

Teaching Resource Items
for
Jesus Storyteller: Timeless Truths from His Parables
(A Study of Luke)

These items are selected from “Teaching Plans” in
Jesus Storyteller: Timeless Truths from His Parables—Bible Teaching Guide.
They are provided to make lesson preparation easier and faster
for handouts and similar items.
(An item is not provided for every lesson, since every lesson’s “Teaching Plans”
does not include items that lend themselves to handouts.)

See *Jesus Storyteller: Timeless Truths from His Parables—Bible Teaching Guide*
for guidance in using these items.

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Teaching Resource Items

1. For Lesson One, Discovery Plan— Step 6, *Old and New*
2. For Lesson One, Discussion Plan— Step 8, *The Christian Life*
3. For Lesson Two, Discussion Plan— Step 7, *Discussion Questions*
4. For Lesson Three, Discovery Plan— Step 4a, *How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart (drawing)*
5. For Lesson Three, Discovery Plan— Step 4b, *How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart (drawing)*
6. For Lesson Three, Discovery Plan— Step 4c, *How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart (drawing)*
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25. For Lesson Fourteen (Christmas), Discovery Plan— Step 4, *Introduction and Discussion*

Old and New

Read Luke 5:36-39. Consider and discuss the following:

- a. What was Jesus saying about new and old in these verses?
- b. What are some traditions in our church that could be considered old?
- c. What are some newer practices in our church?
- d. What are some old things in a person's life that could cloud the joy of his or her walk with Christ?
- e. How does focusing on the "new" allow us to see the work of Christ more clearly?
- f. How did Jesus replace the old with the new? Did Jesus come to patch things up, or make all things new?
- g. How does this passage speak to the Old and New Covenants?

**Item 1, For Lesson 1, Discovery Plan—
Step 6, Old and New**

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The Christian Life

The Christian life is more like a wedding celebration than a funeral procession. The Pharisees were griping, while Jesus' disciples were grinning. The Pharisees were somber, while Jesus' disciples were singing. The Pharisees were languishing, while Jesus' disciples were laughing. The Pharisees were criticizing, while Jesus' boys were celebrating. The Pharisees were jealous; Jesus' group was jubilant.

The Pharisees:

Griping

Somber

Languishing

Criticizing

Jealous

Jesus' disciples:

Grinning

Singing

Laughing

Celebrating

Jubilant

Which group are you?

Item 2, For Lesson 1, Discussion Plan— Step 8, The Christian Life

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Discussion Questions

- On what wrong foundations are we guilty of building our lives? (Money, status, etc.)
- Is the Christian life words or actions?
- What does it mean when we call Jesus our Rock of Ages?
- When do you prepare for a storm?
- How can a storm reveal a faulty foundation?

***Item 3, For Lesson 2, Discovery Plan—
Step 7, Discussion Questions***

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How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart



A Hard Heart:
No Reception

*Item 4, For Lesson 3, Discovery Plan—
Step 4a, How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart*

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How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart



A Shallow Heart:
No Root

*Item 5, For Lesson 3, Discovery Plan—
Step 4b, How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart*

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How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart




A Crowded Heart: No Room

***Item 6, For Lesson 3, Discovery Plan—
Step 4c, How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart***

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How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart



A Teachable Heart: Life and Growth

***Item 7, For Lesson 3, Discovery Plan—
Step 4d, How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart***

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How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart

Luke 8:1-15
Listening Sheet

A Hard Heart: No Reception

A Shallow Heart: No Root

A Crowded Heart: No Room

A Teachable Heart: Life and Growth

***Item 8, For Lesson 3, Discovery Plan—
Step 5, How to Cultivate a Teachable Heart***

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Discussion Questions

- How does this passage describe unbelievers? Believers?
- What difference can this seed, this Word of God, make in one's life?
- What is the role of the devil in this passage? Is it consistent with his character presented in Scripture?
- How does the devil come along and steal the seed from someone's heart?
- With such a large crowd gathered, do you think Jesus' use of this parable spoke to them? Do you think they asked, *What about me?*
- How could this parable change the disciple's understanding of their Savior and their mission?

Item 9, For Lesson 3, Discussion Plan— Step 6, Discussion Questions

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To Tell the Truth (Good Samaritan Style)

Have three previously enlisted class members introduce themselves as follows:

- I am a Priest, and I helped my neighbor.
- I am a Levite, and I helped my neighbor.
- I am a Samaritan, and I helped my neighbor.

The question to consider – Which of these is the best neighbor? Only the Samaritan is required to answer truthfully. The priest and Levite can embellish answers as desired.

As teacher, you will moderate questions from the class, allowing them to interrogate the Priest, Levite, and Samaritan to determine who is the best neighbor. You may want to share the following questions with the class for their use, and class members may want to add questions of their own.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. What is your job? | 5. How do you usually help people? |
| 2. What are your religious qualifications? | 6. What did you do when you saw this man who needed help? |
| 3. Why were you on the road to Jericho? | 7. Are you a good neighbor? |
| 4. Had you traveled that road before? | |

Following the interviews, invite class members to discuss who they think is the best neighbor. Then invite the real neighbor to stand up, at which time the Samaritan will stand.

Priest responses to questions could include:

My job is to officiate religious ceremonies, offer sacrifices, release the scapegoat, give blessings, maintain the Temple, and keep the liturgical calendar. I am considered the holiest of people, and without my blessing, the people will perish. I have studied for my role of priest, and am devout and dedicated to my job. I often travel between Jerusalem and Jericho to perform my official duties. I have traveled that road many times, and no one seems to bother me because of my high status in the land. And besides, I cannot touch or contact someone considered unclean. I am very careful in that way. If I see something I am unsure of, I simply walk on the other side of the road.

Levite Responses to questions could include:

I may not lead out in sacrifices and officiating, but I am a musician, a gatekeeper, a guardian, a judge, and a Temple official. I do most everything needed except the sacrifices. I am from the tribe of Levi, a tribe called by God to serve the religious needs of his people. I am righteous. I am a leader in the church, but I make sure not to get my hands dirty doing things that are beneath me. That is why we have church members. I don't travel between Jerusalem and Jericho often, as it is a treacherous road. Often thieves and robbers hide in the caves alongside the road, waiting to take advantage of people. I try to stay away from the riffraff as much as possible, those people scare me.

Samaritan responses to questions could include:

Well as you know, I am a Samaritan, and I do not have a good name among the religious folks in these parts. Even though I think I am a true descendant of Israel and a keeper of the Torah, my ancestors intermarried and so I am considered a half-breed. My religious city is Mt. Gerizim, not Jerusalem. So I am a hated outsider. But, I don't much worry about who my neighbor is. I believe that if someone is lying in the road in need of help, I should stop and help them, like that fellow between Jerusalem and Jericho. He should have been more careful, but that was no time for a lecture. It was time to get him to the doctor.

Item 10, For Lesson 4, Discovery Plan— Step 4, To Tell the Truth (Good Samaritan Style)

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Neighbor

Fill in descriptive words/phrases

N

E

I

G

H

B

O

R

Cut here

Teacher's Example

N—Not my responsibility

E—Eternal life

I—Involved

G—God and neighbor

H—Half-hearted

B—Be a good neighbor

O—Outcast (Samaritan)
was the hero

R—Religion doesn't
equal companion

**Item 11, For Lesson 4, Discovery Plan—
Step 5, Neighbor**

Discussion Questions

- What can we suppose, or do we know, about the road from Jerusalem to Jericho?
- What do we know about the traveler?
- Why should a priest or Levite, being religious professionals of that day, stop and render aid? Why not?
- Was a Samaritan expected to stop and render aid? Why or why not?
- Why were Samaritans despised by the Jews?
- What emotion determined the actions of the Samaritan?
- How should compassion determine the actions of a believer in our culture?
- Is there something deeper than compassion that should guide the behavior of believers?

Item 12, For Lesson 4, Discussion Plan— Step 5, Discussion Questions

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Model Prayer

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

Luke 11:2b-4

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

Luke 11:2b-4

“Father,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.”

Luke 11:2b-4

Item 13, For Lesson 5, Discovery Plan— Step 11, Model Prayer

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Ask and Push Acronyms

A
S
K

P
U
S
H

A
S
K

P
U
S
H

(cut on line)

LEADER'S GUIDE

Ask	Pray
Seek	Until
Knock	Something
	Happens

***Item 14, For Lesson 5, Discussion Plan—
Step 5, Ask and Push Acronyms***

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Invest in God's Kingdom

Look up the following passages that guide Christians to invest in God's Kingdom. Write what the investments from each verse are.

- Jeremiah 9:23-24
- Galatians 5:22-23
- Matthew 22:37-39
- Micah 6:8
- I Corinthians 13:13

On the back of this sheet, list the earthly things you have been investing your wealth, time, and energy in that need to be given up. Then write the investments you need to make in God's kingdom.

**Item 15, For Lesson 6, Discovery Plan—
Step 7-8, Invest in God's Kingdom**

The Fig Tree

- In the Biblical Book of Genesis, Adam and Eve clad themselves with fig leaves (Genesis 3:7)
- The Book of Deuteronomy specifies the fig as one of the Seven Species (Deuteronomy 8:7-8), describing the fertility of the land of Canaan.
- The biblical quote "each man under his own vine and fig tree" (Micah 4:4) has been used to denote peace and prosperity.
- The common fig tree is a member of the mulberry family. It is a flowering plant.
- It is known that the common fig tree was the first-ever plant to be cultivated by humans.
- The common fig tree has many branches that emerge rather low on the trunk of the tree. They grow in an upward ascending fashion, creating a very robust and dense shade canopy.
- Fig trees are known for having very smooth, soft, and lightly colored bark with little texture.
- Fig tree leaves are a glossy deep green color. A leaf will usually be 4-10 inches long and is deeply lobed with either 3 or 5 lobes. Fig leaves are known as being rather fragrant. They have noticeable white veins running through the center of the leaf and extending into each lobe.
- Figs can be eaten fresh or dried, and used in jam-making. Most commercial production is in dried or otherwise processed forms, since the ripe fruit does not transport well, and once picked does not keep well.
- *Raw* figs are 79% water, 19% carbohydrates, 1% protein, and contain negligible fat.
- Some fig species are trees, others are vines, shrubs, and even epiphytes.
- In good climates it bears **2 crops in a season**; one in the early summer, from the buds of the last year; the other, which is the chief harvest, in the autumn, from those on the spring growth.

Item 16, For Lesson 7, Discovery Plan— Step 1, The Fig Tree

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Excuse Discussion

Read Luke 14:16-22.

Your group will be assigned one of the following excuses to discuss. Give some other possible solutions to the excuse you have been assigned.

GROUP 1:

“I’ve got to take care of my stuff.” (14:18)

GROUP 2:

“My job keeps me busy.” (14:19)

GROUP 3:

“My family takes up my time.” (14:20)

**Item 17, For Lesson 8, Discussion Plan—
Step 2, Excuse Discussion**

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5 R's to a Right Relationship with God

- a. **Realize** that you are a sinful person, meaning that you want your own way more than God's way in your life, and that you can do nothing to change yourself or put yourself in a right relationship with God.—Romans 3:23
- b. **Relate** that to God. The Bible word for that is "confess." It actually means, agreeing with God about something He already knows.—1 John 1:9
- c. **Repent** from your sinfulness and turn to God in Christ. This means that you decide you don't want to live a life of sin any longer and you want to allow Christ to come into your life and change you. You actually turn away from sin and turn to God through Christ.—Acts 3:19-20
- d. **Receive** Christ into your life. Pray and ask Him to come in, forgive you of your sins, and change you into a person who looks and acts like Him.—John 1:12
- e. **Respond** publicly. Tell people about this decision and tell your pastor or Bible Study leader that you have made this decision.—Romans 10:8-10

If you make this decision, ask your pastor or Bible study leader what the next steps are in this process of salvation. Materials are available through the church to help you as you grow in your relationship with Christ.

**Item 18, For Lesson 9, Discussion Plan—
Step 4, 5 R's to a Right Relationship with God**

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Jewish Inheritance

Read the information below, then list some insights on the back of this paper to be discussed in a few moments.

Jewish Inheritance

In the story, there are two sons. The younger son demands to receive his inheritance, although his father is still alive. According to Jewish law, a father who had two sons was required to leave two-thirds of his estate to his older son and only one-third to his younger son. Only if there were no surviving sons, and no male descendants, would a man's daughters inherit any money. Also, according to Jewish law, if there were no sons or daughters, then the estate passed to the man's brothers, uncles, or nearest kin. The father was not conscripted by law to appease his younger son's premature demand for money. We learn later in the story that the father is a man of means, with servants, fine clothes, jewelry, etc. Most of the estate would be tied up in assets. It probably took some time to sell some land or livestock or to liquidate other assets, but the father eventually came up with the required one-third amount and gave it willingly to his son.

***Item 19, For Lesson 10, Discovery Plan—
Step 1, Jewish Inheritance***

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References of God's Character

John 15:12

John 3:16

I John 3:3

John 14:6

I Corinthians 10:24

Philippians 2:5-8

Ephesians 4:32

Galatians 5:22-23

I Peter 1:16

Romans 5:8

I John 4:7-8

Philippians 2:4

Philippians 2:5-8

Hebrews 4:15

Luke 23:34

Luke 15:20-24

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Cut here

Teacher's Guide

John 15:12—Giving
1 Peter 1:16—Holy
John 3:16—Love
Romans 5:8—Love
1 John 3:3—Pure
1 John 4:7-8—Love
John 14:6—The Way; the Truth; the Life
Philippians 2:4—Others-centered/not selfish
1 Corinthians 10:24—others-centered/not selfish
Philippians 2:5-8—Service
Philippians 2:5-8—Willing to die
Hebrews 4:15—Without Sin/moral purity
Ephesians 4:32—Forgiving
Luke 23:34—Forgiving
Galatians 5:22-23—Love; Joy; Peace; Patience (Forbearance); Kindness;
Goodness; Faithfulness; Gentleness; and Self-Control
Luke 15:20-24—Compassionate/Forgiving

**Item 20, For Lesson 10, Discovery Plan—
Step 3, References of God's Character (Also Discussion Plan-Step 1)**

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Discussion Questions

- What advice would you give to parents of prodigals, based on what you learned in this lesson?
- What misconceptions about what God is like can you help disprove by sharing the truth of this parable with unbelievers?
- If you have a friend or family member who is out of fellowship with God today, will you commit to praying for that person to come to their senses, repent, and return to God?

***Item 21, For Lesson10, Discussion Plan—
Step 5, Discussion Questions***

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Prayer

- What is the purpose of prayer?
- What are the different parts of a prayer?
- What are some different types of prayer?

***Item 22, For Lesson 12, Discovery Plan—
Step 1, Prayer***

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Pharisee and Tax Collector

- How would you describe the differences between the hearts of these two men?
- What do you appreciate about the prayer of the tax collector?
- Do you think both individuals believed they were praying correctly?
- Why do you think each person prayed the way they did?

***Item 23, For Lesson 12, Discovery Plan—
Step 3, Pharisee and Tax Collector***

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Discussion Questions

- How does the idea of a judgment seat make you feel? Why?
- What do you think God most desires to give his followers? Why?
- Based on this verse and our passage from Luke, how do you think we should live as we await Christ's return?

***Item 24, For Lesson 13, Discovery Plan—
Step 8, Discussion Questions***

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Introduction and Discussion

Introduction

The Bible records a parable in Luke 20 that contains a scathing indictment against the failure of the Jewish people to accept God's greatest gift to humanity—His Son, Jesus Christ. When Jesus finished telling this parable, the people were so shocked that they cried out, "God forbid!" They were astonished because Jesus disrupted their nice, neat understanding of the God of Israel. They thought God existed for the sake of Israel, not Israel for God. Likewise, people who are busy in the Christmas season today may be surprised to learn the truth about Jesus, whose birth we are celebrating. Many Americans claim to believe in God—but what *kind* of God? For some, He is the nice God they recognize for an hour a week on Sundays and then live the rest of their lives as if He doesn't exist. For others, religious rules and rituals are an acceptable substitute for knowing God. Jesus Christ visited planet earth over 2,000 years ago to teach us what God is really like. He meets our greatest need—the need for forgiveness and reconciliation with Him. If you receive God's Son, you will receive God's forgiveness.

Answer the following questions. Be prepared to share your answers with the entire group.

- The tenants of the vineyard rejected the owner's attempts four times. What do you think their reasons and thought processes were in rejecting the owner: How are people today like the tenants in rejecting God?
- Verse 16 shows the surprise of the people as they cry out, "God forbid!" Why do you think they were surprised at the owner's response?
- What do you think most people would be surprised to know about God's nature and the gift of His Son? Why?

Item 25, For Lesson 14, Discovery Plan— Step 4, Introduction and Discussion

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