

SEVENTH DAY CHURCH
OF GOD (REFORMED)

CHILDREN'S BIBLE STUDY

Parables of Jesus

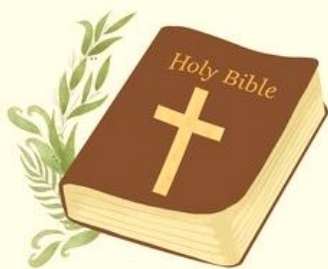


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EDITOR'S NOTES

Dear Children and Young People,

The Sabbath School Committee is pleased to present a series of lessons for your studying.

We pray that God will open your understanding of His holy words as you study and draw nearer to Him each day. Remember to seek His guidance and presence in prayer. Let His word be a lamp unto your feet and a light unto your path (Psalm 119:105).

Happy Studying 😊

LESSON 1

A GOOD AND FAITHFUL STEWARD WILL ALWAYS BE REWARDED BY THE LORD

Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Memory verse: Matthew 25:21

Lesson Objectives:

To understand that...

- God is depending on us to be faithful in our duties to Him
- As people of God, it is important that we can be trusted with the talents that we have been given by Him
- There is a great reward awaiting all faithful stewards

Introduction

The point of the Parable of the Talents is that, while we are waiting for Christ's return, there are things for us to do. It is not just an idle waiting. No! Our master gives each of us talents to use for His purpose. We are to make the most of these talents whilst we wait. You and I have talents on loan from God, therefore, let us use them as faithful stewards.

Questions

1. How many talents were given out altogether?
2. How many talents were handed over to the master?

3. Why was the master so unhappy with the servant who received one talent?
4. What did the Lord say to the men who increased their talents?
5. Why did the man with the one talent hide it in the earth?
6. What are your gifts/talents? How can you use them for the Lord?

LESSON 2

THE SOWER AND THE SEEDS

Scripture: Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

Memory verse: Colossians 3:16

Lesson Objectives:

To understand that...

- The state of our hearts does not prevent us from hearing the Word
- The sower's responsibility is to sow the Word on every soil

Introduction

Jesus used parables to teach lessons because it was the easiest way for the crowd to understand. In this parable, the audience that He was addressing was, to a large extent, themselves farmers so they could identify with the experience of the sower.

Jesus, the Sower was explaining to His followers and disciples how people respond differently to the Gospel – the Good News of salvation. He was emphasising the fact that the state of a person's heart when the Word of God is heard can affect the choices and outcome after hearing the words. The Sower did not seem bothered by the different soils that the seeds fell on. Rather, He sowed generously with the understanding that the more seeds He sowed the bigger the yield. He was aware that He would lose some seeds.

Symbols in the story

Sower = Jesus ; **Seed** = Word ; **Bird** = Satan ; **Soil** = People's heart

The wayside or the path is a regular trampled area of hard packed dirt. It refers to persons, who hear the words of God but there was no place for the words to rest. These persons do not understand, believe or accept the Gospel because Satan quickly snatches the Word from the unbelieving hearts.

Stony ground refers to people who hear the word of God and show interest and belief in the Gospel. These people were so zealous about serving the Lord, were baptised and involved themselves in everything. However, after encountering trials and tribulation, they become cold, weak and lose interest until they die spiritually.

Thorns are those persons who heard and believed the words of God in their heart but there are distractions in their heart to be removed for them to flourish. Stuffed with the distraction of – riches, peer pressure the wrong crowd, worldly beauty and entertaining things that do not align with the Word of God.

Good Ground depicts people who hear the word of God, seriously accept and are sincere in living by them. They read the word of God daily and spend time in prayer. These people grow and grow in understanding the words and are able to call on the Lord for help whenever problems arise.

Questions

1. Name the places where the Sower's seeds fell.
2. This parable consists of a range of symbolism. Who and what do these symbols represent? (refer to introduction for support)
3. What kind of life experiences are likely to stop the Word of God from growing in a person's heart?
4. What was the response of each heart (ground) on which the words of God fell?
5. List some things that might change the hearts of young people who received the Word of God. How can they guard their hearts?
6. What were some characteristics of the Sower as he sowed the seeds?
7. According to Jesus' explanation, describe the natural physical danger of sowing by the wayside.

8. What lessons can you learn from this parable?

LESSON 3

BE GOOD SEED FOR THE MASTER'S BARN

Scripture: Matthew 13:24-30

Memory verse: Matthew 13:43

Lesson Objectives:

To understand that...

- God is depending on us to grow and be faithful in an unfriendly world
- As children of the kingdom of God, we must make our light shine
- There is a day of harvest for everyone (wheat and tares)

Introduction

Wheat is a good cereal grain, but tare is a weed that is only suitable for animals. It is important to note that wheat and tares are very identical when they are young plants. The only way of separating one from the other is when they are fully matured and ready to be reaped.

In this parable – there were two sowers, the one who planted good seeds and the enemy who planted bad seeds. There were two products, there was wheat and there were tares (weed). Two questions were asked, 'Sir, did you not sow good seeds in your field? How then does it have tares' ; 'Do you want us then to go and gather them up?'. There were two places for each product on the day of harvest, the tares were bound, bundled and burnt whilst the wheat was gathered into the barn.

The enemy waits for our unguarded hour but God has the power to keep us in this world.

Questions (easy)

1. What two seeds were planted in the field?
2. Who was the enemy according to verse 39?
3. Explain the difference between wheat and tares in farming.
4. Why do you think the tares were sown in the night?
5. What will happen to the wheat and tares on the day of harvest?
6. What does 'let both grow together until the harvest' mean?
7. What do the following represent in the story – field, sower, seeds, enemy, tares and reapers?
8. What can you do to guard against the devil planting bad seeds in your heart?

Questions (harder)

1. Why did the sower not uproot the tares when the servants identified them? What does this represent?
2. Tares look exactly like wheat when they are young. How can you respond to people that tell you they are 'Christian too' but are not following God's principles?
3. Name some traits Tares display when pretending to be Wheat. Explain your answers.
4. Describe the sower based on his behaviour in this story.
5. As children of the heavenly kingdom, what can you do to prevent tares from influencing your day of harvest?
6. In verse 28, the servants wanted to go and gather the tares, but the sower stopped them. Explain in your own words what this tells us about how we should approach certain decisions.
7. How can this story help you in life?

LESSON 4

GOD IS FAIR AND GENEROUS

Scripture: Matthew 20:1-16

Memory verse: Matthew 20:16

Lesson Objectives:

To understand that...

- God calls peoples to service at different stages of their lives
- God is fair in His decisions
- God does not change His agreement
- God has the same expectation of everyone

Introduction

There are many lessons to be learnt from the parable of the labourers in the vineyard. This includes but is not limited to the following:

- God does not invite 'favourites' to do His work. He invited all the idle workers. Everyone has equal opportunities to work because it is the work that is important.
- Jesus keeps covenant and promise and He gives fair reward for fair work done. Just as the workers were promised to be given a penny or whatever is right, we all have a sure reward awaiting us.
- God rewards us according to His will, no one has the right to judge what the Almighty does. What everyone receives will be more than 'fair' because we do not deserve it. Those who serve the Lord all their lives will receive the same reward as those who served for a short time.

- The first hour would be 6:00am, the third hour 9:00am, the sixth hour 12:00pm, etc.

Questions (easy)

1. How many group of labourers did the householder employ for the day?
2. Using your clock, what time would be the ninth and eleventh hour?
3. What agreement did the householder make with the first set of labourers?
4. Why do you think the labourers that started in the morning murmured against the good man of the house?
5. What was the labourers' excuse for standing by doing nothing?
6. What can you do to prove to your brother or sister that you are a fair person?
7. The goodman treated the early and late labourers generously and fairly. What lesson can you learn from this?
8. Identify some instances in the story that human-beings would think to be unfair. Explain your answers.

Questions (harder)

1. Explain the term 'the first shall be last and last first', based on verses 8 and 16.
2. Why did the labourers hired early in the morning believe they should have received more pay than those who were hired later?
3. What is your understanding of the response that the householder gave the murmuring labourers? (v. 13-16)
4. Which of the ten commandments is being highlighted in verse 15?
5. In light of this story, explain how we need to behave as children of God, labouring on earth for the heavenly kingdom.
6. Why did the farmer not settle with the first set of workers that he hired?