



PARABLES OF JESUS

LESSON PLANS

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INTRODUCTION



Wesleyan Publishing House is happy to provide Speed Sketch Bible Stories customers with these free lesson plans and resources, which offer options and ideas for how to build a children's lesson around a Speed Sketch Bible Stories video. The "Review and Memory Time" options provided at the bottom of each lesson page refers to the additional Review Options PDF resource also available at www.speedsketchbible.com. Some of the options provided in the Review Options resource suggest the use of an additional product available for purchase: BibleStoryCards, which is available for purchase at www.wphresources.com/biblestorycards.

Blessings to you in your ministry,
The WPH Staff

SOWERS AND SEEDS



Story Reference: Mark 4:1–34

Memory Verse: Ephesians 2:8—"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

These parables are popularly taught as calls to evangelism. While this can be a valid application, Jesus' primary purpose is evident in his theme: "Let whoever who has ears to hear, hear." This is especially important for children, who need to understand the goal of receiving God's truths and believing them. The job of growing faith is not our own; that's God's work. Our job is to practice listening well, reading well, and taking in the good news from Scripture.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A plant or large produce (pumpkin or watermelon)

Giveaway: Seed packets

Story/Object Association: Jesus said that for those who are willing to listen, even their tiny seed of faith can grow into something great and beautiful.

Review Questions

1. In Jesus' parable, what were the bad soils where the farmer planted seed? (**On a path, on rocky places with shallow soil, and among thorns**)
2. What happened to the seeds planted on good soil? (**They grew and multiplied more than what was planted.**)
3. What kind of soil are people who listen and believe? (**Good soil—faith is hearing and believing.**)
4. Did Jesus want his messages to be hidden secrets or out for all to see? (**Out for all to see**)
5. Jesus described faith as being much like a little seed—a farmer plants it, but who causes seeds and faith to grow? (**God causes our faith to grow, just like he causes seeds to grow.**)

Life Application Question: What are some ways you can become good soil so God will grow your faith? (**Look for different answers related to how they can listen well and believe God's truths, especially from the Bible.**)

Prayer Focus

Help us to not only hear, but to listen to and believe your truths. Make us good soil so that you can make faith grow strong in us.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Overhead Game #3
Balloon Pop Review #13
Story Review Cards #23
Bible Wheel of Fortune #29

Memory Verse Options

Guess a Letter #13
Memory Verse Sticks #20
Memory Verse Bulletin Board #24

Memory Object Options

Object Bag #3
Memory Object Bookmark #9

THE GOOD SAMARITAN



Story Reference: Luke 10:25–37

Memory Verse: Luke 10:27—"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind"; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The lesson Jesus taught through this famous parable is at the heart of the gospel—salvation is all about loving God, and to love God we must love our neighbors. While believing in the Lord Jesus Christ is the start of salvation, believing in him means loving him. And the way we love him is by having that same love for anyone God brings into our lives. Children are often taught the importance of loving God, but they need to begin to grasp *how* to love him—by being Good Samaritans to all neighbors.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: Roll of elastic bandage

Giveaway: Colorful, cartoon band aids

Story/Object Association: The Good Samaritan cared for his neighbor by bandaging his wounds.

Review Questions

1. What did the expert in the law and Jesus agree one must do to have eternal life? (**Love God and love one's neighbors**)
2. What was the expert's second question to Jesus? (**Who is my neighbor?**)
3. In Jesus' parable, he told how a man was hurt by robbers and left to die. What happened when a priest and then a Levite came upon the hurt man? (**They both went by without helping him.**)
4. What was the third man who came and helped the hurt man called, and why was it strange that he would help? (**He was a Samaritan, and the Jews and Samaritans were enemies.**)
5. What did the Good Samaritan man do for the hurt man? (**He bandaged his wounds, gave him medicine, took him to an inn, and paid for him to stay there and get well.**)

Life Application Question: Who in your school or neighborhood could be an enemy or someone you dislike? Can you ask God to show you how to love him or her?

Prayer Focus

Father, show us how we can love you by loving everyone you bring into our lives.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Bible Bingo #5
Name Scramble #7
Bible Pictionary #9
Who Am I? #16

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Envelope #3
Clothespin Review #5
Pass the Hat #9

Memory Object Options

Object Poster #7
Object Mural #8

THE PRODIGAL SON



Story Reference: Luke 15:1–32

Memory Verse: John 3:17—"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

The attitude Jesus is focusing on is key for children to understand and realize in their lives—God cares deeply about those who have been lost to him. His purpose is not that they either be corrected or condemned; he wants them to be found, to be welcomed into his loving family. Salvation is not so much about being fixed or on the right side; it's about being in the right relationship. So whenever someone is found and saved by God's love, our own right attitudes can be measured by how readily we celebrate and are joyful for their sake.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A large silver coin (silver dollar, half dollar, or even a quarter)

Giveaway: Foil-wrapped chocolate coins (ideally silver foil)

Story/Object Association: The parable of the lost coin

Review Questions

1. Why were the religious leaders and Pharisees upset with Jesus? (**He was spending time and eating with sinners.**)
2. How many sheep did the good shepherd leave behind to find just one that was lost? (**Ninety-nine**)
3. What did the woman who lost one silver coin do? (**She swept and searched her house until she found the one lost coin.**)
4. What did the prodigal son's father do when his son returned? (**He welcomed him with joy and threw him a big party.**)
5. How did the prodigal son's older brother son respond when he heard his brother had returned? (**He refused to celebrate and told his father he was angry that he never got a party.**)

Life Application Question: What are some examples of people who do very bad things, but who Jesus is searching for and wants all of heaven—and all of us—to celebrate when found? How can you pray for them?

Prayer Focus

Father God, find the people we know who are lost from you—show us how to help them find you, so that we may celebrate for joy when you bring them into your family.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Bible Tic-Tac-Toe #4
Guess My Name #11
Newspaper Search #17
Bible Story Mural #26

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Book #1
Memory Verse Card Drill #4
Memory Verse Pocket #6

Memory Object Options

Name That Object #4
Musical Objects #6

THE FOOLISH RICH MAN



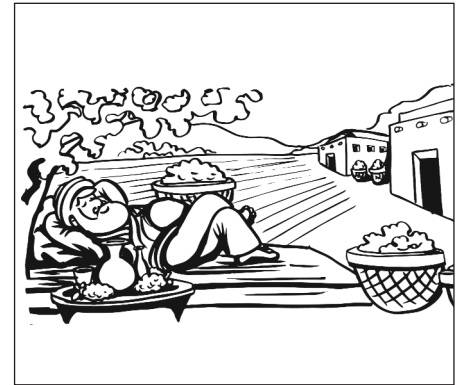
Story Reference: Luke 12:13–32

Memory Verse: Luke 12:29, 31—“And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. . . . But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.”

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

Adults often recall easier times in childhood, which we like to remember as worry-free. But if we’re honest, we’ll recall that while the causes of our childhood worries may seem relatively small by adult comparison, worries are no less important in the lives of little ones. Jesus’ teaching about worrying is not some “problem free” philosophy telling people not to do their best. Rather, he calls us to work hard for his kingdom and then not worry about the outcome. Jesus concludes plainly that if we truly have faith in God, we will simply not be worrying or afraid.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A bouquet of flowers

Giveaway: Enough flowers in the bouquet to give each student one

Story/Object Association: The wildflowers that do not worry and yet are beautifully dressed

Review Questions

1. What did Jesus warn the people to be on their guard against? (**All kinds of greed**)
2. In Jesus’ first parable, the rich man decided to build bigger barns to hold all of his extra food. What did he say to himself? (**Take life easy—just eat, drink, and have fun**)
3. Why did God say the rich man was a fool? (**Jesus said people are foolish to care more about money and things than about God.**)
4. When Jesus said we should think about how birds don’t worry, what did he say God provides for them? (**Food**)
5. When Jesus said we should also think about how wildflowers don’t worry, what did he say God provided for them? (**Clothing more beautiful than rich king Solomon ever had.**)

Life Application Question: What are some things or problems you can’t help worrying about right now?

Prayer Focus

Father God, help me to do my very best in all I do and trust you to control it all. Please help me to not worry and be happy because it’s your kingdom not mine.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Name Scramble #7
Bible Baseball #12
Beach Ball Review #15

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Book #1
Memory Verse Mix #2
Chalkboard Verse #10

Memory Object Options

Name That Object #4
Object Poster #7

THE SERVANT AND THE TALENTS



Story Reference: Matthew 25:14–30

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 4:10—"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

Jesus' message throughout Matthew 25 is about what his kingdom will look like when all his servants come before him at the end times. There will be an accounting then, but the Master's interest will not be about how much money we made or managed. The kind of riches our Lord desires to see multiplied is active kindness to our neighbors: helping the hungry and thirsty, welcoming strangers, clothing the poor, caring for the sick and imprisoned. God wants us to live to multiply love by giving ourselves to others.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A symbolic object representing the teacher's talent (musical instrument, music, computer, book, homemade food—be prepared to explain how you use the talent represented to God's glory)

Giveaway: Gold coin chocolates, gold-foil wrapped chocolate kisses, or home-made treasure bars

Story/Object Association: Bags of gold, which represent talents, given by the Master to servants

Review Questions

1. Why did Jesus tell the parable of the servant and the talents to his disciples? **(He wanted them to know what his kingdom on earth should be like now, and what it will be like entering it in heaven.)**
2. Before the master left on a trip, why did he call his servants to him? **(To put them in charge of his money)**
3. What did he expect them to do with his money? **(Earn as best they could with what he gave them)**
4. How much gold did the two good servants start with, and how much did each have when the boss returned? **(They started with five bags and two bags; they doubled the money.)**
5. What did the third servant do that made the boss so angry? **(He didn't use his talents at all; out of fear he just hid them in the ground.)**

Life Application Question: What are some talents or gifts God has given you that you should develop and grow? How might it be taken away if you don't try to do anything with it?

Prayer Focus

Father God, you have given me gifts and talents that are unique to me. Show me what they are and how I can please you by developing them and increasing them.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Character Quotes #8
Beach Ball Review #15
Bible Story Mural #26

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Book #1
Memory Verse Mix #2
Memory Verse Match #7

Memory Object Options

Bible Biography #1
Object Poster #7

THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT



Story Reference: Matthew 18:21–35

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:32—"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

STORYTELLING TIME

To the Storyteller

To be given the gift of forgiveness, we must accept it. If we don't believe it is a gift but insist we can earn it or pay it back, then we are refusing God's gift of forgiveness. People who refuse to accept gifts also cannot believe in giving them to others. They want all debts paid back to them, and they want to pay back all their own debts. But this is impossible. Jesus' point is that our willingness to forgive others is the measure of how willing we are to believe in and receive God's gift of forgiveness. The only reason God won't forgive us is if we don't really want him to.



Storytelling Methods

Show Speed Sketch Bible Stories video.

Memory Object: A large chain

Giveaway: With strips of paper and tape, help children craft paper chains.

Story/Object Association: The chains worn by imprisoned, unforgiven servants

Review Questions

1. When Peter asked Jesus whether he should forgive someone as many as seven times, how did Jesus respond? **(Not just seven times, but seventy-seven times.)**
2. How many bags of gold did the unforgiving servant owe the king? **(Ten thousand)**
3. When the servant begged for more time to pay back the money, what did the king do? **(He told the servant he forgave him of everything owed.)**
4. What did that servant do to a fellow servant who owed him a very little amount of money? **(He grabbed him and choked him, demanding that he pay back immediately; and then he dragged him away to prison.)**
5. When the king heard what the unforgiving servant had done, what did he do? **(He sent him to prison because if the servant couldn't forgive others, then he never really accepted the king's forgiveness.)**

Life Application Question: Who is someone who keeps doing mean or wrong things to you? Even if you need to avoid being hurt by such a person, can you still ask God to help you keep forgiving this person?

Prayer Focus

Father God, thank you for forgiving me. Help me to keep forgiving those who wrong me no matter how often they do so; but also show me from whom I can seek help and protection if I need to.

REVIEW AND MEMORY TIME

Review Options

Bible Basketball #6
Bible Pictionary #9
Bible Story Map #24

Memory Verse Options

Memory Verse Book #1
Clue Word Memory Cards #8
Catch a Verse #12

Memory Object Options

Object Match #2
Memory Object Bookmark #9