

Who Is Jesus? Week 2: Jesus is our Teacher

Welcome Question

“How did Jesus teach people in the Bible?”

Introduction

Hi everyone! We are in week two of our brand new series called, “Who is Jesus?” Last week, we all became detectives investigating who Jesus really is. Our first case was learning about Jesus as a healer. This week, we’ll learn about Jesus as a teacher. Our welcome question asked, “How did Jesus teach people in the Bible?” Let’s go over your answers now. *(go over answers written)* Jesus taught people using parables. Parables? What’s a parable? Parables are stories that have a deeper meaning. Jesus’ disciples even asked why he taught this way and Jesus told them in Matthew 13:13, “*This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.*” Hmm, that’s a little mysterious sounding to me. Let’s open our case and see what we can gather from our evidence.

Large Group Lesson

This is Case #274, the Teacher. I have four witness accounts of Jesus teaching in Parables. Today, we’re going to divide into four groups and go over our evidence. It’s your job to ask the tough questions: Who? Why? When? And then report your findings to the group. This might involve you getting a little creative. Are you up to the challenge?

Jesus’ Teachings Case Studies

Pass out manila folders marked “evidence” for each grade. Each small group will use their file to study scripture related to Jesus’ teachings. Give the groups time to complete their study, then bring them back for a long group recap. (if time permits, they will complete their Bible challenge at the end).

K-1: Parable of the Treasure & the Pearl, Matthew 13:44-46

1-2: Parable of the Lost Sheep and Lost Coin, Luke 15:1-10

3rd: Parable of the Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37

4th: Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Recap Discussion:

Allow each group to come together and share the findings from their investigations, then wrap-up the lesson.

Today we learned a lot about who Jesus is: a teacher. We asked earlier why Jesus taught this way and it was hard to understand Jesus’ response: Matthew 13:13, “*This is why I*

Speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Lots of people came to hear Jesus speak. Many of them were religious leaders waiting to catch Jesus saying something they could use against him. Jesus taught a lot in parables, so that only the people really interested about the Kingdom of God and following Jesus wanted to look closer at the story and understand it (just like we did today). To everyone else it was just an interesting story. Their hearts were hardened to God and they couldn't see the true message Jesus was sharing. Jesus didn't always speak in parables, he also taught very directly throughout the Gospels.

Did Jesus' teaching talk about himself? No, it always pointed to God, the Father. In **John 7:16**, it says, *"So Jesus answered them, 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.'* Jesus was sent by God for a special mission, to seek and save the lost. Jesus knew it was important to teach others about God's Kingdom so their hearts could be open and they could have a forever relationship with God.

Closing

It looks like we've learned a lot about Jesus as a teacher. Our investigation of "Who is Jesus?" will continue next week. I hope to see all of you super sleuths here to help carry out our mission. Let's pray.

If time remains, dismiss back to small groups for Bible Challenge. If no time remains, pass out verse cards.

Case #274
Evidence #1
The Parable of the Hidden Treasure & Pearl

Name of Witness: Matthew

Personal Testimony of Witness:

The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

The Parable of the Pearl of Great Value

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls,⁴⁶ who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Evidence Report:

What are the two items "found" in this parable? _____

What happens when the items are found?

What do the treasure and pearl represent? _____

Why did Jesus come to earth? _____

Why did Jesus teach about the treasure & pearl?

What did Jesus want people to learn from these stories?

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #274
Evidence #2
The Parable of The Lost Sheep & the Lost Coin

Name of Witness: Luke

Personal Testimony of Witness:

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. *2* And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

3 So he told them this parable: *4* "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, and go after the one that is lost, until he finds it? *5* And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. *6* And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' *7* Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

The Parable of the Lost Coin

8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it? *9* And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' *10* Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents." **Luke 15:1-10**

Evidence Report:

What is "lost" in this parable? _____

What happens when the "lost" item is found? _____

What do the coin & sheep represent? _____

Who were the people the Pharisees were mad Jesus was hanging around? _____

Why did Jesus come to earth? _____

How will the angels celebrate when a sinner repents?

Why did Jesus want sinners to repent? _____

What did Jesus want people to learn from these stories?

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #274
Evidence #3
The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Name of Witness: Luke

Personal Testimony of Witness:

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying, "Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?" 26 He said to him, "What is written in the Law? How do you read it?" 27 And he answered, "You shall 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 your neighbor as yourself." 28 And he said to him, "You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live."

*29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" 30 Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers, who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead. 31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. 32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was, and when he saw him, he had compassion. 34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. 35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.' 36 Which of these three, do you think, proved to be a neighbor to the man who fell among the robbers?" 37 He said, "The one who showed him mercy." And Jesus said to him, "You go, and do likewise." **Luke 10:25-37***

Evidence Report:

What did the lawyer want to do to Jesus? _____

Who are the three people that came upon the man?

Who stopped to help? _____

Why was it important that a Samaritan man stopped?

Who was the man's neighbor and why? _____

Why did Jesus tell this story? _____

What did Jesus want people to learn from this story?

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Case #274
Evidence #4
The Parable of the Sower

Name of Witness: Matthew

Personal Testimony of Witness:

13 That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2 And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3 And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. 4 And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. 5 Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, 6 but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. 7 Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8 Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9 He who has ears, let him hear."

*18 "Hear then the parable of the sower: 19 When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. 20 As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, 21 yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. 22 As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. 23 As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty." **Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23***

Evidence Report:

What were the four types of soil the seeds fell on?

What happened to each seed? _____

What do the seeds represent? _____

What type of seed/soil was best? Why? _____

What does it mean to "bear fruit"? _____

Why did Jesus tell this story? _____

What did Jesus want people to learn from this story?

How does this story connect with Jesus' mission on earth?

Take a few minutes to go over your report. Plan to share your findings with the group. You can act out the story, draw the story or come up with another way to share what you've learned with the group.

Who is Jesus? Week 2

Bible Challenge

Bible Challenge will only be completed if time remains after large group recap

This week's Memory Verse: *"Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me." John 7:16*

Last week's verse: *"He heals the brokenhearted. He bandages their wounds". Psalm 147:3*

Go over this week's verse. Say it together a few times. Then transition into the Bible Challenge activity.

Bible Challenge!

Supplies: *Parable Coloring sheet, marker, word search puzzle.*

K-1 Parable Color Sheet: Help children write the verse on their sheet and then they can color each parable. Talk about the parables as they color.

2-4 Parable Word Search: Allow kids to pair up and race one another to complete the word search. The word search will include words from the memory verse. Then see if they can write the verse from memory :)

Prayer: Ask children if they have any prayer needs and then close in prayer.