

## Parent Curriculum Guide

### Study: **Parables**

#### Overview:

Everybody likes to hear a great story. Jesus was the master storyteller. During His earthly ministry thousands gathered around to hear Him tell His tales of fathers and sons, riches and poverty, good and bad, and sowing and reaping. His stories are not idle entertainment; far from it. The parables are keys meant to help us unlock the mysteries of His kingdom. Prepare to learn what great things the Lord has in store as we explore these stories larger than life.

#### **Session One:** The Parable Of The Two Sons

Central Bible Truth: Actions speak louder than words.

Focal Passage: Matthew 21:28-32

#### Outline:

1. Better late than never. (vv. 28-29)
2. Actions speak louder than words. (vv. 30-32)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is what we do more important than what we say?
2. How can we make our talk more resemble our talk?

#### **Session Two:** The Parable Of The Bad Tenants

Central Bible Truth: Accept God's authority in your life.

Focal Passage: Matthew 21:33-44

#### Outline:

1. THE MURDERERS: Those in charge of Israel (v. 33)
2. THE VICTIMS: The Lord's servants (vv. 34-36)
3. THE MOTIVE: Selfish greed (vv. 37-39)
4. THE MESSAGE: Accept authority (vv. 40-41)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why has God established authority in our lives?
2. How well do you respond to authority?

#### **Session Three:** The Parable Of The Runaway Son

Central Bible Truth: You have been shown grace; now show it to others.

Focal Passage: Luke 15:11-32

#### Outline:

1. God has given you grace. (vv. 11-12)
2. God keeps giving you grace. (vv. 12-24)
3. God gives grace to others. (vv. 25-32)
4. God wants us to give grace to others. (2 Corinthians 8:7)

#### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is God's grace so important?
2. How can you show grace to others?

#### **Session Four: The Human Element**

Central Bible Truth: People can choose to respond to Jesus' stories in different ways.

Focal Passage: Matthew 13:10-17

##### Outline

1. Jesus told stories to make people think. (vv.11-12)
2. Jesus told stories to leave His enemies without evidence. (vv. 13-15)
3. Jesus told stories to give people a glimpse of greater things. (vv. 16-17)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why did Jesus stories have so much power?
2. What does how we respond to Jesus say about us?

#### **Session Five: The Parable Of The Gifts**

Central Bible Truth: God has given everyone gifts.

Focal Passage: Matthew 25:14-30

##### Outline

1. Your talents are gifts from God. (Matthew 25:14-18)
2. Your talents are meant to be used. (Matthew 25:19-28)
3. Your talents can lead to a blessed life. (Matthew 25:28-30)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why did God give us talents?
2. How can we use our talents to glorify God?

#### **Session Six: The Parable Of The Rich Fool**

Central Bible Truth: Jesus told us to plan for eternity.

Focal Passage: Luke 12:13-21

##### Outline

1. Life Is More Than Getting Stuff (vv.13-15)
2. Life Is More Than Comfort (vv.16-19)
3. Life Won't Last Forever (vv.20-21)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to understand that this life is short?
2. How can we make sure that our lives will count for something?

#### **Session Seven: The Parable Of The Seats at a Banquet**

Central Bible Truth: God honors and people respect unselfish people.

Focal Passage: Luke 14:7-11

##### Outline

1. Looking out for yourself will bring you down. (vv. 7-9)
2. Looking out for others will raise you up. (vv. 10-11)

##### Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to take the "low place"?
2. How can pride keep you from being lifted up by God?

**Session Eight:** The “Real” Magic Kingdom

Central Bible Truth: Jesus’ stories about the kingdom of heaven call for us to make a decision to accept Christ.

Focal Passage: Matthew 13:24, 31, 33, 44-45, 47

Outline

1. Heaven is Jesus’ kingdom. (Matthew 13)
2. Jesus is bringing His kingdom here. (Matthew 4:17)
3. You can be a part of Jesus’ kingdom. (Matthew 6:33)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why does the Lord want us to have a childlike faith?
2. What does it mean to live a life of obedience to God and His Word?

**Session Nine:** The Parable Of The Servant With No Mercy

Central Bible Truth: Mercy blesses both the person who has forgiven and the person who has been forgiven.

Focal Passage: Matthew 18:21-35

Outline

1. It isn’t easy to ask for forgiveness. (vv. 21-27)
2. It is even harder to give forgiveness. (vv. 28-30)
3. It is hardest to live with unforgiveness. (vv. 31-35)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What is mercy?
2. How can you show mercy to those around you?

**Session Ten:** The Parable Of The Good Samaritan

Central Bible Truth: Christ is honored when we care for people when it’s not easy to do so.

Focal Passage: Luke 10:25-37

Outline

1. Get to know your neighbors. (vv. 29-32)
2. Get to loving your neighbors. (vv. 33-37)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Who does the Bible say are your neighbors?
2. How should you treat them?

**Session Eleven:** The Parable Of The Man With The Bad Address

Central Bible Truth: The only way to make it through life’s storms is to build your life on Christ.

Focal Passage: Matthew 7:24-27

Outline

1. Location. Location. Location. (v. 24)
2. When it rains it pours. (v. 25)
3. What you can’t see can hurt you. (vv. 26-27)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What should be the foundation of your life?
2. Why does it matter?

**Session Twelve: The Pursuit Of Hope**

Central Bible Truth: Stories about Hope

Focal Passage: Matthew 13:44

Outline

1. Finding Treasure
2. Finding Joy
3. Finding Hope

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is giving up your life for Jesus so important?
2. What do you get in return for doing this?

**Session Thirteen: The Parable Of The Four Kinds Of Dirt**

Central Bible Truth: Never forget the importance of the condition of your heart.

Focal Passage: Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23

Outline

1. Guard yourself. (vv. 3-4, 18-19)
2. Keep growing. (vv. 5-6, 20-21)
3. Don't get distracted. (vv. 7, 22)
4. Produce results. (vv. 8-9, 23)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to care for your heart?
2. What kinds of things can spoil or damage your heart?

**Session Fourteen: The Parable Of The Seed That Grew Up**

Central Bible Truth: God can do something great with something small.

Focal Passage: Mark 4:30-32

Outline

1. God chooses small things. (vv. 30-31)
2. God can do great things with small things. (v. 32)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Does size or strength matter in relation to spiritual things?
2. What does God look for in us?

**Session Fifteen: The Parable Of The Greedy Workers**

Central Bible Truth: Accept your fellow workers in Christ.

Focal Passage: Matthew 20:1-16

Outline

1. You can work for God. (vv. 1-7)
2. Accept others who are working for God. (vv. 8-16)

Questions For Discussion:

1. What should be our attitude towards jobs that need to be done at church?
2. How should we relate to our fellow workers at church?

**Session Sixteen:** How will your story be written?

Central Bible Truth: God wants to give your story a happy ending.

Focal Passage: Mark 14:3-9

Outline

1. She wrote a love story. (vv. 3-5)
2. Her story had no end. (vv. 6-9)

Questions For Discussion:

1. Why is it important to give control of your life to God?
2. How can you make sure that your life has a happy ending?