

Jesus Teaches in Parables

KEY THEME

- Jesus teaches His disciples.

KEY PASSAGES

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

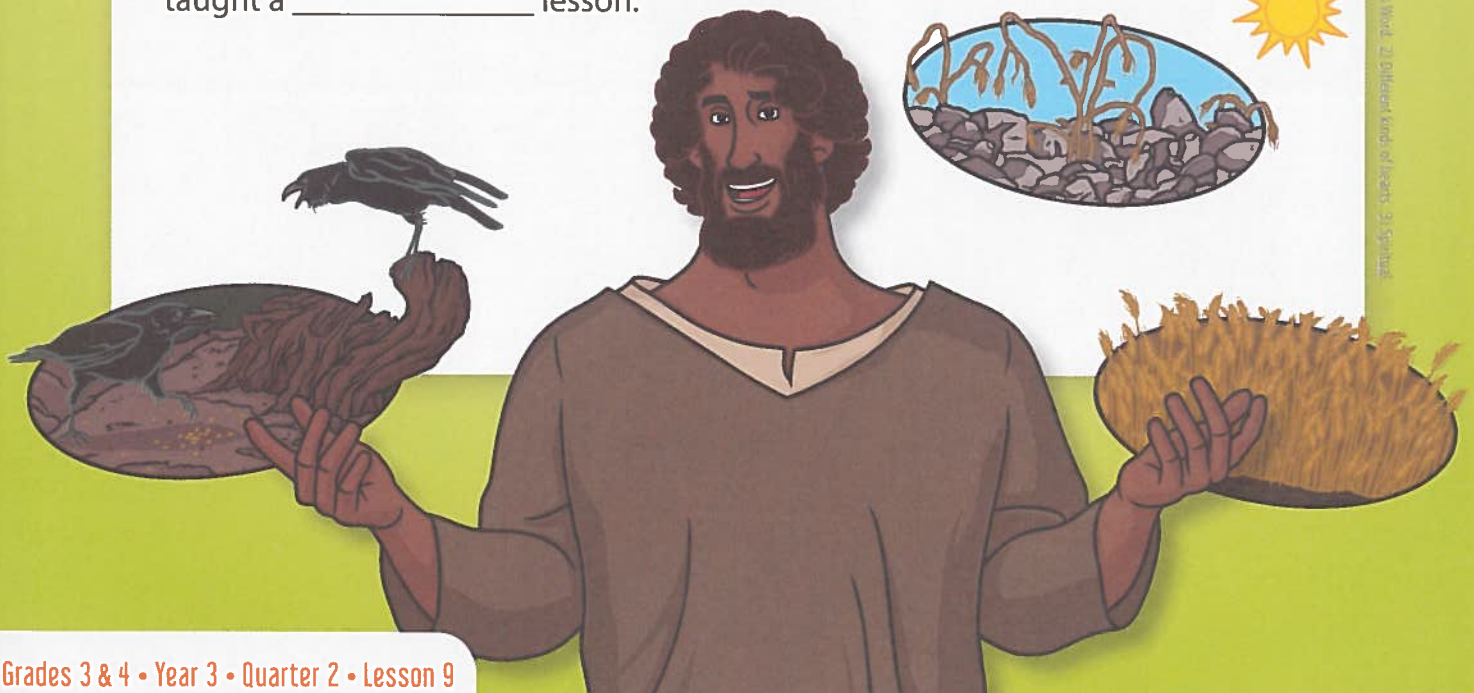


What You **HEARD** in the **WORD**

- 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.



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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

Unscramble the words and fill in the blanks.

Jesus _____ to him, "I am the
sdia

_____, the _____,
yaw rhttu

and the _____. No one
elif

_____ to the Father except
mesco

_____ Me."
trohhug

A PARABLE WORD SEARCH

Find the words from today's lesson in the word search below.

P A R A B L E S O R A H L A P A
R H E A S H E P T Y L P F O S H
E S P I R I T U A L G J R M R E
P N E V E S N I A M O E U G E D
J F N E V H E N C C O S I A S P
E R T L H E A V E N D O T F R I
S H E P H E R D A R V I X O I T
U I D Y N P A S T Z E L Q U R U
S T N I J A N R L E S S O N A Y
S N O G K E E S T R G A R D L S

STORY
FOUND
HEAR
HEAVEN
LESSON
LORD
PARABLES
REPENTED
FRUIT
SHEEP
LOST
SHEPHERD
SINNER
SPIRITUAL
GOOD
SOIL
JESUS

The Parable of the Sower

Use the puzzle to find the answers to the questions below about the parable of the sower in Matthew 13:18–23. (Hint: Hold the puzzle about chin level and tilt it slightly downward. Let your eyes follow the direction that the arrows are pointing.)

Ε

1. Jesus said the seed stood for the _____ of God.
2. Jesus said the soil stood for people's _____.
3. In the parable, the _____ stood for the wicked one.
4. The _____ stood for the things done in the lives of believers done for God's glory.

4

2

1

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!

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 believed 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, believe the Bible, and trust that Jesus forgives your sins through His death and Resurrection! You can believe that to be true.

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.

