

RADIUS Students | Fall 2026

Parables | The Stories Jesus Told

Parable: The parable of the sheep and the goats

Passage: Matthew 25:31-46

Main Idea: In this parable Jesus talks about service. It shows us that when we serve the oppressed, we are serving Jesus. I like to think about the Lion King. If you have seen the movie, the King Mufasa sacrifices himself for his son Simba. However, Simba runs away and lives life “Hakuna Matata” meaning no worries. Finally, the Mufasa tells him in a cloud to remember who he is, that he is the son of the king. In the same way we are children of the king so we shouldn't just walk past the troubles in others' lives just to seek our own good. But rather we should lay down our lives for the oppressed now.

Small Group Questions:

1. Read the passage together. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Retell the parable in your own words.
3. What does this parable teach us about Jesus?
4. What does this parable teach us about ourselves?
5. Are you living a sacrificial life?
6. How can you serve the oppressed more? (The hungry, thirsty, sick, strangers, and prisoners)
7. What are ways you can serve people more in your everyday life?
8. Why is it important to serve people?

Parable: The parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders

Passage: Matthew 7:24–27

Main Idea: In this parable one person decides to build his life on the word and the other does not. When the troubles of life come one of them crumbles and the other stands on what Jesus says.

Small Group Questions:

1. Read the passage together. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Retell the parable in your own words.
3. What does this parable teach us about Jesus?

4. What does this parable teach us about ourselves?
5. What do you think your life is built on? Is it built on the rock or the sand?
6. What is the rock according to this passage?
7. What does the rain and the floods represent?
8. What is the importance of the “word” in the bible?

Parable: The parable of The Growing Seed

Passage: Mark 4:30-32

Main Idea: Maybe you feel like you don't know enough about Jesus to really follow Him. Maybe you don't know the Bible very well. Maybe you don't know how to pray. Maybe you have a lot of questions. But here's what's so cool about this parable: Jesus doesn't say the kingdom of God is like a massive tree that you have to become before you can come to Him. He says it's like a mustard seed. It starts small. You don't have to have a mature faith to start following Jesus. You can come to Jesus exactly where you are. But here's the important part: the mustard seed doesn't stay a mustard seed. It grows. And that's what happens when we abide in Jesus. As we spend time in His Word, as we pray, as we worship, as we surround ourselves with other believers, Jesus begins to grow us. We may not know much when we start, but we shouldn't stay where we started. You don't have to know everything to follow Jesus.

Small Group Questions:

1. Read the passage together. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Retell the parable in your own words.
3. What does this parable teach us about Jesus?
4. What does this parable teach us about ourselves?
5. Where are you in your walk with Jesus right now? Do you feel like your faith is just beginning, or have you been following Jesus for a long time?
6. What does the mustard seed teach us about how our faith begins? Do you think you have to know a lot about the Bible or have everything figured out before you can follow Jesus?
7. What does the mustard seed teach us about what happens when we abide in Jesus? How does spending time with Jesus through His Word, prayer, worship, and community help our faith grow?
8. Are you growing? What is one area where you can grow in your relationship with Jesus right now?

Parable: The parable of The Prodigal Son

Passage: Luke 15:11-32

Main Idea: The Prodigal Son reminds us that we are never too far gone for God's grace. The younger brother ran from his father, made terrible choices, and thought he had gone too far, but his father welcomed him home with open arms. At the same time, we can fall into the trap of the older brother, becoming bitter and judgmental when God shows grace to people we think don't deserve it. Both brothers needed the Father, and the same is true for us—whether we have run far away or allowed bitterness to grow in our hearts, God is inviting us back to Him.

Small Group Questions:

1. Read the passage together. What stands out to you in this passage?
2. Retell the parable in your own words.
3. What does this parable teach us about Jesus?
4. What does this parable teach us about ourselves?
5. What do you think caused the younger brother to run away from his father?
6. Have you ever felt like you were too far gone or had messed up too much for God to forgive you?
7. Why do you think the older brother became bitter when his brother came home?
8. Which brother do you relate to more right now—the one who ran away or the one who became bitter? Why?

Parable: The parable of The Watchful Servants

Passage: Luke 12:35-40

Main Idea: Jesus calls us to live ready for His return. In Luke 12, He tells His followers to “stay dressed for action and keep your lamps burning,” reminding us that we do not know when the Master will return. Jesus says that those who are ready when He comes will be blessed, because they were faithfully waiting for Him. As believers, heaven should be something we look forward to, not something we rarely think about, because our hope is that one day we will be with Jesus forever. Since we don't know when He will return, we should live every day ready—faithfully following Him, pursuing holiness, and longing for the day when He comes back.

Small Group Questions:

1. Read the passage together. What stands out to you in this passage?

2. Retell the parable in your own words.
3. What does this parable teach us about Jesus?
4. What does this parable teach us about ourselves?
5. What does it look like to actually live ready for Jesus to return?
6. Why do you think Jesus tells us to be ready even though we don't know when He will return?
7. Do you find yourself longing for heaven? Why or why not?
8. If you knew Jesus was coming back tomorrow, what would you change about how you live today?