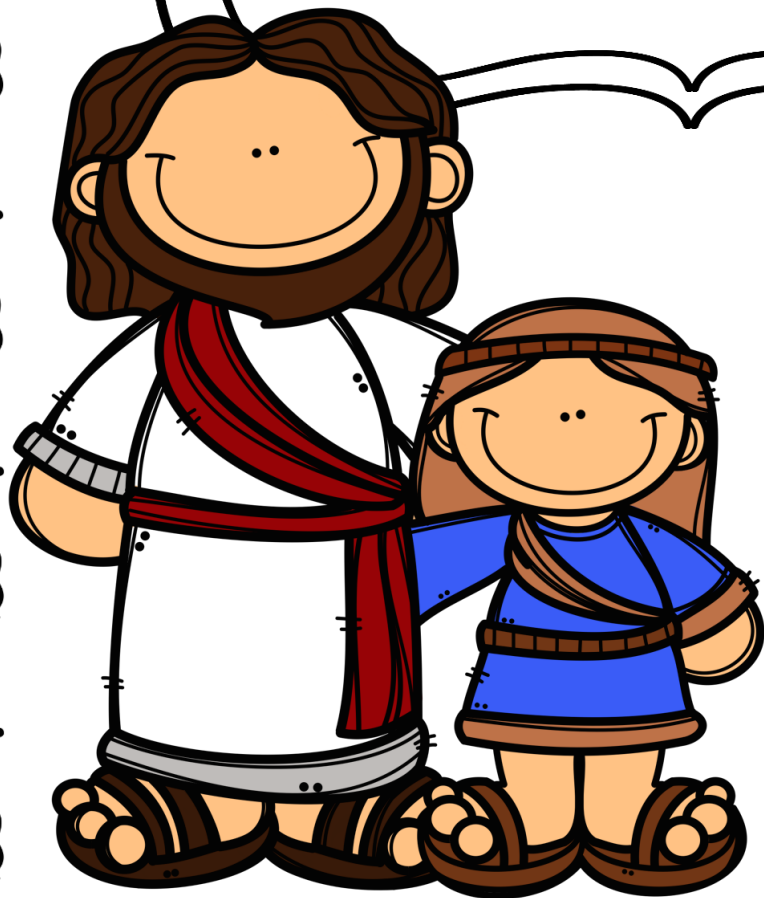


# My Book of Parables



The **Gospels** of:

Matthew  
Mark  
Luke

# My Book of Parables



**Name:**

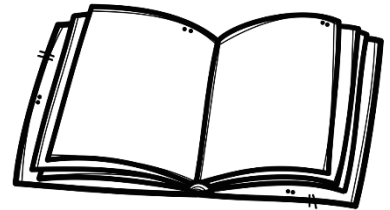
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# Learning Through the Parables

## The Parables of Jesus

### What is a parable?

A parable is a short story that is told to teach a lesson. Many parables include a few characters in a well-known setting, such as in a town or a field. These characters are almost always challenged in the story. The actions and thoughts of each character come together to teach the reader a lesson about their faith, God, and the Kingdom of Heaven.



### Why did Jesus teach using the parables?



Jesus used the parables to teach his followers a clear message or a lesson about their faith, God, and the Kingdom of Heaven. Many people at this time were not able to read, and storytelling was very popular among the people. When Jesus taught using a parable, he used popular examples and situations that the people of that time would understand. He did this so that the message of God would be clear to all of his listeners.

### Do all of the parables teach the same lesson?

Jesus used the parables to teach his followers many different lessons. Some of these lessons taught people about the importance of having faith, being thankful for what they have, and treating others with kindness and compassion. Jesus also wanted his followers to know that God loves each and every one of them, and that He will always forgive them when they sin or turn away from Him.



### Where can I find the parables?

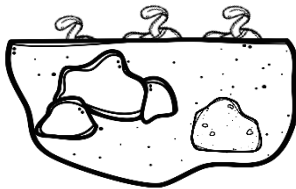
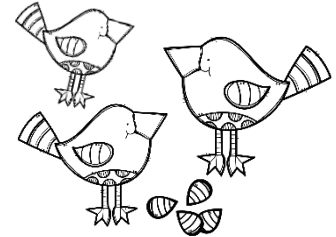
Jesus told many parables during his holy mission on earth. Some of these parables can be found in more than one place in the Bible, and all of the parables can be found in the New Testament. These parables are found in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

# The Parable of the Sower

Matthew 13: 1–23, Mark 4: 1–20, Luke 8: 1–15

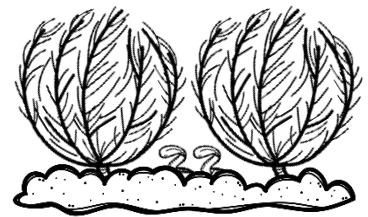
There once lived a farmer who planted many seeds in his garden. As he began to spread handfuls of his seeds, some of the seeds scattered and fell to the ground.

Some of the farmer's seeds landed on the hard, dry soil of the pathway. The soil on this pathway was too hard for the seeds to sprout, and so they just laid on top of the ground. Hungry birds saw these seeds and flew down to eat them all up.



Some of the farmer's seeds fell on soil that had many rocks and small stones buried beneath the surface. These seeds were able to grow quickly in the soil, but there was not enough room for the roots to grow and so the sprouts withered and died in the hot sun.

Some of the farmer's seeds fell into a patch of thorny bushes. These seeds were able to quickly grow beside the bushes, but the bushes soon took roots that spread across the soil. The seeds that had sprouted had no room to spread their roots, and so they were choked out by the thorny bushes and died.



The rest of the farmer's seeds landed on soft, rich soil. These seeds were able to grow into large healthy plants. When the farmer returned to his harvest, he found that the seeds had produced a great crop.

What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples? Imagine that the seed represents your faith in God.

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# The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Matthew 13: 31–35, Mark 4: 30–34, Luke 13: 18–21

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? They are some of the smallest seeds on earth. A mustard seed is so tiny that if you were to accidentally drop one, you might not be able to find it. Even though the mustard seed is very small, it grows into a large tree once it has been planted. One day, Jesus was out walking with his disciples. He turned to them and told them this parable:



“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

What did Jesus mean by this? How can a seed be like the Kingdom of Heaven? When Jesus first began his holy mission on Earth, he did not have any followers. One day, Jesus called to some men who were fishing. These men listened to Jesus and they soon began to follow Him.



Over time, more and more people began to hear the Good News about Jesus. They too wanted to follow Him. The people who followed Jesus wanted to share with others the Good News as well. They started to tell their friends and family about Jesus. As more and more people began to follow Jesus, the Kingdom of God began to grow. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the Kingdom of God. When we share the Good News about Jesus, we are helping to grow God’s kingdom.

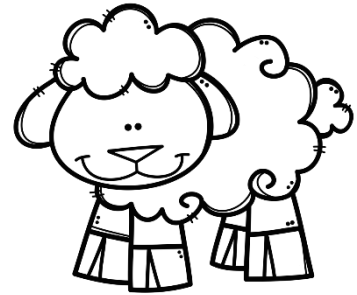
Imagine that someone has never heard of God’s Kingdom. How could you teach that person about God so that His Kingdom will grow?

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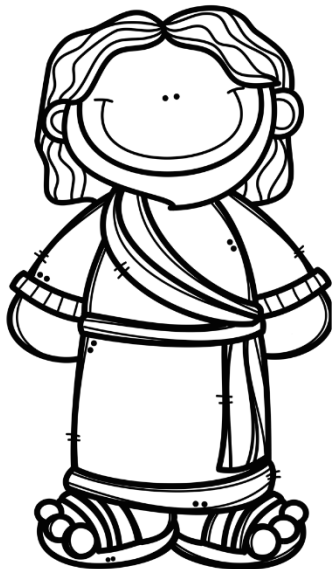
# The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Matthew 18: 12-14, Luke 15: 3-7

Have you ever seen lost something that you cared about? How did you feel when you found that lost item?



Once there was a shepherd with 100 sheep in his flock. One afternoon, one of the shepherd's sheep wandered away and got lost. The shepherd left his flock and went in search of the lost sheep. The shepherd searched and searched until he had found his lost sheep. When the shepherd found the lost sheep, he put it across his shoulders and carried it home.



When the shepherd returned home, he called to all of his friends and neighbors, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep!"

In a way, God is like a shepherd and all of God's children are like the sheep. When someone loses their faith in God, He will search for the lost sinner and rejoice when they are found. God is always willing to forgive sinners who repent. God welcomes everyone who has found faith in Him into the Kingdom of God.

What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples? Imagine that the shepherd represents God.

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# The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 12: 13–21

There once lived a very rich man. He had lots of land where he planted his crops each harvest. One year, the rich man grew a wonderful harvest of crops, but he did not have anywhere to store the crops.



The rich man decided that the best thing to do would be to tear down his barns and build even bigger ones. This way, he will have more space to store all of his crops.

After the rich man had stored his surplus of crops, he decided that he had worked hard enough. He believed that he had enough crops to keep him fed for years to come, and so the rich fool did not plant another harvest. Instead, he sat back and relaxed at home.

God saw that the rich man was not planting a harvest or doing any work, and so he said to the man, "You fool. This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?" Although the rich man had lots of money and crops, he was not rich in his faith. God wanted the man to see that only when you have an abundance of faith in God, then you can be truly rich. The earthly treasures that you hold will mean nothing once you have entered the Kingdom of Heaven.

What lesson was God trying to teach the rich man? Predict what might have happened to the rich man after God spoke to him.

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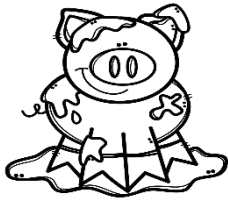
# The Prodigal Son

Luke 15: 11–32

There once lived a family with one father, and two sons. Both sons lived and worked for their father obediently. One day, the youngest son went to his father and asked for his half of the family fortune. He wanted to go and see the world for himself.



It made the father very sad that his youngest son was leaving, but he gave him the money and said goodbye. The youngest son excitedly took the bag of money and went off to explore the world.



Soon, the youngest son had spent all of his father's money and had nothing left to spend. He was very hungry, and decided to find work. The youngest son began working in a pigpen, feeding and taking care of the pigs. He was still very hungry, and he began to think back to his father. His father owned lots of land and servants, and had plenty of food to go around. The youngest son decided to return home.

When his father saw the youngest son walking down the road, he ran out and hugged him. The youngest son said, "Father, forgive me. I have sinned against Heaven, and I have sinned against you." The father just smiled and hugged his son because he was so happy to have him back home. The father threw his son a big party with lots of food and dancing.



When the oldest son saw this, he became very angry. He thought that his father should punish his youngest brother, but his father was so happy that his son had decided to return home and ask for forgiveness that he did not care what he had done wrong.

What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples? Imagine that the father in the story is God.

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[God's Story: Two Sons and a Father](#)



# The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10: 25–27

One day, when Jesus was telling people about God, a man came up to him and asked this question, “Teacher. What can I do to inherit eternal life?” Jesus told the man to think about what God would say. The man replied, “You should love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself. But tell me, who is my neighbor?” Jesus answered the man by telling the story of the Good Samaritan.

There was once a Jewish man walking down the road on a long journey to the town of Jericho. On his way, the man was robbed by a group of men. They took all of his belongings and tore most of his clothing. The men did not want the man to follow them, so they beat him and left him on the side of the road.

A few moments later, a priest was walking along the same road, where he came to the man lying on the side of the road. The priest shook his head, walked to the other side of the road, and continued on his way as though he had not seen the hurt man.

About an hour later, another man was walking along the same road. This man was a Levite, someone who helped priests. He slowed down, walked a little closer to the man, but then kept walking, leaving the hurt man lying in the road.

A few moments later, a third man was walking along the same road. He was a Samaritan, and the Jewish people usually did not get along with the Samaritans. But, as soon as the Samaritan saw the hurt man, he ran over to him and bandaged his sores. He helped the man to a hotel and stayed to take care of him. The next day, the Samaritan went to the bank and took out money for the man so that he could stay at the hotel. He asked the man at the front desk to care for the man, saying that if the man still wasn't better after two months that he would return and pay any extra cost.

Which man in the story do you think is the neighbor? How do you know?

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# The Parable of the Ten Lepers

Luke 17: 11-19

Back when Jesus was alive, a disease known as leprosy (leh-pro-see) was very common in the towns and villages. This disease caused people to get painful skin rashes and lesions (lee-shuns) all over their bodies. Sometimes, their bodies became deformed, or misshapen and looking damaged. Because so few people understood this disease at the time, people with leprosy were considered unclean and were often kicked out of their homes and towns. People called them names, like "lepers", and forced them to live away from their families.



One day, while traveling on his way to the city of Jerusalem, Jesus passed through a town called Samaria. As Jesus entered the town, he met ten men who had leprosy. These men were being forced to leave their homes because the people were so afraid that they might also catch the disease.

When the men saw Jesus, they called out to him. They were so happy to see the Son of God, and they said, "Jesus. Have mercy on us!" Jesus turned to the men and replied, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." As the men turned to leave, they were amazed to find that they had been healed and had leprosy no more.

One of the men was so happy that he ran back to Jesus shouting, "Praise God!" He thanked Jesus for healing him. Jesus looked around and said, "Did I not heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Will no one else return to give praise to God?" Then, Jesus said to the man, "Rise and go; your faith has healed you."

What lesson is Jesus teaching his disciples? Imagine how Jesus might have felt if none of the men returned to give thanks to God.

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