

Personal/Home Bible Studies,

A list of the 10 studies on **PARABLES** in series 1. (3 series in all – 30 studies).

Proposed Dates	Study Number	Bible Passage	Title of Parable	Theme	Suggested Memory verses
	1.	Matt 13:10-17, 34-35.	[Introduction]	[The common use of parables.]	Ps 119:105.
	2.	Mk 4:3-20./Matt 13:3f / Luke 8:5f.	Seed & soils	Conditions for growth	Ps 126:5-6.
	3.	Luke 15:1-2. 11-32.	The two brothers! (Part 1)	Love & serve God	Rom 12:1.
	4.	Luke 15:11-32.	The two brothers! (Part 2)	Love & serve God	Rom 12:1-2.
	5.	Matt 7:24-27 / Lu 6:47-49.	Wise & Foolish builders	Sure foundation	Matt 7:24.
	6.	Luke 19:12-27./ Matt 25:14-30.	Entrusted with Talents	Faithful service	2 Peter 1:3.
	7.	Matt 25:1-13.	Wise & Foolish virgins	Prepare for His coming.	2 Peter 1:3-4.
	8.	Lu 10:30-37.	Good Samaritan	Christlike attitude	Eph 4:32.
	9.	Luke 12:16-21.	Rich fool	Worthwhile priorities	Matt 6:33-34.
	10.	Luke 15:8-10	Lost coin	Seeking the lost	Rom 10:14-15.

Study of PARABLES number 1. Introduction to Parables

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 13:10-17, 34-35.

The common use of Parables!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PSALM 119 : 105

1. How would you define a parable?

2. Parables are used throughout Scriptures: What are the following OLD TESTAMENT parables about?
Psalm 23.
Isaiah 5:1-7.
2 Samuel 12:1-7.

3. How many times do you think parables are mentioned in the New Testament – 20, 30, 40, or 50?
Write down some of the NT parables that you can think of :

4. Parables are obviously an important mode of teaching widely used throughout the Holy Bible by the Holy Spirit. Why does God choose to teach so much by parables?

5. What is the question the disciples had for Jesus in Matthew 13:10-17?

How many parables does Jesus give in Matthew 13?

6. Why am I tempted to say that Jesus' answer to why He taught in parables sounds a bit like a riddle?

7. Find the answers to questions 7-9 in Matthew 13:10-17.
Do all who listen to a parable benefit from its teaching?

8. What are some of the comments Jesus makes about those who will not profit from parables?

9. What reasons has Isaiah and Jesus both given for people not being able to understand parables?

10. What glorious result could have come to them if they had been open and receptive to God's message to them in the parables?

Study of PARABLES number 2 Conditions for growth

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: Mk 4:1-20 / Matt 13:3f / Luke 8:5f.. Parable of the seed.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: PSALM 126 : 5-6.

1. What was Jesus' chosen means of communicating His message to these crowds? (verse 2) And what had He to say about this particular parable? (verse 13.)
2. What conditions do you think are needed for the following if you want to see them at their best?
Fish / Monkeys / Polar bears /
Birds / A DVD / An astronaut /
A organist / A seed
3. This parable focuses on the effect different soil conditions can have upon seed. How many different types of soil does Jesus describe the seed falling on, and what were they?
4. Jesus explains the parable (Verses 14-20.) What is **the seed** a picture of?

Find out who the sower could be a picture of: Matt 13:24..... / Matt 13:37.
Can you explain having two different answers?
5. Some fell along **the path**. (Verse 4.) What do you think had happened to this soil to make it unreceptive to the seed?
What other explanation does Jesus give for this seed producing nothing? (verse 15.)
6. What prevented the seed's growth in the second type of soil?
What reasons did Jesus give for the seed not growing well among **the stones**? (verses 5-6 & 16-17.)
7. Cross out any of the following that could be dead lifeless "stones" that would prevent God's Word from being successful in our lives? **unbelief / having other "gods" (letting others take God's place) / praying only in Jesus' name / having "objects" that people trust to save or protect them / having faith in Jesus as the only Priest & Saviour / trusting a religion or church to save you / [Think of other stones]**
8. What was the problem with the third kind of soil?
Cross out anything that could be like a "weed" actively growing in our lives that would choke out the good seed of God's Word: **prayers to those who are not God / believing that Jesus paid for all our sins / hoping we can do enough good things to save us / trying to pay God for our sins / thinking God won't send people to Hell / [Think of other "weeds".]**
9. The "**good soil**" is the person having the *right attitude* towards God's Word. Using the information from the parable can you describe what needs to be done to end up with **good soil** in one's life?
10. What did Jesus say about the people who were like the good soil? (Mark 4:20.) And what did He say about the results of them receiving the Word of God? (Verses 8, 20.)

Study of PARABLES number 3 Love & serve God!

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: Luke 15:1-2 & 11-32. Parable of the two brothers. (Part 1.)

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 12 : 1

1. What sorts of people were gathered around Jesus when He told this parable? (Verses 1-2.)

2. What did the younger son want to do with his share of the inheritance from his father?

How do you think the father would feel about his son's use of the inheritance?

3. What wonderful inheritance has the Father, God, granted to every one of us? (See Acts 17:24-28.)

In what rebellious ways does mankind selfishly "spend" the good inheritance received from God?

4. Why could this young man, who had so much going for him, not get by when famine and shortage came?

What did he have to do to survive the famine?

5. Often we see people who have wasted and squandered the good things God gave them. What are some of the miserable things such people resort to today in order to survive?

6. When he came to his senses where did he think he could find acceptance, help and deliverance?

What "**Father**" was Jesus wanting His hearers to turn to in order to find the forgiveness, help and salvation they all needed?
See Psalm 91:14-16.

7. What attitude did this young man decide he would adopt when he would stand before his father?

Compare this attitude to what God the Father requires of the sinner today: (Luke 24:46-47.)

8. Can you identify the **four** things the loving father did for the repentant son at the father's expense?

The to make him presentable in the home. / Theto show his place in the family.

The to equip him to walk in the father's ways. /

The to celebrate and rejoice in him taking his place in the family and home.

9. Contrast the experience of the younger son before /after he returned in repentance to his father.

FROM	TO	/	FROM	TO
FROM	TO	/	FROM	TO
FROM	TO	/	FROM	TO

10. The following verses speak of things that God the Father does in or for the person who repents and believes in Jesus. Can you link each of the "gifts" the father gave the young man with a verse?

Ephesians 1:4-5.

Isaiah 61:10.

Luke 15:10.

Romans 10:14-15. (Eph 6:15.)

Study of PARABLES number 3b (4) Love & serve God!

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: Luke 15:11-32. Parable of the two brothers. (Part 2.)

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 12 ; 1-2.

1. What did the father do with his property? (12)

How was the response of each of the two sons different?

2. What good points could be made about the attitude of the older son to his father? (29)

Could you say the same about **your** service to God the Father?

3. Why did the father respond in the way he did to the rebellious younger son's return?

4. Which of the following words would rightly describe the attitude the older son had to his father?

Obedient? / unselfish? /
contented? / unconditional
like-minded? / unsympathetic?

5. Describe the attitude and response of the older son to his younger brother

6. I find in this story that the younger son came to display an attitude that pleased his father, but the older son refused to display such an attitude. What attitude am I speaking of?

God the Father requires each of us to display such an attitude. Find it in Acts 17:30.

7. How did the older son feel about his father's gracious dealings with the repentant younger son?

Under what circumstances could you or I as a Christian be guilty of a similar attitude today?

8. Can you explain in your own words this summary I have made of the older son:

"He wanted to love his father, but didn't want what his father loved!"

Could a true Christian behave in this way towards God?

Note! Rom. 7:15-25.

9. God wants us to love Him, and to love the persons and things He loves. How alike are you to God? Check out the following and indicate your reply: I am like Him? (✓) I don't want to be like Him? (✗) I would like to be like Him. (!)

Phil 2:5-7. / Matt. 9:36-38. / Eph. 4:32. / Zech. 8:16-17. / Lu. 6:27-28.

10. How should the true Believer respond towards the worst of sinners if he/she has expressed true repentance and faith in Jesus as Saviour? (Note John 1:12-14. Ephesians 2:3-10.)

Study of PARABLES number 5. Sure foundation.

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 7:24-27. Lu 6:47f. Parable of the wise/foolish builders!**

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 7 : 24.

1.	What is even more important than knowing what Jesus taught?
2.	In Jesus' parable who is like the person that builds his house on the rock?
3.	Find out what else the Bible has to say about the "Rock" : Isaiah 44:8. Is. 26:4. Ps 18:31. 1 Cor. 3:11. In the light of these verses how do you explain Matthew 16:18?
4.	In the parable who is like the person that builds his house on sand? What could be some reasons why anyone would want to build on sand instead of finding a good foundation?
5.	In the parable how were the foundations tested? What are some of the things in life that put our faith and hope to the test?
6.	In what particular storms of life would the person who trusts in the words of Jesus find peace and safety and security in these verses: 2 Cor 12:9. Psalm 23:4. Hebrews 13 :6. John 10:28-30. Revelation 2:10. Matt 5:11-12.
7.	If you discovered that your friend was building a house on a place you knew was sandy, what should you do? If you know that your friend is building his/ her life & hopes upon anything other than the words of Jesus, what warnings do we have from this parable that we should give them?
8.	What are the advantages if you build a house on the rock? What are the advantages to be had when you trust & depend on the words of Jesus, and build your life and hopes on Christ, the Rock?
9.	Because God is the Rock – Jesus Christ is the Rock – what do the following verses show we can confidently build on? See John 6:63. Isaiah 55:11. Psalm 1:1-3. 1 Pet 1:25.
10.	Who is the wise man and who is the foolish man in each of the following verses: John 3:18. John 3:36. Mark 16:15-16.

Study of PARABLES number 6. Faithful service.

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: Luke 19:12-27. (Matt 25:14-30.) Parable of being entrusted with talents!

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 2 PETER 1:3.

1. A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. (v.12.) What reasons do we have for thinking that Jesus could be describing Himself here?
2. In the parable each of the servants was given the very same precious thing to trade with – a mina. We all have different talents and abilities, but what (“Deposit”) has every Believer received that is the same and we are each to put it to work? Could Acts 5:32 help?
3. What did this one who would return as king want to happen during his absence?
4. How did other subjects (the general public) feel towards the absent king?

What attitude do you find very common among people today towards Jesus, the absent but soon coming King?
5. Why was the attitude of the people in the parable so very foolish?

What lesson and warning do we have from this for our society today?
6. What was the king’s first concern on his return?

What will King Jesus’ first concern be when He appears? 1 Thess 4:15-17. / 2 Cor 5:9-10
7. What impressed the king concerning the first servants who reported to him?

Can you think of any “small matters” in your life and service for the Lord that you should be striving to be faithful in?
8. Would the servants’ faithfulness in the king’s absence have any effect upon their future?

See what is recorded in the Scriptures about the Lord’s dealings with the faithful Believer when He returns as King: Matt 25:23, 31-40. / 2 Cor 5:9-10.
9. How severe will the judgment of God be against those who have rebelled against the absent, soon-coming King?

How can such a God be declared to be a God of LOVE?
10. How should the fact of the soon-coming King affect the lives of His true followers? Tit 2:11-14 etc.

Study of PARABLES number 7 Prepare for his coming!

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 25:1-13.** Parable of the Wise & foolish virgins.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: 2 PETER 1: 3-4.

1. What special expectation did all of these ten virgins share in together?

Not everyone (or every religion) shares in **our** expectation concerning Jesus. Name some religions that do share something of our expectation, & some that don't.
2. Why is the picture of "the bridegroom" such a good picture of Jesus for us?
3. This entire group of ten virgins wanted to share in the coming of the bridegroom. What distinguished the wise ones from the foolish ones?
4. Perhaps the burning "lamps" could be a picture of our outward expression of knowing and believing in Jesus. What warning do we find in Matthew 15:8-9 to suggest that outward interest in and honouring of Jesus is not proof that all is well? (See also Ezekiel 33:31-32.)
5. If the "lamps" are a picture of our outward expression of devotion to Jesus what could the supply of "oil in jars along with the lamps" suggest we need? (See Zechariah 4:1-6.)
6. What can we learn from the parable about the time of the bridegroom's coming?
7. When did the unprepared virgins discover they were not in a fit state to welcome the coming bridegroom?
8. In what different ways did they find they were "too late" to be acceptable at the bridegroom's appearing?
9. What were the awful revelations that came out in the parable about the foolish virgins in the end?
10. The conclusion is that we need be watchful! Write down as many points as you can that we need to be watchful about if we are not to be like the foolish virgins.

Study of PARABLES number 8 Christ-like attitude!

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: Luke 10:25-37. Parable of the Good Samaritan.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: EPHESIANS 4 : 32.

1.	How did this well educated young man rightly sum up the requirements of the Law? Why can we say that his statement very neatly summarises the Ten Commandments?
2.	It is not enough just to know what the Law says. What else did Jesus say was required by the Law?
3.	What did Jesus want to illustrate by telling the story of the Good Samaritan? Why was it important to the young ruler to have this matter cleared up?
4.	How is Jerusalem (Zion) described in Ps 48:1. (see verses 1-3.) In what direction was the traveller going? And how might that be a picture of mankind?
5.	A priest could represent all that religion can offer to us? What did his coming along do for the dying traveller?
6.	A Levite could represent all that people can do in the service and outworking of their religion. What help did his coming upon the scene have to offer the dying man?
7.	Here comes a Samaritan (despised and rejected) who is ready, willing and able to help and rescue! Who does that remind us of? (See Isaiah 53:1-6.)
8.	Who is the Samaritan shown to be representing in the parable? How can we help our "neighbour" whom we meet with on the road of life?
9.	List the actions the Samaritan took to rescue the dying man. What two words can you find that are mixed up in the Samaritan's actions? YCREM ACREG
10.	What are some of the lessons that have been brought to us in this parable?

Study of PARABLES number 9 Worthwhile priorities!

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: Luke 12:13-21. Parable of the Rich Fool.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: MATTHEW 6 : 33-34.

1. What was the problem that someone in the crowd wanted Jesus to help to settle?

What "sins" could have caused this problem to arise?
2. Jesus made it clear that He had not come among men to be a judge and arbiter between them. What **had** Jesus come among men for? See John 6:38. Matt 10:34-35!
3. What very important statement did Jesus make in response to this request that was to help the questioner to see there were more important things in life?

So what is NOT to be our goal in life and living according to our Maker, Jesus Christ?
4. What dangers are there in prosperity & possessing much according to Deuteronomy 8:10-14, 17-18.?
5. Jesus' answer was not just to "him" but to "them". Who?And what is "all kinds of greed"?
6. Write down some words that would describe the person Jesus then spoke about in His parable.

How often did he say "my"? ... Does our society show any of these same trends? Explain:
7. How did this man in the parable find comfort about his future? and on whose advice?

What important lesson is clearly seen in this parable for our society today?
8. How did this man sum up his values of life?

Write out how Paul summed up his values in life as found in verses like Ph 1:21-26. & Acts 20:24.
9. What was God's estimate of this man? And why did God describe him in the way He did?
10. Write out in your own words how Jesus described the wrong values in life of a foolish person. (V. 21)

Study of PARABLES number 10 Seeking the Lost!

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: Luke 15:1-3, 8-10. Parable of the Lost Coin.

SUGGESTED PASSAGE TO MEMORIZE: ROMANS 10 : 14-15.

1. What sorts of people gathered with interest to listen to the teachings of Jesus? Can you think of any reasons why they would come to Jesus?
2. What sorts of people were gathered to find fault with and criticise Jesus? What faults did they find?
3. In our parable for today what was it that had been very valuable but was now worthless? Why? How is this a picture of mankind?
4. What was the woman's first response to her loss? Why did she have to do that?

Compare this with the description of the conditions in which mankind is lost – Acts 26:18.
Jn 8:12. 1 Jn 1:5-6.
5. What was the response to Jesus coming as the Light of the world? See John 3:19-20.
6. What was the woman's second response to her loss? What would it involve for the woman? What problem does this suggest?
7. Jesus did not just come to show up our sinfulness (The Light), He also wanted to take away our sins that were keeping us from God. (the broom) What was needed to take away our sins? See Heb 9:14. & 1 John 1:7.
8. How long was the woman willing to go on sweating and getting dusty and dirty in search for her lost coin?

For how long should we continue to be concerned for lost souls? Gal 6:9. Heb 12:2-3.
9. What details in this parable show us how valuable the coin was to the woman?

How can the true value of a lost sinner become evident in Heaven even today?
10. How is this parable a response to the problem the religious leaders raised in verse 2?