



YEAR

2

UNIT E

PARABLES/MIRACLES

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children's understanding of Jesus' parables and miracles. Through these they will develop a greater understanding of who Jesus is and what his ministry was.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning in Year 1 about parables and miracles, and the Sacrament of the Sick.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- knowledge of what a parable is
- some knowledge of parables and miracles.

SKILLS

Group discussion, group research, prediction, thinking, interpreting symbols, role-play, brainstorming, recording information in charts, diagrams, interpreting.

VOCABULARY

Parable, miracle, Sacrament of the Sick, Oil of the Sick.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
Most children will know a range of parables and miracles and understand Jesus' qualities as a healer and teacher. Know that the Church carries on Jesus' work of healing through the Sacrament of the Sick.	2a 2c	2a 2b 2c
Less able children will know some parables and miracles of Jesus. Understand that the Sacrament of the Sick is a special celebration for people who are ill.	1a 2a 2c	1a 1b
More able children will have a greater understanding of the messages contained in the parables of Jesus and what the miracles tell us about him. Reflect on the importance of praying for and anointing those who are sick today.	3a 3b 3c	3b 3c

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

L8 Explore Scripture passages which reveal God's love, e.g. psalm of thanks, trust, calls for help.

L9 Hear about and explore passages in Scripture which express joy and trust in God's love.

L10 Become familiar with words of Jesus which speaks of his Father's love.

- The Gospel tells us that Jesus did many extraordinary things. Children to recall as many as possible. What was extraordinary about them and why?
- In groups children to look at different miracles: Wedding Feast at Cana, Calming of the Storm, and Healing of the Centurion's Servant.
- Read the beginning of the three miracles. Ask the children to predict the endings. Research the endings.
- Make a table to record findings about the miracles. Include the problem, what Jesus was doing, what he was asked to do, his actions, the outcome and how people reacted.
- Discuss the changes that took place during the miracle. What do we learn about Jesus from these miracles? Children to create slogans to describe Jesus the miracle worker.
- People who asked Jesus to help them had faith in him.
- Today Christians express their faith in Jesus through prayers for the sick and anointing with oil of the sick.
- Why do you think we use oil to anoint a sick person?
- Children to write their name on white paper using olive oil and hold it up to the light. Emphasise the absorption and change that has taken place.
- Through anointing with oil and the Sacrament of the Sick, Jesus can heal and strengthen people.
- Role-play what takes place at the Anointing of the Sick. Include the priest laying his hands on the head of the sick person and anointing them with the oil of the sick on their forehead and the palms of their hands.
- How do you think a sick person might feel after they had been anointed?
- Children to brainstorm what makes a good teacher. Create a simple flow chart or diagram to record findings.
- Introduce the idea of Jesus being a teacher. What did he teach about? How did he teach?
- Jesus taught his disciples through special stories called parables which have a special message.
- Children to learn the meaning of the term parable.
- Use drama techniques to explore the parable of the talents. Identify the feelings of the man who gave the talents when he realised some were not being used. What do you think is the message in this parable?
- What talents do you think you have? How could you use them? In what way could you serve God by using your talents.
- Create a class talent wheel of all their different talents. Write praise and thanks prayers for the gifts they have been given.
- Read the parable of the Sower.
- Who do you think the Sower is? What is the seed? Why do you think the seed grew better in some places compared with others?
- What conditions do you need for something to grow well?
- Jesus teaches that we are like the seed when we listen and respond to his teaching. We either listen well or grow or we don't.
- Do you think this parable tells us something about the choices we can make?
- Create a dance routine for the parable.
- Explore the parable of the Prodigal Son.
- Identify and describe what the Father was like throughout the story, and what the Son was like at the beginning and end.
- Create a "feelings bag" of different words associated with the story which the children have to pull out and use to describe different characters as part of a class discussion.
- What were the choices that the father and the son made? Why did they make these choices? What was the choice the older son made? Why did he make this choice? Children to describe the emotions of the older son.
- Who do you think the father is? Who is the son?
- What is Jesus teaching us in this parable about God and about us?
- Write a book about the parable and the message it teaches.
- Jesus taught his disciples many things about his Father.
- Explore with the children some of the teachings of Jesus about the way God cares for his people, include the teaching of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

L8 That God is faithful and loves everyone without distinction.
L9 That God's love is a source of joy and trust.

- Know some of the words and actions of Jesus in his miracles. These will include the Wedding Feast at Cana, the calming of the storm and the healing of the centurion's servant.
- Understand that through his miracles Jesus was able to change some people's lives.
- Identify and describe some of the changes and imagine some of the reactions of the people involved.
- Know that the Church shows care for the sick through anointing with the Oil of the Sick.
- Take part in a role-play of the Sacrament of the Sick.

- Know that Jesus taught his disciples through parables. These will include the parable of the talents, the Sower and the prodigal son.
- Understand that each of the parables has a special message about the way Jesus wanted people to live life.
- Reflect on how these parables help Christians live their lives today through drawing, discussion and writing.

L10 That Jesus told people about the Love of God his Father and showed them what it was like.

- Know the parable of the prodigal son.
- Understand that the son was free to choose what to do with his life and that the father was willing to forgive him.
- Discuss and write about this parable and think how it invites us to live.
- Know some of the things Jesus said about God his Father.
- Begin to understand that God is the Father of all people who cares for our needs.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Children to pretend to phone a friend telling them about one of these miracles and what they saw happen.

Write prayers for people who are sick in the parish and send them to them.

Grow some cress in the classroom. What does it need to grow well?

Create some artwork about this parable.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Jn. 2: 1-2 – The Wedding Feast at Cana

Mk. 4: 35-41 – The Calming of the Storm

Lk. 7: 1-10 – The Healing of the Centurion's Servant

Mt. 25: 14-30 – The Parable of the Talents

Mk. 4: 1-9 – The Parable of the Sower

Lk. 15: 11-32 – The Parable of the Prodigal Son

Lk. 12: 22-30 – The Birds of the Air and the Lilies of the Field

OTHER LINKS

Dance link: Use opportunities to explore one of the parables through dance.

Science link: Emphasise absorption and change of the olive oil when exploring the Sacrament of the Sick

Further science links concern the Parable of the Sower and how things grow.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Use dance routine as part of worship.
- Emphasise the importance of listening to the words of Jesus.
- Use the Parables in class prayer time.
- Use drama in Collective Worship to explore the Parable of the Prodigal Son.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?