



No maximum number
depending on adequate
supervision



10 minutes

Jesus – The Teacher

Aim: To look at the teachings of Jesus

Jesus has been referred as the 'Master Teacher' – so how did he do it?

How Jesus taught

- Others referred to him as 'teacher' (see *Nicodemus, John 3*)
- He refers to himself as teacher (*Matt 26:18*)
- Story of temple guards (*John 7:45ff*)

In the first instance, you can spot a leader because people look to be led by them. In the same way, you will want to come and listen to a good teacher.

Why did people want to listen to Jesus?

- He went to the people to speak to them.
- He talked to everybody, even the 'undesirables'. He was a champion of the people.
- He was a fantastically skilled communicator who used various methods to convey his point.

Why did Jesus use Parables?

- Parables helped people to remember what Jesus said
- Parables helped people to focus on important issues
- Parables got people to think about the way they lived and treated others
- Parables were easy to understand, people could see themselves in the stories

Jesus did not just "tell" stories, imposing them on the listener. The listener was involved, perhaps presented with a puzzle to solve or a question to answer, or challenged to pass judgement on the situation described. They had to face the responsibility of making a decision for themselves about the morality of the situation, or about the way they lived their own life.

The whole idea was not to "entertain" the listeners, or to spoon-feed them the meanings, but to include an element of the unexpected; to make them confront implications, to reflect, to do the mental work necessary to appreciate the meaning and significance of the story and relate it to their own lives and attitudes.

Jesus did not invent the parable. Such tales were used by other Jewish teachers. However, rather than using them as an addition to other teaching methods, the impression we get from the Gospels is that Jesus made them the central feature of his teaching style.

To do

Explore some of the parables that Jesus used – see the list overleaf.

- The boys could retell one of the parables in their own words.
- A drama item could be undertaken using one of the parables, see "Extras" pages for suggested web links for drama topics.
- A painting, drawing or collage could be produced to depict one of the parables.
- They could write a 'modern day' parable.



Parable	Matthew		Mark		Luke	
	Chapter	Verses	Chapter	Verses	Chapter	Verses
Lamp under a bowl	5	14 – 15	4	21 – 22	8 11	16 33
Wise and foolish builders	7	24 – 27			6	47 – 49
The Sower and the soils	13	3 – 23	4 4	3 – 8 14 – 20	8 8	5 – 8 11 – 15
Weeds	13 13	24 – 30 36 – 43				
Mustard seed	13	31 – 32	4	30 – 32	13	18 – 19
Yeast	13	33			13	20 – 21
Hidden treasure	13	44				
Valuable pearl	13	45 – 46				
Net	13	47 – 50				
Owner of the house	13	52				
Lost sheep	18	12 – 14			15	4 – 7
Unmerciful servant	18	23 – 24				
Workers in the vineyard	20	1 – 16				
Two sons	21	28 – 32				
Tenants	21	33 – 44	12	1 – 11	20	9 – 18
Wedding banquet	22	2 – 14				
Fig tree	24	32 – 35	13	28 – 29	21	29 – 31
Faithful and wise servant	24	45 – 51			12	42 – 48
Ten virgins	25	1 – 13				
Talents	25	14 – 30			19	12 – 27
Sheep and goats	25	31 – 46				
Growing seed			4	26 – 29		
Watchful servants			13	35 – 37	12	35 – 40
Money-lender					7	41 – 43
Good Samaritan					10	30 – 37
Rich fool					12	16 – 21
Unfruitful tree					13	6 – 9
Lowest seat at the feast					14	7 – 14
Great Banquet					14	16 – 24
Cost of discipleship					14	28 – 33
Lost coin					15	8 – 10
Lost (prodigal) son					15	11 – 32
Shrewd manager					16	1 – 8
Rich man and Lazarus					16	19 – 31
Master and his servant					17	7 – 10
Persistent widow					18	2 – 8
Pharisee and tax collector					18	10 – 14