who is our neighbor?  
Why do you think Jesus used specific characters in this story?  
How far should you go in loving your neighbor?

**Heart:**

Is it hard for you to treat everyone as your neighbor?  
How often do you look for those with needs in order to help them?  
Should you do it more often?

**Hands:**

What are some ways you can show love to those around you right now?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 8

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

During Jesus time farming was hard. All work was done by hand with the help of your animals, perhaps a donkey or oxen. It would take roughly 30 lbs. of seed to cover half an acre. Then you would plough it. Ploughmen were taught to never look back, because a sudden lose of concentration could result in a costly mistake. Rows for crops were to be planted in straight lines, and all obstacles needed to be avoided not to break the thin plows.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus taught a lot. During one of these teachings a man cried out from the crowd about his concern about money. Jesus looked past the guy's question and addressed a bigger issue he and possibly the crowd had, the greed and love of money.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Parable of the Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 8

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

Why do you think this man wanted Jesus to tell his brother to split the inheritance?  
What message do you think Jesus was trying to teach His audience?

**Heart:**

How easy is it to take security in the possessions and money we have? Why?  
Do you feel like this is an area where you struggle trusting God? Why or Why not?  
Are our possessions guaranteed to always be there, are they eternal?

**Hands:**

What are some active steps you can take that show we trust in God, not our possessions?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# The Barren Fig Tree - Luke 13:6-9

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 9

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

Fig trees were valued for their fruit and for their shade. During Jesus' time if figs were going to be used on a regular basis for fruit they would plant them in vineyards. Fruit could be found on Fig trees for about 10 months of the year. Fig trees would even often produce a small crop of winter figs that remained until spring.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

There are some pretty famous stories between Jesus and fig trees. In Mark 11, Jesus even calls a fig tree out for not producing figs. With this parable Jesus is painting a similar picture of expecting to find fruit and being frustrated when there isn't any. What could he be illustrating for us?



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.



# The Barren Fig Tree - Luke 13:6-9

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 9

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

Why do farmers get frustrated when their plants don't produce fruit?  
Why do you think Jesus told this parable, what point was He trying to teach?  
Does Jesus expect fruit from our lives? If so what kind? Can we find it in Scripture?

**Heart:**

What causes you not to produce the fruit Jesus would want for our lives?  
What do you think Jesus response is to those who don't produce fruit?

**Hands:**

What are some active steps you can take now to make sure you are producing fruit in your life that glorifies God?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Parable of the lost Coin, Sheep, Son - Luke 15:1-31

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 10

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

Foods such as meats and fish were luxury items and only confined to the wealthy. Most meals consisted of bread and vegetables. During celebrations to set them apart however meals were very elaborate and costly. Taking choice cattle, or goats and sacrificing them was a true mark of celebration.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

We've all lost something and here in Luke, Jesus tells a series of stories together to illustrate for us the joy found in heaven over those who choose to turn from their sin to Him. The religious leaders needed to repent, but they were far from recognizing it.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Parable of the lost Coin, Sheep, Son - Luke 15:1-31

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 10

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**Head:**

What do you think the lost items in each of these stories represents?  
Who do you think the shepherd, woman, and father represent?  
Did you learn anything new from these stories?

**Heart:**

What do we learn about God in these stories?  
What do we learn about our response when we see others forgiven sometimes?  
Do you ever feel like the older brother in the story?

**Hands:**

What can you do to thank God that He forgives us and accepts us even after we've made mistakes?

Notes, or things I've learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 11

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

It hard for us to imagine eating with out a table. A table was a luxury only the rich could afford. In simple homes there was a common food pot, placed on a rug, and the family sat around it on the rug. Only the wealthy would own a table and chairs, or a couch, as we know it.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus taught this parable to teach us that the materials of this world aren't all that matter, and that they're temporary. Jesus was also teaching that the afterlife is something that's real, and there will be judgments for what happens while we are here.



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 11

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

Why do you think Jesus told this story?  
Do you think that there is life after death? Why?  
Do you think life after death is permanent? Why?

**Heart:**

How serious is Jesus telling us the decisions were making effect us?  
Do your actions reflect that you’ve made a decision to follow Christ?

**Hands:**

How often do you make sure your family and friends know that their decisions to obey Christ now matter for eternity?

Notes, or things I’ve learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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# Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14

## The Parables of Jesus

### Week 12

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#### **Interesting Fact:**

Pharisees and tax collectors were hated people with a lot of pull during Jesus' time on earth. The Pharisees knew the Law of Moses and made sure everyone else knew about it and held it over their heads. The tax collectors were also hated because they were seen as traitors working for the Roman government. They would intentionally charge their own people more than was due to pocket part of the money.



#### **Background for our Parable:**

Jesus understood the cultural dynamic between the average citizens, tax collectors, and Pharisees. He used this parable with these two characters to teach a valuable lesson about what He judges. Jesus was constantly having to put the Pharisees in their place and He used this story to do just that?



#### **TELL THE STORY:**

Tell the story, as best as you can, don't stop and teach, don't make points, just tell the story. Again, the objective is not to memorize it but to learn it and be able to just share it.



#### **Rebuild the Story:**

Rebuild the story by going back through the story with Bibles open.

# Pharisee and the Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14

## The Parables of Jesus Week 12

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**Head, Heart and Hand Questions:** These questions are used to understand how the Word of God is shaping our lives. We use these “Head, Heart and Hand Questions” to help you clearly identify who God is and who we are in relationship with Him. Head questions deal with what we need to know. Heart questions deal with attitudes or beliefs that either need to be challenged or strengthened. The goal here is life transformation. Hand questions take what we have learned and our changed heart and apply it to our behavior.



**Head:**

Why do you think Jesus was trying to teach with this parable?  
Do you think it was unique that He used the Pharisee and Tax Collector?  
As humans we look on the outward appearance, from this story what does it look like God judges?  
What does it mean to be justified, why do you think Jesus said the man was justified?

**Heart:**

Is it easy for you to look down on others? Why, Why not?  
Do you think we are deserving of God’s forgiveness, was the Tax Collector?

**Hands:**

How do you show God you gratitude for His forgiveness?  
What are some things you can do to show others you love them as yourself and God loves them?

Notes, or things I’ve learned...

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Prayer Request or Journal

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