

Providence Baptist Church
Discipleship Class ~ Parables
The Greatest Stories Ever Told

Lesson - 1: Introduction

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 13:1-17**

Lesson Objectives:

- Define a parable
- Discuss Jesus' response to why He spoke in parables
- Discover the focus of a parable
- Explore the Christian response to parables

I. What is a parable?

II. What was the purpose of Jesus using parables for teaching?

III. What should be the focus of a parable?

IV. How should Christians respond to the truths revealed by parables?

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Lesson - 2: The Parable of the Sower

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 13:1-23**

Lesson Objectives:

- Identify the representation of the seed, farmer, and soil
- Identify the kinds of soils and what they mean
- Discover how not to be choked by weeds and thorns
- Discuss ways to become good soil

I. Who or what is represented in this parable by the seed, the farmer, and the soil?

II. What are the four kinds of soils and who do they represent?

III. How can Christians avoid being choked by the weeds and thorns?

IV. What are some ways to become good soil?

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Lesson - 3: The “Lost” Parables – Part 1

Lesson Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Lesson Objectives:

- Compare how the Pharisee and Jesus sees sinners
- Define the central characters in the parables
- Discuss common themes when something or someone is lost
- Review reactions of the shepherd, woman, and father to their losses and discoveries

- I. In the three parables, compare the way the Pharisees see “sinners” to the way Jesus say God sees them?

- II. Who is represented by the central characters (or objects) in each of the three Parables?

- III. What are some common themes when something or someone is lost?

- IV. How do you account for the intense reactions of the shepherd, woman, and father to their losses and discoveries?

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Lesson - 4: Sin – The “Lost” Parables – Part 2

Lesson Scripture: Luke 15:1-32

Lesson Objectives:

- Examine the Pharisee reactions to the younger son
- Examine the Pharisee reaction to the father
- Explore the feelings of our Father
- Examine Jesus description of the older son’s reaction

- I. In the third parable, how might the Pharisees and teachers of the law have felt about the actions of the younger son?

- II. How might the Pharisees expected the father to respond when the son returned home?

- III. What do the details in verse 20-24 reveal about the feelings of our Father in heaven?

- IV. What points does Jesus make to the Jewish leaders when describing the reaction of the older son?

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Lesson - 5: The Good Samaritan

Lesson Scripture: **Luke 10:25-37**

Lesson Objectives:

- Discuss the lawyer expected answer from Jesus
- Examine the selection of the Samaritan
- Describe the Samaritan's actions in the encounter
- Explore the meaning going and doing likewise

- I. What kind of answer do you think the lawyer was expecting from Jesus when he asked, "Who is my neighbor?"

- II. Why do you think Jesus picked a Samaritan, someone from an ethnic group Jews detested, as the hero of the story?

- III. Describe the Samaritan's actions from the point of view a) personal inconvenience, b) financial cost, and c) risk.

- IV. "Go and do likewise", what exactly was Jesus telling the lawyer to do?

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Lesson - 6: The Unforgiving Servant

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 18:21-35**

Lesson Objectives:

- Explore the view of forgiveness
- Examine the seventy-seven times principle
- Discover the heart of Jesus' message to Peter
- Discuss the impact of unforgiveness

- I. What view of forgiveness does Peter's question reveal?

- II. Jesus tells Peter to forgive his brother seventy-seven times. What is Jesus' point?

- III. What is at the heart of Jesus' answer to Peter?

- IV. What happens to our spiritual freedom and our fellowship with God when we are critical and unforgiving?

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Lesson - 7: The Widow & the Judge

Lesson Scripture: **Luke 18:1-8**

Lesson Objectives:

- Discover the key characters in the parable
- Discover why the widow was persistent
- Define persistence and determination of this sort
- Observe the judge's motivation to act

I. Who are the characters in this parables and who do they represent?

II. Why do you think the widow is so persistent?

III. How do you define "persistence" or "determination" of this sort?

IV. What finally motivates the judge to act?

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Lesson - 8: The Wheat & the Weeds – Part 1

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43**

Lesson Objectives:

- Discover the crisis in the parable
- Discuss the owner alternatives to pulling the weeds
- Examine the key elements in the parable
- Discover the meaning of pulling and burning the weeds

- I. What crisis occurs at the beginning of the parable?
- II. What is the alternative the owner offers to pulling up the weeds and why?
- III. According to Jesus, what do the key elements of the parable stand for?
- IV. What is the meaning of the weeds being pulled and burned in the fire?

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Lesson - 13: The Wise & Foolish Virgins – Part 2

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 24:36-25:13**

Lesson Objectives:

- Discuss Christ's coming as a joyful or fearful event
- Observe the similarities between the wise and foolish virgins
- Discuss the differences between the wise and foolish virgins during the delay
- Discover what constitutes God's wisdom in Christ's return

I. Would you say Christ's illustration about His coming were joyful or fearful events?

II. What are the similarities between the wise and foolish virgins?

III. How did the bridegroom's long delay reveal the differences between the wise and foolish virgins?

IV. According to this parable, what constitutes wisdom in relation to Christ's return?

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Lesson - 14: Parable of the Talents

Lesson Scripture: **Matthew 25:14-30**

Lesson Objectives:

- Discover the master trust of the servants
- Examine what really matters to the master
- Explore the relationships of the servants to the master
- Discuss similarities between the master and God

- I. How and why does the master entrust his money to these servants?
- II. Compare the reactions of the master to the first and second servants. What matters to him, and what does not matter to him?
- III. Observe the statements of the three servants, what can you infer about their relationship with their master?
- IV. How is the master like God and how is he unlike God?

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Lesson - 15: The Pharisee & the Tax Collector

Lesson Scripture: **Luke 18:9-14**

Lesson Objectives:

- Observe God's response to the Pharisee
- Review the Pharisee view of himself
- Review the tax collector view of himself
- Explore the tax collector justification

- I. The Pharisee addresses God, but to what extent does God occupy his attention? Explain.

- II. How does the Pharisee see himself? What does it reveal about his attitude toward God?

- III. How does the tax collector view himself and contrast with how the Pharisee views himself?

- VI. Why was the tax collector justified rather than the Pharisee? What role did the tax collector awareness of the need for God's mercy play in the justification?

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Lesson - 16: Parable of the Rich Fool

Lesson Scripture: **Luke 12:13-21**

Lesson Objectives:

- Evaluate the actions and attitude of the rich man
- Observe God's exposure of the man false security
- Discuss Jesus response to material prosperity
- Explore being rich toward God

I. How would you evaluate the actions and attitude of the rich man?

II. How does God expose the man's false sense of security?

III. Is Jesus condemning material prosperity in this parable? Explain.

IV. What does it mean to "rich toward God"?

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Lesson - 17: The Rich Man & Lazarus

Lesson Scripture: Luke 16:19-31

Lesson Objectives:

- Discover the rich man lack of concern
- Discuss the rich man's indifference to Lazarus
- Observe the rich man accessibility to Lazarus
- Explorer God's reason not to send messengers from the dead

- I. How does the parable reveal the rich man's lack of concern for Lazarus?

- II. How would you account for the rich's man indifference toward Lazarus?

- III. Contrast the rich man's accessibility to Lazarus in life and death.

- IV. Why does God not send messengers from the dead to warn us?

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Lesson - 18: Conclusion

Lesson Scripture: **None**

Lesson Objectives:

- Review the importance and significance of parables
- Observe some practical applications of parables in your own experience
- Discuss how you would use a select parable to affect the life of others
- Share thoughts on the central theme of the Kingdom in the parables

- I. Describe why Jesus taught in parables and the significance to your life as a Christian.

- II. What steps have you taken to live out the truths uncovered in the parables

- III. Which parable resonated with you the most and how would you use it for personal growth or share with others saved and unsaved?

- IV. Where you able to see the focus of the Kingdom in the parables? Give an example.