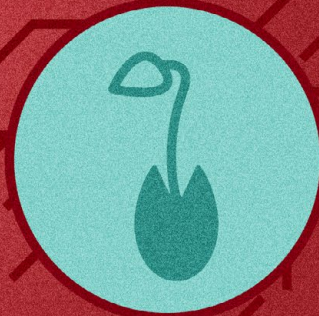




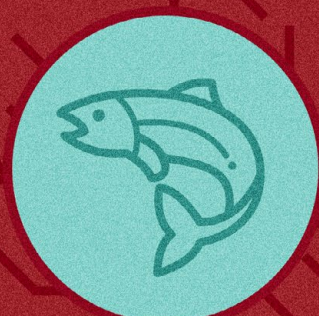
PARABLES
OF JESUS

ESCAPE
ROOM

PRINTABLE



AGES 8 & UP



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PARABLES OF JESUS

ESCAPE ROOM

Your students are on a mission! They are returning to **the dusty trails of Israel that Jesus followed while telling stories** (also called parables) and performing miracles. Like most of God's unfolding story, the parables of Jesus contained great mysteries for almost everyone at the time!

Students will be taken back to solve the mysteries of what happened by decoding the facts—so they can **SEE THE LIGHT** of Jesus' glorious ministry!

Students will learn all the surrounding details, **such why Jesus told stories, what some of the symbols mean, and how we can apply them today.**

IT STARTS ON THE DUSTY STREETS OF ISRAEL 2,000 YEARS AGO. To discover the LIGHT, students will use ciphers, Morse code, cryptograms, and other puzzles.

Each mystery is unique. Some puzzles are easy for younger children; others require guidance or wisdom from older counterparts. The main fun is that the codes require critical thinking to determine what secret lies behind each symbol. Each code will reveal interesting facts about faith in new beginnings. These exercises will keep your students captivated while encouraging friendly competition to crack the final code.

The fun for teachers and parents is the lack of prep. This is a **PRINT AND GO** activity requiring little else! Enjoy solving the codes with the kids without cutting, pasting, and problem-solving beforehand.

The best age range for our ESCAPE ROOMS is 8 and up. Younger students can still participate, but they may need some help.

The escape room package includes:

- Teacher Instructions
- Student Instructions
- Four Mysteries
- Four Decoders
- One Final Challenge
- Keys to the Kingdom (Prizes)
- Answer Key

The objective of our ESCAPE ROOM is to read and solve the four mysteries and complete the final challenge in the time allotted, and thereby earn a key.



TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Students can complete the escape room alone, in partners, or teams. If you have a child younger than 8, we suggest they are paired with an older teammate.
2. Print out the 4 mysteries and final challenge for each student/team to fill in (pages 7-10).
3. Print out the 4 “decoders” (pages 13-16) and either spread them out so kids can view them as needed or hang them on the walls. Make sure they are placed where several students can congregate at once if needed.
4. Tell students they have [you decide] minutes to solve the 4 mysteries by decoding the answers, answering the multiple-choice questions, and figuring out the final 4-digit code. Between 30 and 60 minutes usually works well, depending on the age and ability of students.
5. Students can solve the mysteries in ANY order. Encourage them by saying, “If you get stuck, just move on and come back to the tricky one later.”

Note: The first time students see the codes, they may find them a bit confounding. That’s okay! Let them exercise their clue-solving skills independently for a bit before you jump in to help them.

6. Students will not be able to figure out the final code without reading through each mystery.
7. After all mysteries are solved and decoded, the four-digit code is cracked, and the Final Challenge is complete, give out prizes (keys). One key (symbolic to the keys to the Kingdom) should be given to each child involved in finding the solutions.
8. If time permits, review the answers to the Final Challenge to help reinforce the material.



ESCAPE ROOM INSTRUCTIONS

SOLVE THE MYSTERIES OF PARABLES OF JESUS

The Bible is filled with sound wisdom, great advice—and **BIG MYSTERIES THAT NEED SOLVING!**

Here is where you come in. Today we will be solving four mysteries that have to do with **the stories Jesus told, which are called PARABLES.** These are recorded in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. (There are no parables in the Book of John!)

All the parables of Jesus are listed by title on the next page, including where to find them.

Your teacher may want you to read some of them first. Be sure to ask!

THE FIRST MYSTERY: WHY DID JESUS TELL STORIES AND NOT JUST “SAY IT?”

THE SECOND MYSTERY: WHAT PARABLES TEACH ABOUT GOD’S LOVE?

THE THIRD MYSTERY: WHAT DO PARABLES TEACH ABOUT SALVATION?

THE FOURTH MYSTERY: WHAT IS HYPOCRISY AND WHY DID JESUS HATE IT?

YOUR MISSION: SHED LIGHT ON THE MYSTERIES

Jesus said “YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD.” It is our job to understand God’s word so we can defend it!

THE MYSTERIES: Mysteries #1, #2, #3, and #4 will introduce you to people, places, and things in the context of the Bible. Each mystery will raise a question you need to answer.

THE DECODER: Visit the decoder for each mystery and SHED YOUR LIGHT (solve the mystery)!

THE KEY: Once you have solved ALL FOUR MYSTERIES using each one’s DECODER, you must take one final step and earn the KEY. This KEY is a symbol of the KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN! In order to earn the key, you must decipher the four numbers needed on the four-digit code page.

When you have SHED LIGHT on the four MYSTERIES and obtained the four-digit KEY CODE, you will be given your symbolic KEY TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

GO FORTH, SHEDDING LIGHT TO A WORLD FILLED WITH DARKNESS, OBTAINING KEYS TO THE KINGDOM!

ALL THE PARABLES OF JESUS, IN ORDER OF SUBJECT

The Parables of Jesus are listed below under easy-to-find Subject Headings.

● Most Popular / Most Searched

SUBJECT	MOST COMMON TITLE	1ST REFERENCE	2ND REFERENCE	3RD REFERENCE
Pending Judgment	Budding Fig Tree: Signs of the Times	Matthew 24:32-35	Mark 13:28-33	Luke 13:6-9
	Weeds & Wheat Grow Together	Matthew 13:24-30		
	Fishing Net Full: Good & Bad Fish Caught Together	Matthew 13:47-50		
	Marriage Feast or Banquet: Many Invited, Few Chosen	Matthew 22:1-14		
	Watchful or Faithful Servant vs. the Wicked Servant	Matthew 24:45-51	Mark 13:34-37	
	Ten Virgins: Keep Oil in Your Lamp	Matthew 25:1-13		
	Ten Talents or Coins	Matthew 25:14-30		
	Tenant Farmers Kill the Servants, Son	Mark 12:1-12	Matthew 21:33-45	
	Rich Fool: Eat, Drink, Be Merry	Luke 12:13-21		
	Lazarus & the Rich Man Die & Go to Different Places	Luke 16:19-31		
God's Love for Man	Lost Sheep: God is Happy About One Sinner Repenting	Matthew 18:10-14		
	Laborers in the Vineyard: Workers Hired Early, Late	Matthew 20:1-16		
	Friend at Midnight: Will God Give a Snake Instead of Fish?	Luke 11:5-13		
	Lost Coin: One Sinner Who Repents	Luke 15:8-10		
	Prodigal Son & Forgiveness of Sins	Luke 15:11-32		
Hypocrisy	Speck in the Eye vs. the Log	Matthew 7:1-5		
	Heart of Man: What Comes Out Defiles, not What Goes In	Matthew 15:10-20		
	Unforgiving Servant: Forgive to be Forgiven	Matthew 18:23-35		
	Two Sons: One Says, One Does	Matthew 21:28-32		
	Heart of Man: What Comes Out Defiles, Not What Goes In	Mark 7:14-23		
	Pharisee & Tax Collector: God have Mercy on Me a Sinner	Luke 18:9-14		
Salvation	Hidden Treasure & Selling All	Matthew 13:44		
	Pearl of Great Price & Selling All	Matthew 13:45-46		
	Sower & Seeds Falling in Different Places	Matthew 13:1-23	Mark 4:1-20	
	Wine into Old & New Wineskins	Mark 2:21-22	Matthew 9:16-17	
Sharing Christ	Salt of the Earth	Matthew 5:13		
	Light of the World	Matthew 5:14-16		
	Leaven or Yeast Being Mixed in the Loaf	Matthew 13:33-34		
	Lamp: Whomever Has Will More be Given	Mark 4:21-25		
	Seed Growing: We Sow, God Grows	Mark 4:26-29		
	Good Samaritan	Luke 10:29-37		
Wisdom (Caution) (Faith) (Humility) (Persistence)	House on the Rock & Sand	Matthew 7:24-27		
	Mustard Seed, the Smallest Seed Grows Biggest	Matthew 13:31-32	Mark 4:30-34	
	Wedding Guests: Lowest Seat; Invite Underprivileged	Luke 14:7-14		
	Widow's Persistence: Pray & Don't Give Up	Luke 18:1-8		
Unity	House Divided Will Not Stand	Matthew 12:24-30	Mark 3:23-27	



MYSTERY #1:

WHY DID JESUS TELL STORIES AND NOT JUST "SAY IT?"

People loved Jesus, flocking to Him to listen to His teachings and perform miracles. When Jesus taught, He would often tell stories, but some of these stories had a hidden meaning. We call these special stories parables, and many people have found them confusing, even today. They try to understand exactly what Jesus meant and wonder why Jesus would teach in this way. Let's revisit the parables of Jesus, hear His voice, and look at the meaning behind one of these special stories.

1. Jesus told 37 parables that are recorded in the Gospels. There are 44 Gospel references to them because some parables are repeated in other Gospels.
2. A parable is a type of story that Jesus would tell people during His ministry. Sometimes He would tell these stories when He was asked a particular question or to illustrate a point in His teachings. A well-known example of a parable is the House on the Rock and the House on the Sand. When a storm came, the house on the sand was destroyed, but the house on the rock stood firm.
3. People had trouble understanding these parables and wondered what Jesus meant or why He told them. Matthew 13:10 tells us that even the disciples asked Him, "Why do you speak in parables?" They wondered why He just didn't tell people things straight out.
4. Parables were hard for people to understand for a few reasons:
 - Jesus was surrounded by lots of people. Some of them were faithful followers of Him, but others were often angry with Him and tried to prove Him false or make Him appear foolish. Jesus had to find a way to teach the faithful people while surrounded by the dissenters.
 - Parables are stories, but they contain a hidden meaning to the faithful. To the others, the story would just be a story. Only those that really wanted to follow Jesus would be able to understand them.
 - The parables won't make immediate sense without the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus tells His disciples in Matthew 13:11 that they would be able to understand all his parables eventually, but others wouldn't because they didn't seek after the Holy Spirit to gain understanding.
5. So what did the Parable of the House on the Sand and the House on the Rock mean? The house on the rock is actually a symbol of a strong spiritual life. The house on the sand is a symbol of a neglected spiritual life. The storm is a symbol of life's troubles. The story was Jesus' way of encouraging people to build up spiritual strength and not be spiritually lazy, so they won't drown in life's troubles.
6. After learn what Jesus' parables mean, it's important for us to put Jesus' teachings in action. We can then build our House of Rock with a strong foundation in like Jesus taught about.

QUESTION

How many Gospel references are there for the parables of Jesus altogether?

a. 27

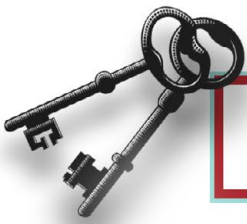
b. 37

c. 44

d. 105

Question: Do you want to understand the parables? What is the secret to understanding them?





MYSTERY #2:

WHAT DO PARABLES TEACH ABOUT GOD'S LOVE?

Many of Jesus' parables are about God's love for His people. What seems like practical and common knowledge today, was very different from how the Jews viewed God. From Old Testament teaching, the Jews were more familiar with a demanding and vengeful God, one who demanded an "eye for an eye." Jesus taught a higher way to live, which included a new idea of God. He taught parables to help them understand God's love and His desire to have a relationship with His people. Let's listen to His words and how He explains this idea.

1. One of the things Jesus taught His disciples was that God wants a close relationship with people. He said that God knew them so well that He knew the number of hairs on their heads (Matthew 10:30 and Luke 12:7). The disciples found that hard to believe. Some parables were meant to drive home the size of God's love.
2. There were five of these parables that would fall into the category of God's Love for Man. They are listed together on the sheet, All the Parables of Jesus by Subject.
3. The Parable of the Lost Sheep is found in Matthew 18:10-14, which tells the story of a shepherd with a large herd of sheep. One of the sheep becomes lost, and instead of counting the sheep as lost and moving on, the shepherd leaves the herd of 99 sheep to look for and find the one that was lost. And when he finds it, he rejoices. The shepherd is a symbol of God, meaning that God cares for all of His children, even those that are lost. He helps us come back to Him if we do wrong, and rejoices when we do.
4. The Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard is found in Matthew 20:1-16. In this parable, Jesus told about laborers who come to work in a field at different times. The owner of the field rewards all workers the same, no matter what time they came to work. This parable teaches that people who come to God late in life can get the same rewards as someone who comes early in life. It's never too late to follow Him!
5. The Parable of the Lost Coin is found in Luke 15:8-10. In this story, a woman loses one of her ten coins and stops everything to look everywhere until she finds it. The woman is like God and we are like the coins. If we get lost from God, He will "stop everything" to get us to return.
6. The most famous of the parables on God's Love is called the Prodigal Son, found in Luke 15:11-32. A boy asks for his inheritance early and loses it all by doing selfish and stupid things. Eventually he wants to return to his father's property as a servant. Upon his return, the father embraces his son and throws a party celebrating that he is home. Like the father in the story, God celebrates our return to Him.
7. The five parables that demonstrate God's love for His children, even when we make mistakes. It can help us so that when we do something wrong, we can apologize and repent. And God who loves us, will forgive us and rejoice.
8. As we pray to God, we can develop a personal relationship with Him. We can feel how much God knows us, how much He loves us, and how much He wants the best for us.

QUESTION

How many of the 37 parables of Jesus deal with God's love for man?

- a. three b. five c. seven d. nine

Question: The disciples didn't quite "get it" when He tried to tell them what?

God knew the of on their .





MYSTERY #3:

WHAT DO PARABLES TEACH ABOUT SALVATION?

One of Jesus most famous parables is the PARABLE OF THE SOWER. When Jesus told this parable, he spoke to a massive crowd. There were so many people that Jesus got into a boat and pushed off from shore so that he could teach all of them. What important teaching did Jesus have for this crowd of people? He taught them a story of a farmer planting seeds. Let's revisit the scene as we learn about a sowing, seeds, and salvation.

1. The story of the Parable of the Sower can be found in Matthew 13:1-23.
2. In Jesus' story, a farmer plants seeds with four different results:
 - a. In the first situation, the seeds fall on the path, and the birds eat them.
 - b. In the second situation, the seeds fall on rocky ground and spring up quickly, but the soil is shallow so they can't take root and die.
 - c. In the third situation, the seeds fall on thorns, which choke the plants that grow.
 - d. In the fourth situation, the seeds fall on good soil and produce a crop.
3. The seeds are a symbol of the message of salvation. People can receive the message in four different ways with different results.
 - a. The first situation is a symbol of people who do not seek or accept God. When the seeds fall on the path, and get snatched away by birds, it is like people who won't hear the message of salvation. The message instead gets carried away to others.
 - b. The second situation is a symbol of people whose faith is shallow and can't survive in persecution. The seeds that get planted and grow, but don't take root are like people who receive the message and take it to heart, but then don't have enough faith (or roots) to withstand pressure from others.
 - c. The third situation is a symbol of people who get distracted by worry and worldly things. When the seeds get choked out by thorns, it's like people who let their faith be overcome by fear or other worldly things.
 - d. The fourth situation is a symbol of those who experience salvation and grow spiritually. When the seeds fall on good soil and produce a crop, it is like people who faithfully accept the message of salvation and grow despite the challenges they face.
4. Like all of the other parables, we need to apply this to ourselves, and ask what type of person we want to be. Are we really seeking God or just listening because our parents told us to? What can we do when we face challenges? How should we respond if someone makes fun of us for believing in Jesus? Would we give up?
5. By asking these hard questions now, and figuring out who we want to be and what we want to do, we can plan for the future. We can continue developing our relationship with God and be firm believers throughout our lives.

QUESTION

When the seed falls among thorns, what happens?

- a. The seed blows away
- b. A plant grows for a while but chokes
- c. A plant sprouts but can't grow at all
- d. Thorns are fantastic! The seed matures into a plant.

Question: The symbol of the thorn gives us a message about salvation. What is it?

DV XZM ULITVG TLW DSVN DV TVG WRHGIZXGVW YB DLIOWOB GSRMTH ORPV
 KLKFOZIRGB, KIVI KIVHHFIV, ZMW NLMVB.





MYSTERY #4

WHAT IS HYPOCRISY AND WHY DID JESUS HATE IT?

Jesus taught many subjects over three-year ministry, yet he warned of hypocrisy and judging others in six of His 37 parables. Hypocrisy means being critical about the sins of others, even while making the same mistakes. Why did Jesus warn of hypocrisy so much? And how did the people respond to His teachings? Let's look back at what Jesus teaches and see how to shed hypocrisy and grow love instead.

1. In Matthew 7:3 Jesus asks the crowd why some people try to pick sawdust out of someone else's eye when they have logs or planks in their own eyes. What does this mean?
A: If you have something in your eye, you're not going to see things very clearly or judge others correctly. Because we aren't without blame ourselves, it's wrong to call out someone for doing something wrong, especially for the same thing. That's hypocrisy!
2. In Matthew 18:23-35 we find the Parable of the Unforgiving Servant. It tells of a servant who owed his boss a lot of money. The boss, seeing that the servant could not pay, chose to forgive the debt. But then the boss found the same servant beating and threatening another guy for not paying him back. What's wrong with that?
A: It's hypocritical. The boss took a BIG loss because he saw that the servant couldn't pay him back. The servant likewise, should have forgiven the man who owed him money.
3. In Matthew 15:10-20, Jesus spoke about the words that come out of people's mouths. He said a person become defiled (or spiritually unclean) by what comes out of their mouth, not by what they put into it. What's the problem?
A: Jesus was speaking to religious leaders who were following Old Testament law and paid close attention to people's choice of diet, or what goes into their mouths. These very same religious leaders would speak ill of others, gossip, and think they were better than others because they ate foods the way presented in Leviticus. Who cares what you eat if you're rude and thoughtless? They were being hypocritical.
4. In Luke 18:9-14, Jesus talks about two men, a religious leader and a tax collector who went to the temple to pray. The religious leader prayed thanking God that he wasn't a sinner like others, and kept the law. The tax collector prayed, accepting he was a sinner and asking God for forgiveness. Jesus said the tax collector was doing better than the religious leader. Why?
A: It doesn't matter if someone is a religious leader or a tax collector, we are all sinners and need God's grace and mercy. We shouldn't think we are better than other people, and we are saved by our own works. If we judge others for being sinners, we are being hypocritical.

QUESTION

If God forgives you for gossiping, you should

- a. tell others loudly
- b. keep it to yourself
- c. forgive when someone gossips about you

SECRET CODE

Question: Why is it wrong to pass judgment on others?

When we someone on their , it's likely
 we the before.





4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

FIRST NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

In Mystery #1, the number of letters in point #5, second line, word number THREE

SECOND NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

In Mystery #2, in Luke, the chapter number MINUS the starting verse number of THE PRODIGAL SON _____

THIRD NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

In Mystery #3, point 3, the number of letters in the TENTH word _____

FOURTH NUMBER OF COMBINATION:

In Mystery #4, in the Matthew parable about people picking sawdust out of each other's eyes, the chapter number MINUS the verse number _____

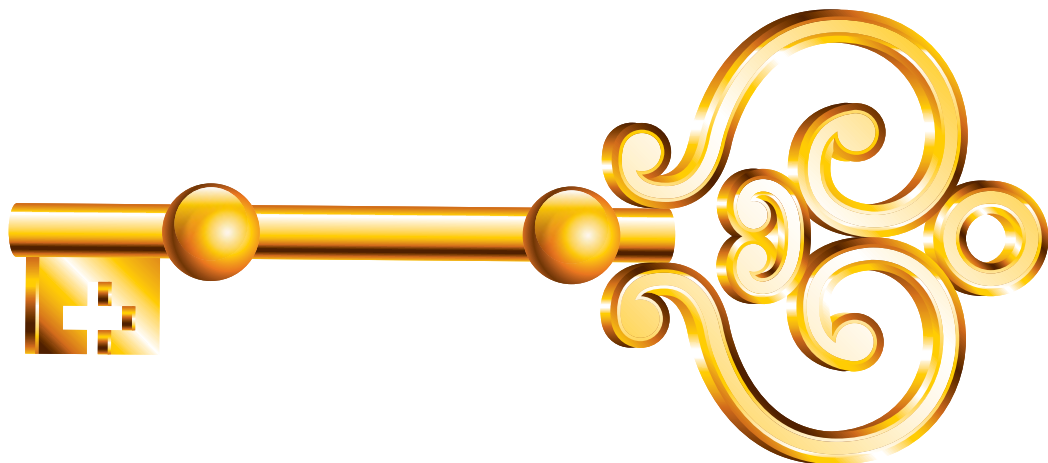
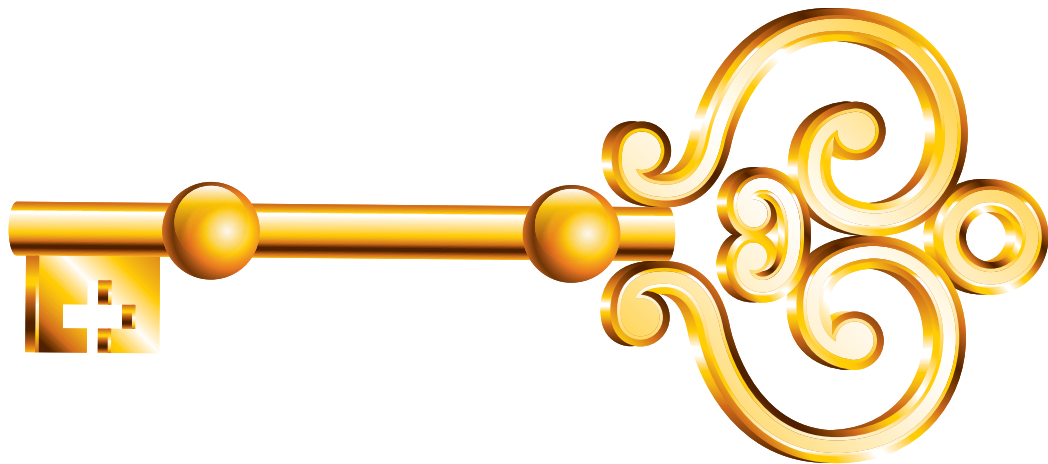
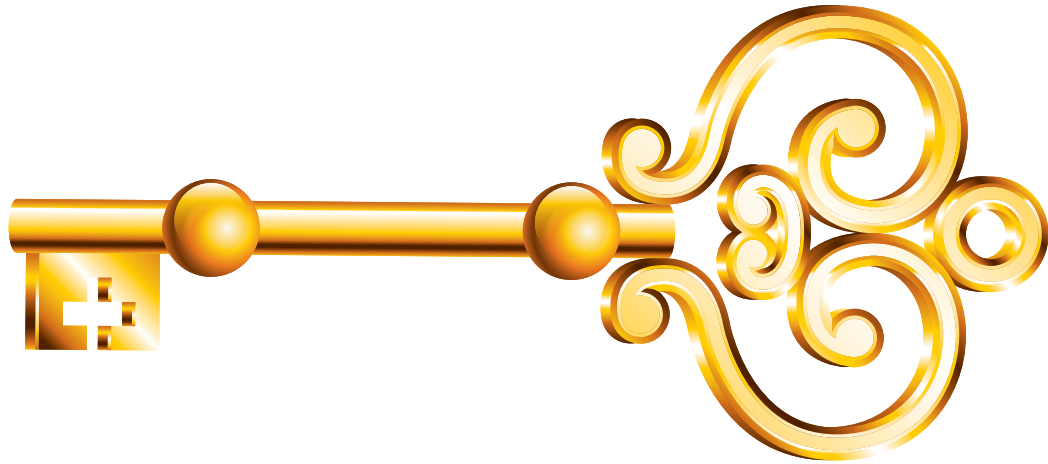
Enter the 4-digit code here to solve Parables of Jesus Escape Room: _ _ _ _

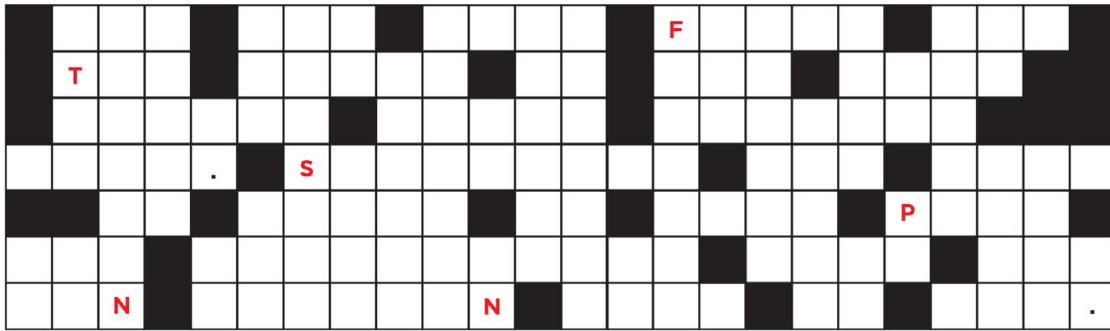
FINAL CHALLENGE

1. Being judgmental about the sins of others while you sin yourself is called a. Ignorance b. Thrift c. Hypocrisy d. Disinformation	2. When seeds fall on the rocky ground, they a. can't take root b. choke c. sprout d. produce a good crop
3. God said He knew the number of hairs on the disciples' heads in Matthew 10:30 and a. Luke 12:7 b. Mark 7:11 c. Matthew 7:13 d. John 3:16	4. A type of story Jesus taught that had a hidden meaning is called a a. Moral b. Fable c. Parable d. Myth
5. Number of parables Jesus told that fall into the category of God's Love for Man a. two b. five c. ten d. twelve	6. Number of parables recorded in the Gospels, NOT including repeats a. 27 b. 37 c. 44 d. 92

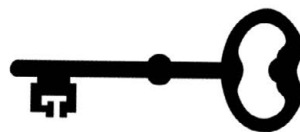
KEYS TO THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

Print and cut out these keys, one for each person who solves the mysteries.



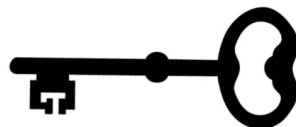
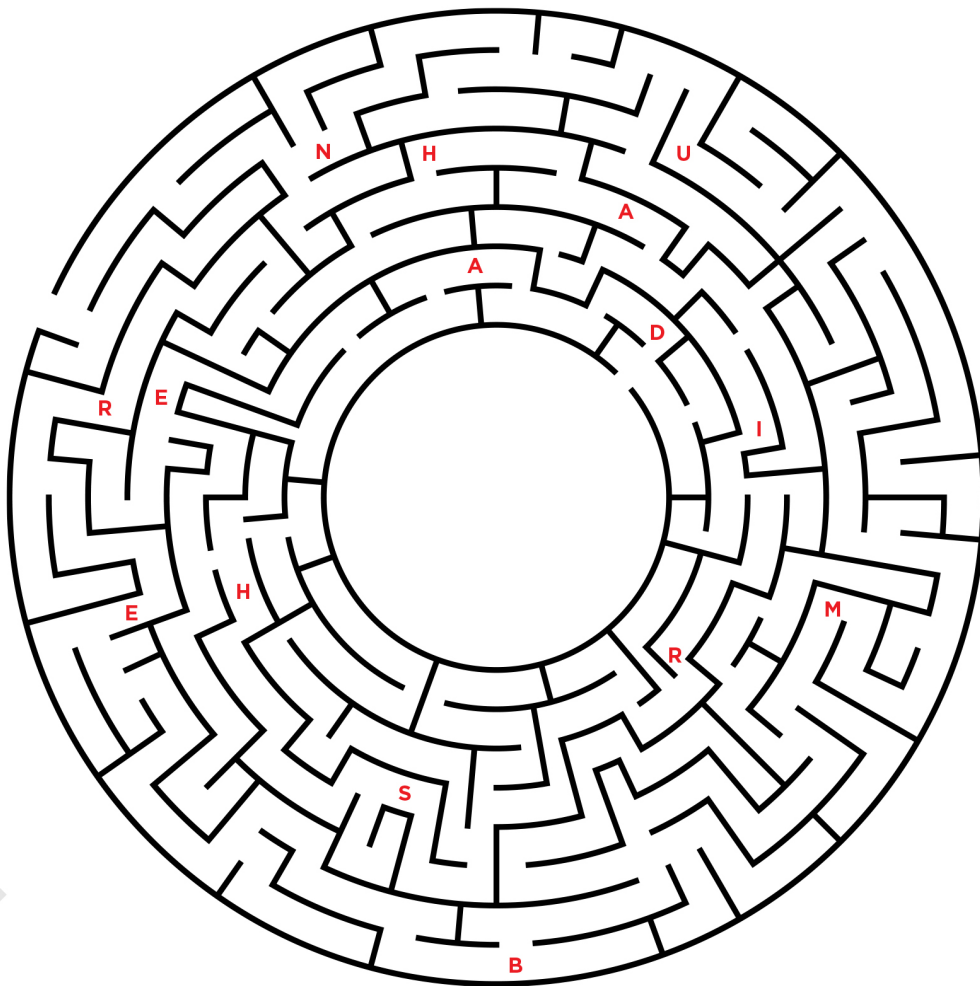


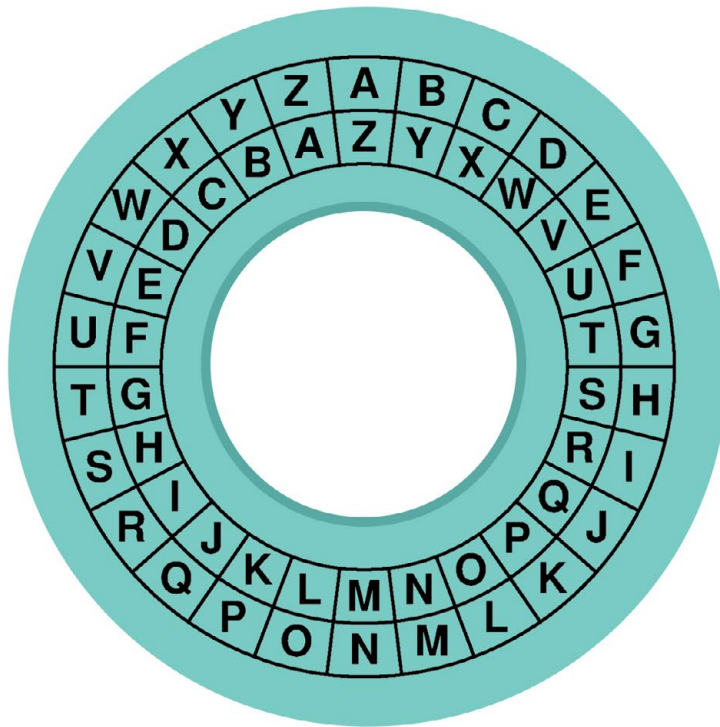
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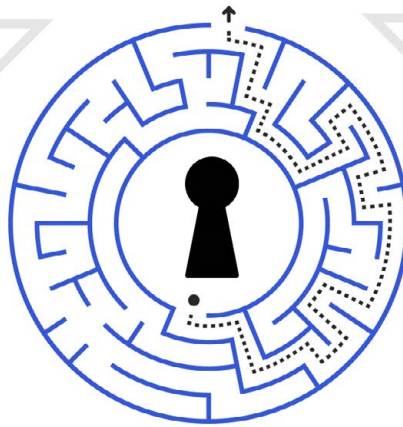




A maze (see picture below). The correct path through the maze will have the letters in the correct order from start to finish.







A ● ■■■
 B ■■■ ● ● ●
 C ■■■ ● ■■■ ●
 D ■■■ ● ●
 E ●
 F ● ● ■■■ ●
 G ■■■ ■■■ ●
 H ● ● ● ●
 I ● ●
 J ● ■■■ ■■■ ■■■
 K ■■■ ● ■■■
 L ● ■■■ ● ●
 M ■■■ ■■■
 N ■■■ ●
 O ■■■ ■■■ ■■■
 P ● ■■■ ■■■ ●
 Q ■■■ ■■■ ● ■■■
 R ● ■■■ ●
 S ● ● ●
 T ■■■

U ● ● ■■■
 V ● ● ● ■■■
 W ● ■■■ ■■■
 X ■■■ ● ● ■■■
 Y ■■■ ● ■■■ ■■■
 Z ■■■ ■■■ ● ●

1 ● ■■■ ■■■ ■■■
 2 ● ● ■■■ ■■■ ■■■
 3 ● ● ● ■■■ ■■■
 4 ● ● ● ● ■■■
 5 ● ● ● ● ●
 6 ■■■ ● ● ● ●
 7 ■■■ ■■■ ● ● ●
 8 ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ● ●
 9 ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ●
 0 ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■ ■■■





ANSWERS

MYSTERY 1:

How many Gospel references are there for the parables of Jesus altogether?

- a. 27 b. 37 **c. 44** d. 105

Answer:

Ask God with faith for the power of the Holy Spirit while reading them. Sometimes God puts an adult in your path who understands them and can explain them to you.

MYSTERY 2:

How many of the 37 parables of Jesus deal with God's love for man?

- a. three **b. five** c. seven d. nine

Answer: **God knew the number of hairs on their heads.**

MYSTERY 3:

When the seed falls among thorns, what happens?

- a. The seed blows away **b. A plant grows for a while but chokes**
c. A plant sprouts but can't grow at all d. Thorns are fantastic! The seed matures into a plant.

Answer: **We can forget God when we get distracted by worldly things, like popularity, peer pressure, and money.**

MYSTERY 4:

Question: If God forgives you for gossiping, you should

- a. tell others loudly b. keep it to yourself **c. forgive when someone gossips about you**

Answer: **When we call someone out on their sin, it's likely we have done the same thing before.**



ANSWERS

4-DIGIT CODE ANSWER:

Enter the 4-digit code here to solve the Parables of Jesus Escape Room: **6494**

FINAL CHALLENGE:

1. Being judgmental about the sins of others while you sin yourself is called
a. Ignorance b. Thrift **c. Hypocrisy** d. Disinformation
2. When seeds fall on the rocky ground, they
a. can't take root b. choke c. sprout d. produce a good crop
3. God said He knew the number of hairs on the disciples' heads in Matthew 10:30 and
a. Luke 12:7 b. Mark 7:11 c. Matthew 7:13 d. John 3:16
4. A type of story Jesus taught that had a hidden meaning is called a
a. Moral b. Fable **c. Parable** d. Myth
5. Number of parables Jesus told that fall into the category of God's Love for Man
a. two **b. five** c. ten d. twelve
6. Number of parables recorded in the Gospels, NOT including repeats
a. 27 **b. 37** c. 44 d. 92

CIPHER HINTS

LETTER FALL CIPHER (PAGE 13)

Put the letters back up on the board, matching up each letter to each blank space. Each letter is in the correct column, just remember to account for punctuation!

MAZE CODE CIPHER (PAGE 14)

Find the correct path through the maze, then put the letters passed from start to finish to find the correct answer

ATBASH CIPHER (PAGE 15)

Replace the letter on the outside wheel with the corresponding letter on the inside wheel

MORSE CODE CIPHER (PAGE 16)

Match each symbol with the corresponding word to reveal the hidden message.