

Metaphors Jesus used.

A series of 13 Bible Studies

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Answers are freely available from
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Request answers for Metaphors Jesus used.

*View the King and His Kingdom
through the multi-facets of the Metaphors Jesus used.*

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

I. The Bread of Life.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **John 6:26-58.**

The Recipe for Eternal Life

MEMORY VERSE JOHN 6:51.

1. What wrong motive did the people have in coming after Jesus?

Jesus went on to talk to them about bread and food *but did not provide them with any food!* What did Jesus say should be their most important reason to come to Jesus?

2. What did Jesus say God wanted them to do with "the One He has sent"?

3. What miraculous provision had **God** sent down from heaven to satisfy the need of the people?

What could this provision, made by God, do for the people?

4. What would they have to do so that Jesus, the bread of Life, would save them from hunger and thirst?

Already they knew Jesus but why had they not benefited from the "Bread" already?

5. What was the Father's plan that would make it possible for condemned sinners to have eternal life?

6. Why could the Jews not accept the fact that Jesus was God's provision for them sent from Heaven?

What would cause a sinner to accept the person and message of Jesus?

7. Verse **40** and verse **54** both give the requirements for Eternal Life and certainty of Resurrection on the last day. What differences do you find in the requirements listed in these verses?

Do you think the statements in these verses contradict each other? How do you explain them?

8. How many times in the Bible passage that we are considering can you find Jesus teaching that it is by **coming to Him in faith** that you can have Life from God? (List the verse numbers for your answer.)

Jesus was insisting on faith to believe, but they only wanted to get food to eat! So can you notice a change in Jesus teaching after verse 50 that would upset and turn away these hungry, unbelieving people?

9. Find out which of these verses answers which of the following questions: Verse 68, 36, 26, 63.

- What did this crowd want that had brought them to follow after Jesus that day?
- What had this crowd not been willing to do in order to get Life from God?
- What did Peter believe was the most important thing that Jesus came to give them?
- What did Jesus say that shows us clearly that His flesh was NOT life-giving food to eat?

10. "The Bread is My flesh" was a METAPHOR – Jesus did NOT mean He was going to give His flesh TO them to eat. Find the verse that tells what He really was going to do with His flesh (His body) so that He could offer life to the world.

Explain how that could give us life.

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

2. The Light.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Jn 8:12. 9:5. 12:35-48. Lu 18:31-43. (2 Cor 4:6. 1Pet 2:9 Jn 3:19.)

MEMORY VERSE 1 THESSALONIANS 5 : 8.

1. What message does Jesus repeat in each of the following verses – John 8:12. /9:5. /12:46?

Find out in 2 Cor 4:6 why Jesus' message is such good news for us:
2. In our reading from Luke 18 we find the disciples were in the dark about something. What was it they could not see or understand clearly?

Peter did not stay in the dark. Read 1 Peter 2:21-25 to find out what he came to understand about it all.
3. From what terrible darkness (Mk 4:16.) did we need Jesus to rescue us from? See Acts 26:18.

Why did so many people not benefit from Jesus coming according to John 3:19?
4. What kind of darkness was Bartimaeus living in?

Despite his "darkness" what "light" (wonderful truth) had shone into Bartimaeus to give him hope?
5. In John 20:31 we find that there are two things God requires of us – to know WHO Jesus is and to know WHAT He can do. What evidence do we find that shows that Bartimaeus had both these requirements?
6. Can you find 4 things that happened as a result of Bartimaeus having come to Jesus, the Light of the world?

Have you known similar things to happen as a result of you coming to trust in Jesus?
7. How does our coming to Jesus the Light of the world **affect our lives**?
See John 8:12 / 1 John 1:7 / Eph 5:8-10.
8. How does **our** coming to Jesus the Light of the world **affect others around us**?
See 1 John 2:9-11. / Eph 5:11-13.
9. What have the following verses in common? 2 Sam 22:29. / Ps 27:1 / Ps 36:9. / Is 60:19. / 1 Jn 1:5.

What have the following verses in common? John 1:4, 1:9. / Rev 21:23.
10. Find out how the Spirit is also linked to "light" in the Scripture. Gen 1:1-3. / Dan 5:11,14. / Zec 4:2-6.

Find out how you as a Believer are to be a light: Matthew 5:14-16. / Phil 2:15-16. / Zec 4:6.

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3. The Door.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **John 10:1-9**

The Only Access to God & Heaven

MEMORY VERSE JOHN 10 : 9.

1. What is the PARABLE (the earthly story with a heavenly meaning) that Jesus is teaching when He introduced the METAPHOR and likened Himself to a door?
2. John tells us why Jesus interrupted His PARABLE ("figure of speech") about the sheep and shepherd to emphasise the METAPHOR "I am the gate (door)". What reason is given?
3. How was it going to help people's understanding by Jesus saying "I am the door"?
4. Can you think of any other Scriptures that teach us this important message about Jesus being **the** way of access to God and heaven?
5. Thinking of other doors in the Bible – Why is the door mentioned in Genesis 6:16 a helpful picture of Jesus?
6. Can we see any lessons from the door mentioned in Exodus 12:7 & 13 that could teach us about Jesus?
7. The door (curtain) at the entrance to the Tabernacle (Exodus 36:37.) can teach us about Jesus. Can you think of any lessons we could learn from it?
8. Could the door mentioned in Revelation 4:1 be a helpful picture of Jesus?
9. What "doors" do some people try today in their attempt to get to God and heaven?
10. What is the solemn lesson we learn from the door of Noah's Ark (Genesis 7:16.), and also from the parable Jesus told in Matt 25:10? How should this truth affect our attitude to the unsaved?

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

4. The Shepherd

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: John 10:1-6,10-18,24-30. "That Great Shepherd.." Heb 13:20.

MEMORY VERSE JOHN 10 : 27-28.

1. What are some of the things The Good Shepherd will do with/for His sheep? (see Jn 10:3b-4, 10-11, 14-16, 28.)
2. In John 10:3 we are told of a Watchman who identifies the true Shepherd for us. What could this "Watchman" metaphor be a picture of? (What can we rely on to clearly identify the true Shepherd for us today?) (See Gal 3:24. John 1:45. Heb 10:7.)
3. How do you think that we who are His sheep can become so familiar with the Shepherd's voice that we will not be easily led astray by the many other voices around? Does your answer agree with what you read in Psalm 119:9 and Psalm 19:7-11?
4. How does Jesus' intention as the Good Shepherd differ from the intentions of others who want us to follow them? Can you think of teachings others use that only scatters and destroys those who follow them? (Gal 1:8-9.)
5. Read John 10:11-15 and find some of the things that contrast the true Shepherd and the one who is only wanting to be paid for doing a job.
6. John 10:16 – "I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen." Who could Jesus be talking about? "There will be one flock and one Shepherd."(v. 16.) Does this mean we will all belong to the same Church denomination?
7. Read John 10:27-28. What do the "sheep" do? What does the Shepherd do?
8. Sum up in a few words what each of the following O.T. metaphors teach us about Jesus: Ps 23:1-6. Psalm 95:7. Psalm 100:3. Isaiah 40:11.
9. What have the following verses to teach us about the "sheep" who has erred and gone astray? Isaiah 53:6. Psalm 119:176. Matt 18:12-14. 1 Peter 2:25.
10. What does God want to do in and through us that is only possible because of the greatness of our Shepherd? See Hebrews 13:20-21.

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used. 5. The Way/Truth/Life

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: John 14:1-6.

LEAD ME! TEACH ME! SAVE ME!

MEMORY VERSE PSALM 25:5.

1. What is the metaphor Jesus uses in our reading to teach us how essential He is?

2. Why do you think I chose "Lead me! Teach me! Save me!" as a title for this study on John 14:6?

3. In Matthew 11:27-30 what teachings show that Jesus is the Way ..to the Father?

... that Jesus is the Truth?

.... that Jesus is the Life?

4. Place each of the following verses with the metaphor that you think best illustrates it: Col 3:4 / John 12:48. / John 1:4. / John 1:17. / Ephesians 2:18. / Rom 5:1-2.

The Way

The truth

The Life

5. How do some religious people show that they do NOT have faith in Jesus as "the Way ... to the Father"?

How does a true Believer in Jesus indicate that his/ her faith is truly in Jesus?

6. How will a person show that he/she believes that Jesus is "the Truth" according to the following verses?

John 10:27.

Matt 5:43-48.

List other actions of the Believer that will indicate he/she is a disciple living by what Jesus taught:

7. Jesus is "the Truth". What metaphor is used for Him in John 1:1, 14.

8. Jesus is "the Life". Link each of these verses with either the past, present or future:

Col 3:4. / Jn 11:25-26. / 1 Jn 5:11. / 1 Jn 5:12.

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

9. Find out in Nehemiah 9:19-21 how God in the Old Testament days was the Way, the Truth and the Life for His people then also.

10. Jesus is "THE Way, THE Truth and THE Life...." Why is the "THE" so important?

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

6. The True Vine

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: John 15:1-17.

Producing much fruit!

MEMORY VERSE EPHESIANS 2 : 10.

1. What is a vine? How many different "parts" can you list that make up a vine?

What part did Jesus say His followers had in the Vine? What particular function does this part have?

2. If a branch of a vine could be given the opportunity to request "anything" it wanted what sort of requests do you think it would want to make?!

The Believer, as a "branch" of the true Vine, IS INVITED to "ask whatever you wish" in Jesus name (v. 7, 16.)
What sort of requests should we be making?

3. Who did Jesus say was the One who is chiefly concerned with the condition of the branches?

What action does He take with the branches and why?

4. What do you think Jesus is teaching by saying God "cuts off" unfruitful branches?

What do you think the Father needs to cut away in our lives when He "prunes" fruit bearing branches?

5. Pruning does not just involve cutting away fruitless or dead parts, it can also involve cutting away healthy and thriving "suckers" that rob the vine. Can you think of anything that may appear good to us and yet could be a "sucker" that is hindering our fruitfulness for God?

6. When you read verses like Col 3:5-10 and Eph 4:25-31 who does it say has to do something about the bad things that crop up in our lives?

In Jesus' metaphor about the vine it is the Father who does the pruning! Is there a contradiction here?

7. Do you think "fruit bearing" could refer to us being used to bring others become Christians? Can you use the metaphor to support your answer?

8. From the Bible reading can you see any evidence to suggest that God is looking for "the fruit of the Spirit" (Gal 5:22-23.) in our lives as a result of us being in Christ?

9. What does Jesus explain as being the very important rule to be observed in order to be fruitful and God glorifying? In what verses do you find Him teaching about this?

10. Write out Eph 2:10 without the help of the Bible! [You can only complete this question after you have memorised the Memory Verse!]

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7. The Resurrection...

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **Jn 11:17-27 6:37-47 1 Cor 15: 12-19,51-57.**

The Indestructible Life.

MEMORY VERSE ROMANS 8 : 11.

1. What is mankind's greatest enemy and one that no one born of Adam has ever been able to overcome?
2. Why does all of mankind have to experience this awful enemy?
3. What likeness is there between the cause of death and the possibility of victory? (Rom 5:17. & 1 Cor 15:21-22.)
4. What was the occasion when Jesus spoke about Himself as "the Resurrection and the Life"? (See John 11.)

Who can be comforted by this doctrine – the dying or the bereaved?
5. Can you explain the apparent contradiction that Jesus spoke of in John 11:25-27?
6. What reasons can we have to believe that Jesus Christ will be able to do all He says about resurrection?
7. How important do you think the resurrection of the dead is as a doctrine of our faith?
8. When will the resurrection of the Believers take place?
9. What happens to the Believers who have already died until the resurrection?
10. Everyone will be raised from the dead (see Jn 5:28-28. Acts 24:15. Rom 14:11-12.), but there will be TWO separate resurrections! What are the 2 resurrections and what difference is there between them? See Rev 20:4-6, 12-13.

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

8. "I am"!

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Ex 3:13-15. John 4:25-26. 8:23-28, 58. 10:36-39. 14:10,11. 18:37-38. Who is God?

MEMORY VERSE GENESIS 17 : 1,

1. How would you describe or explain the God you believe in to someone of a completely different religion?

List some of the wonderful names or titles by which the Bible reveals God to us:

2. What was Moses' problem that he needed an answer for before he returned to the Israelites in Egypt?

3. What was the special title by which Moses was to identify God to the Israelites?

What was strange about God using that title when He went on to associate Himself with past generations?

4. In John 8:23-28, & 58 Jesus claims the title "I AM"; what meanings and importance did He attach to having this name?

5. What claim of Jesus aroused the Jews against Him so much that they wanted Him destroyed? See John 10:36-39.

6. In John 14:10-11 what right did Jesus claim to the title "I AM", and what evidence did He have to support His claim?

7. Can you think of the well-known "I AM" that Jesus once claimed to be but that Pilate did not recognise in John 18:37-38?

8. In Revelation 1:8 Jesus shows clearly how His name "I AM" reveals His eternal nature. How does He explain it?

9. The great "I AM" is self-sufficient in every way. Which verse best demonstrates each of the following:

Romans 8:28. / Hebrews 2:14-15. / Psalm 139:7-12. / 1 John 3:19-20. / John 5:21-23.

He is OMNIPOTENT – All powerful.

He is OMNISCIENT – All knowing.

He is OMNIPRESENT – Everywhere present.

He is OMNICOMPETENT – able to take control of any and every situation.

10. Often Jesus used "I AM....." to introduce metaphors about Himself. Write down as many of them as you can :

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

9. The Temple.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: John 2:18-21.. (Matt 26:61-64.)

3 days & 3 nights

MEMORY VERSE MATTHEW 12 : 40.

1. What is a temple used for?

Why do you think Jesus used the metaphor of Himself as a temple?

2. Jesus knew He was soon to be put to death by the Jews. In the metaphor of the temple what did he say to show that He knew He was to be put to death by them?

3. It was amazing that Jesus knew in advance of their evil plans against Him, but what was even more amazing about the prophecy about the "Temple"?

4. Look in the following verses and find out what you can about the exact time period to raise the "temple" again from destruction: Mark 8:31-32. / Mark 10:34. / John 2:19. / Matthew 12:40. /

5. What do you think the Jews understood Jesus to have meant by "three days" and did they take it seriously?

What does Matthew 27:63 & Mark 14:58 tell us about the Jews' understanding of "three days"?

6. How seriously do you think the "Christian Church" in general believes in the accuracy of Jesus' "three days"? Give reasons for your answer. Do you think there is any importance in this detail?

7. On what day of the week and at what time does the Scripture tell us the discovery was made that Jesus was already alive from the dead? See Matt 28:1-7.

8. Jesus had not spent much if any of Saturday night in the grave – very early on Sunday morning He was already risen and gone from the tomb. Jesus had said He would be **three days and three nights in the earth**, so count back from the time He was known to be risen and find out when He must have died.

9. The Jewish **weekly Sabbath** is Saturday, but what does John say about the "Sabbath" that came the day after the crucifixion of Jesus? See John 19:31.

What was the particular "special Sabbath" that the Jews were preparing for on the day of the crucifixion? And what day would it have been on that year?

10. The Scripture uses the metaphor of a "temple" for the Believer. What lessons can we learn about ourselves from the use of this metaphor for us? See 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. / 2 Corinthians 6:14-18.

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10. Teacher & Lord.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **John 13:1-17.**

Teaching by example.

MEMORY VERSE MATTHEW 10 : 25A

1. List the things we are told Jesus "knew" in the first five verses:

2. "So", knowing all this, what did Jesus do?

3. What problem did Peter have with Jesus' action?

Why do you think Peter reacted in this way?

4. What did Jesus say the disciples rightly called Him?

Write down what you think is the meaning of each of the words.

5. What lesson did the "Teacher" have to teach Peter?

Why did the Teacher only want to wash Peter's feet on this occasion?

6. What method of teaching had the Teacher used to teach His disciples on this occasion?

What lesson did the Teacher have for all the disciples?

7. How did the great Teacher Jesus say His followers could be blessed?

How did the man who called Jesus "Good Teacher" (Mk 10:17-22.) show that he did not mean what he said?

8. See who highly recommends Jesus as a Teacher in Matthew 17:5.

9. Why was Jesus not impressed by some of the people who called Him "Lord, Lord"? (See Luke 6:46.)

10. In Luke 20:20-26 what do we discover about some who recognise Jesus as a good teacher?

See in Colossians 2:5-10 what it means to really have Jesus as Teacher and Lord.

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

II. You are gods.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: John 10:31-39. Psalm 82:1-8.

"gods" under authority!

MEMORY VERSE 1 CORINTHIANS 8 : 6.

1. What evidence does Jesus think should have convinced people that He, "a mere man", really is the Son of God?
2. What teaching of the Bible, that seems strange at first, does Jesus draw attention to when they refused to believe in His Deity?
3. Jesus said, "Do not believe Me..."! Why did He make such a statement?

List as many reasons as you can for believing Jesus today?
4. Man was made in the likeness of God. (Gen 1:26.) In Psalm 82 God refers to men as "gods". List any ways you think mankind in like a "god".
5. In Psalm 82 what do you find out about the relationship of God Almighty with these human "gods"?
6. Find out in Gen 3:1-7 what reason Satan gave to Eve to encourage her to do what he told her to do instead of obeying God.
7. Mankind may be like God in some ways, but in our fallen state there are many ways we are not like God and cannot ever be as God! List any ways that you know that we cannot be as God:
8. What phrase is common in all the following verses that shows the One True God to be superior to human gods.
John 17:2. / Rom 9:5. / Eph 4:6. / Col 1:15.
9. Write down the remarkable things we find out about the Son of God as revealed to us in Philippians 2:5-11.
10. In what way will you and I as "gods" find fulfilment and delight?
See Philippians 4:13. / 2 Peter 1:3-4. / Matthew 28:18-19. / Revelation 15:3-4.

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used. 12. The yeast of the Pharisees.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: Matt 16:5-12.

The contaminating yeast!

MEMORY VERSE 1 CORINTHIANS 5 : 7.

1. Why is yeast used in the baking of bread?
2. What yeast did Jesus warn his disciples about?
3. Knowing the effect of yeast – making food more tasty and pleasing – what do you think the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees was that Jesus warned His followers about?
4. Can you discover the “yeast” that is exposed by Jesus in the following quotes? Matt 15:8-9. / Col 2:20-22. / Tit 1:12-14. / Mk 7:9-13.
5. What is the “yeast” referred to in 1 Cor 5:1-8 that the Corinthian Church had to get rid of?
6. What spiritual lesson do you think we can learn from the Passover, when the people were taught to avoid all yeast throughout their deliverance celebrations? (see Ex 12:19.)
7. What does it mean when it is said that “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough”?
8. Read Gal 5:1-9 and identify the “yeast” that was threatening to spread through the Church there.

Can you think of any false teachings or wrong practices that we have to guard against in our society today?
9. When contaminating “yeast” is discovered among God’s people what action must be taken? Matt 18:7-9. / Matt 21:12-13. / Luke 6:42. / 1 Cor 5:1-8
10. In Matt 13:33 Jesus uses a parable about yeast to teach a very different lesson – what is the yeast compared to in that parable, and why?

Study of METAPHORS Jesus used.

13. Sheep & goats.

Ask God to bless His Word to you and then read through the questions to see what to look out for as you read the passage.

Readings: **Matt 25:31-46.**

Accepted or rejected?

MEMORY VERSE MATTHEW 25 : 40.

1. Find out what details you can about the JUDGMENT DAY from the following verses:- Matt 25:31-32. / Jude 1:14-15. / 2 Thess 1:7-10. / Rev 1:7. / Matt 12:36-37. / 2 Peter 3:7.

2. Why will Jesus separate the people into just two groups when He comes to judge?

What names does He give to each of the two groups, and why do you think He uses those names?

3. List the details you can find about the favoured ones – where they are positioned and what favours they are to receive.

4. What reason or explanation is given for the special treatment for those He puts on His right?

5. What did the righteous not understand about the reason given for their acceptance?

6. In the following verses find out who the particular people are in each case whom Jesus associates Himself with in their treatment by others:- Acts 9:1-5. / Matt 18:5-6. / Matthew 25:40.

7. What important lesson can we learn from questions 5 & 6 about ways we can serve and please Jesus?

8. List whatever details you can find about Jesus' intentions for the other group of people He set apart before Him:

What reason was given for their terrible destiny?

9. What could those who were condemned not understand about the reasons given for their rejection?

How does the parable in Matthew 21:33-41 help to explain the reason for their rejection and punishment

10. What was to be **the same** about the final outcome for both the "sheep" and the "goats"?

What was to be **different** about the final outcome for the two groups?

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