



Summer Blockbuster Reading Challenge

3 months—4 Gospels—Go!

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2022



Take your Pulse

What summer plans are you looking forward to?

How overwhelmed are you feeling as you look forward to those summer plans?

Today's Reading

Matthew Chapter 13

Chapter 13 is a chapter of parables. Jesus explains why he speaks in parables, but his explanation isn't very clear. Apparently an ancient prophet, possibly Isaiah, used parables and explained his use of parables in a similar manner. In short, a parable is a brief story. It is a metaphor or a simile. It compares what cannot be known to what can be known. Jesus is trying to help his disciples understand more about the Kingdom of God, something very unknowable. The images he uses are common, every day experiences for his people. Parables are not always one-to-one comparisons, though. Sometimes cynicism, irony, reverse psychology, and other techniques are used. So reading parables take time to understand. So, if you are confused by any of these, do not worry—you are in good company.



Start the Thinking

What might be a modern common, everyday experience you would use to compare the Kingdom of God with? How might you tell that comparison in a two or three sentence short story?



Conversing with God

God of imagination, you reveal your kingdom in ways that seem so simple, and yet are so complex, and our limited imaginations are sometimes at a loss. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our minds to understand, that we may fully embrace your kingdom and experience your love always. In Jesus holy name we pray. Amen



Be blessed

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine brightly upon you that you experience all God's grace. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, and the + Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen