

# Lenten Bible Study

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## THE PARABLES OF JESUS

### LESSONS OF MERCY & MISSION

#### What and why?

Lent is a good time to do things we're not in the habit of doing but would like to do. If you believe reading the Bible more regularly is a good habit—so as to become better familiar with Jesus—then take part in this Lenten Bible Study on the Parables of Jesus.

The parables are the “lesson-stories” Jesus told that have been handed down to us in the gospels. They convey his message in words and images grounded in a particular time and culture. But the parables still have a power that lets us hear Jesus speak directly to us.

Jesus' mission is to reveal God's mercy to the world—and to give us that same mission. Every parable is about God and us. So, the parables of Jesus show us God's mercy and our mission—how God truly sees and treats us, and how we must see and treat ourselves and each other.

#### Bible Study vs. Bible Refection

No matter what it's called, this time together will give us an opportunity to practice habits of reading, reflecting on, praying with, and applying Scripture to life. Sessions will include:

##### Presentation

Studying and discussing the readings, and sharing some questions and answers

##### Reflection and Prayer

Listening more closely to what God is saying, and responding to the Lord with our own words

##### Application

Sharing and encouraging some of our hopes, and taking the Word of God home with us

#### Preparation and Questions

To prepare, read the parables listed for each session. Compare the different versions of the same parable if applicable. Ask yourself, and be prepared to discuss, questions like these:

*Who was Jesus speaking to and why?*

*What situation is the parable describing?*

*Who is God in the parable?*

*Who am I in the parable?*

*What questions is Jesus asking me to answer in this parable?*

#### Schedule and Topics

##### Thursday, March 11 at 7:00 PM

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- An Introduction to the Parables of Jesus
- Parable of the Sower  
*Matthew 13:1-9, 10-23; Mark 4:1-9, 10-20; Luke 8:4-8, 9-18*

##### Thursday March 18 at 7:00 PM

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- Parable of the Shepherd Seeking Lost Sheep  
*Matthew 18:10-14; Luke 15:1-7*
- Parable of the Woman Seeking Lost Coin  
*Luke 15:8-10*
- Parable of the Prodigal Father  
*Luke 15:11-32*

##### Thursday March 25 at 7:00 PM

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- Parable of the Pharisee and Tax Collector  
*Luke 18:9-14*
- Parable of the Good Samaritan  
*Luke 10:25-37*
- Parable of the Sheep and Goats  
*Matthew 25:31-46*