

Jesus Teaches in Parables

KEY THEME

- Jesus teaches His disciples.

KEY PASSAGES

- Matthew 13:3–11, 3:18–23
- Luke 15:4–7

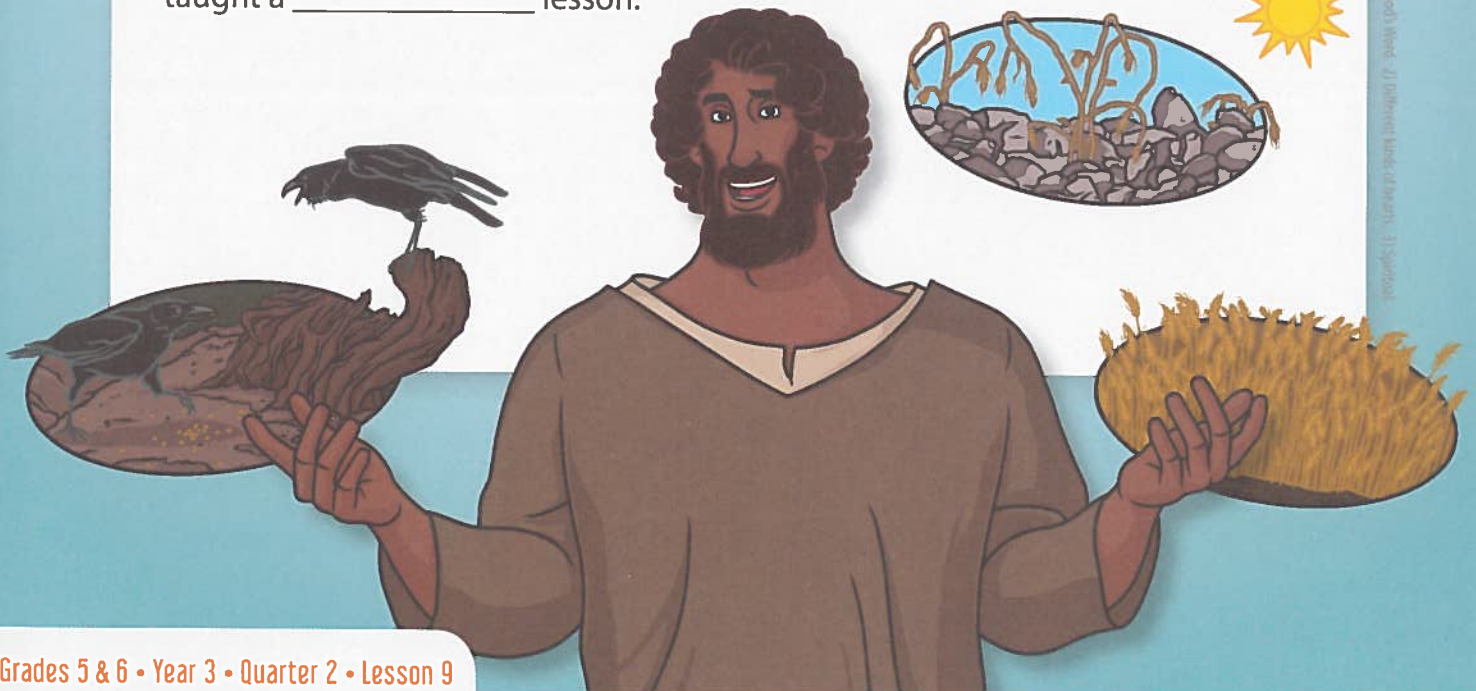


What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- Jesus taught in short stories, or parables, that taught a spiritual lesson. Followers of Jesus understood the parables. They had “ears to hear.”
- Jesus told a parable about a shepherd who found his lost sheep. The lost sheep stood for a sinner who comes to Christ.

Answer these questions from today’s lesson.

- 1 In the parable of the sower, what does the seed stand for?
- 2 In the parable of the sower, what do the different soils stand for?
- 3 Parables were short stories about common things that taught a _____ lesson.



1) The truth of God's Word. 2) Different kinds of hearts. 3) Spiritual.

Read the Word

Monday {Psalm 1:3}
What is the righteous man like?

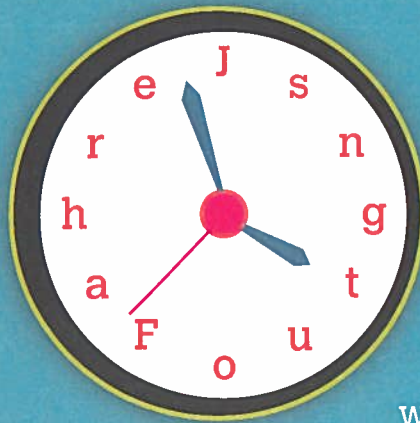
Tuesday {Luke 8:11}
What is the seed in Jesus's parable?

Wednesday {Luke 8:12}
Why does the devil take God's Word out of the hearts of those who hear it?

Thursday {Psalm 23:1}
How is the Lord described?

Friday {Luke 15:7}
Who does the lost sheep represent?

Saturday {John 14:6}
What is the only way to get to the Father in heaven? (Your Memory Verse)



Learn the Word

Write the letters of the numbers they have replaced on the clock to complete the verse.

12 11 1 5 1

said to him, "I am the

way, the
4 10 5 4 9

and the life. No comes to the
6 2 11

except through Me."
7 8 4 9 11 10

John 14:6

LIVE the Word

Suppose you hear someone say he never really gets anything out of the Bible when he reads it or out of a sermon when he hears it. **What could you say?**

Jesus said that the Word of God is like a seed. It needs good soil in order to grow. Your heart is the soil. Farmers get their soil ready before they plant seeds. They plow it and do things to make sure the seed can grow after it's planted. It's good that you are reading and hearing the Word of God. Maybe your heart hasn't been ready to receive it before. God is the one who will, by His grace, soften your heart so it is ready to receive the seed. Pray and ask God to help you understand what you are hearing from His Word, and ask Him to help you apply His truth to your life. If you really want to grow and bear fruit for God, ask Him, and He will help you understand His Word!



TIME TO REVIEW

Why did Jesus teach in parables? Start with the square in the upper left-hand corner. Draw a line connecting all the shapes that have exactly four sides. You can only move one square at a time. Write the answer on the lines below.

START →

They	taught a	but	who	into the	for	the mind
gave a	spiritual	picture	to those	had	heart	parable
story	good	lesson	when	ears	and the	truth
disciples	message	gave	bless	for	to	hear

ANSWER: They taught a spiritual lesson to those who had ears to hear.

SEEDS, SHEEP, a SOWER, and a SHEPHERD

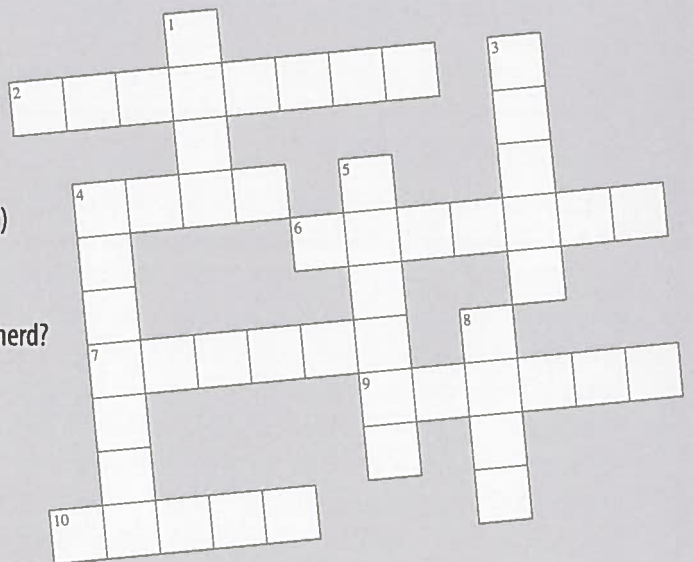
Answer the questions below to complete the crossword puzzle.
Look up the Bible verses or use the Word Bank if you need a hint.

Across

- The shepherd ____ when he found the lost sheep. (Luke 15:6)
- The seed stands for the ____ of the kingdom. (Matthew 13:19)
- There will be more joy in heaven over on sinner who ____! (Luke 15:7)
- Who was the lost sheep in the parable? A ____ who repents. (Luke 15:7)
- Which kind of ground choked out the growing plant with weeds? (Matthew 13:7)
- In the parable about the lost sheep and the shepherd, who was the shepherd?

Down

- When Jesus told a parable about a sower, how many kinds of ground did the seed fall on?
- Which kind of ground had lots of rocks that prevented deep roots? (Matthew 13:5)
- Which ground was hard, so the seed was eaten by the birds? (Matthew 13:4)
- The ground represents different kinds of _____. (Matthew 13:19)
- Which kind of ground produced good fruit from the seed? (Matthew 13:8)



WORD BANK

Stony Wayside Jesus Thorny Word Good
Sinner Four Rejoiced Hearts Repents

SNEAK PEEK
Do you know about the shocking claim Jesus made to the Pharisees?
Come next week to find out.

HomeWord

For Parents

One of the hallmarks of the teaching of Jesus was His use of parables. Simply put, a parable is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Parables help the listener to discover the deeper, or spiritual, meaning and underlying truth of Jesus's teaching.

Depending on which ones you include, there are between 35 and 45 different parables of Jesus recorded in the Gospels. Some of these were longer, including such popular ones as the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25–37) and the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11–32). Others were short, pithy statements such as, “The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal till it was all leavened” (Matthew 13:33).

But, why did Jesus teach in parables? There are two reasons given in the Bible: to conceal and to reveal. By resorting to parables, Jesus effectively separated the truth-seekers from the merely curious. Those seeking the truth would say, “Explain to us the parable . . .” (Matthew 13:36), while the merely curious could easily be dismissed. They would not ask and were unwilling to receive Jesus's message. The truths were heard by unbelievers, but the

meaning was hidden because they did not want to hear.

In a way only God could contrive, the very things which were useful to reveal and make clear the truths about the kingdom to those willing to hear were also used to conceal truths about the kingdom from those who would not believe.

Jesus started teaching the crowds almost exclusively in parables after He had begun to receive much opposition from the religious leaders and had been accused of blasphemy. Mark tells us that He did not speak to them without a parable and that when He was alone with His disciples, He would explain the meaning of His teachings (Mark 4:33–34).

The parables of Jesus contain great volumes of truth in very few words. The images Christ presents through them are not easily forgotten. And He has promised that for those with eyes to see and ears to hear His truths will be revealed (Matthew 13:16).

Go to the Online Resource Page for more information.

OutWord

For Family Discussion

What if your friend told you he just doesn't believe that Jesus would care if he believes the Bible and the gospel? **What could you say?**

God is so big and so powerful, and we are so little, it does seem hard to believe that He would care for us and for our souls. But I can tell you that He does care! After all, Jesus lived, died, and rose again so that everyone who believes could have eternal life. That isn't the sacrifice of someone who doesn't care! And the Bible tells us that all of heaven rejoices when one sinner repents of his sins and turns to Jesus for salvation. It isn't just Jesus who cares—but ALL of heaven! And all of heaven will rejoice if you repent of your sins, turn away from sin, and turn to Jesus.

inWord

For Family Study

“You are my hiding place and my shield; I hope in Your word” (Psalm 119:114). Where does confidence in God's protection and hope in His Word come from? Teach your children where real hope lies—read and memorize Scripture together.

Begin with the memory verse in the Learn the Word section inside this handout.

