

YEAR

5

UNIT F

# PARABLES & SAYINGS OF JESUS

## ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit children gain a greater knowledge and understanding of the Parables of Jesus. They explore the concept of the Kingdom of God from the teachings of Jesus and ways in which Christians respond to this teaching today through their belonging to the Church.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous work in Year 4 about the Parables of Jesus, extending children's knowledge of this key area of Jesus' teaching.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It is helpful if children have:

- an understanding of what a Parable is
- some knowledge of the Parables of Jesus.

## SKILLS

Reading skills, text level work, referencing skills, note taking, thinking skills, researching skills, speaking and listening, writing skills, group work.

## VOCABULARY

Parable, Holyland, Samaritan, Levite, Priest, Saint, Kingdom of God.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

	A.T.1	A.T.2
<b>Most children will</b> know some important Parables and Sayings of Jesus. They will understand the Kingdom of God was part of the language Jesus used to explain his preaching about welcoming and accepting God's presence through him. Be able to think of some ways in which the Church lives out this teaching of Jesus.	3a 4a	3c 4a
<b>Less able children will</b> be able to recall some of Jesus' teaching in the Parables and know that they contain some messages about living as followers of Christ today.	2c 2a 3a	2c 2a 3a
<b>More able children will</b> have a greater understanding of the image of the Church as the Kingdom of God. They will be able to explain through discussion and written work the challenge that Jesus' teaching offers and think about some of the consequences of responding to it.	4a 4b	4a 4b

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Ch1** The ways Jesus proclaimed the Good News to everyone he met and the variety of responses he made.

**R2** Hear, read and explore key imagery that speaks of God in the Gospels.

**R3** Hear about and explore the Bible.

- Explore with the children the use of comparisons to describe something important.
  - Recall simile and metaphor work from Year Four (e.g. "I am the vine and you are the branches.")
  - Explain to the children that Jesus often used metaphors to explain the invitation that he was offering the people to share in his life and in the life of God the Father.
  - Revise with the children the definition of a Parable as learnt in the previous year groups.
  - Children to research as many Parables of Jesus as they can. You might consider giving them Bible references to support this activity.
  - Children to make some brief notes about some Parables and what the message of the Parable might be.
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- Recall the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
  - Locate Jericho and Jerusalem on the map of the Holy Land.
  - Which direction did the man in the parable have to travel on his journey?
  - Explore aspects of safety on this journey and the fears that the traveller might have had.
  - Ask the children to think of their own feelings of not being safe or comfortable. Who are you suspicious of? Why?
  - Discuss each character in the Parable. Research some information about Priests, Levites and Samaritans.
  - What did each one of them do for the man who had been hurt?
  - Why did two of them not get involved?
  - Create a modern day version of the parable.
  - What was Jesus trying to teach the people?
  - Jesus ended the Parable of the Good Samaritan by saying, "Go and do like wise." What does this mean?
  - Children to explore ways in which they can live out this commandment of Jesus.
  - Research some newspaper and magazine articles about people who are living as Good Samaritans today.
  - Introduce children to the lives of some of the saints who died to serve God and other people. You might include here the story of St Maximilian Kolbe and the story of Archbishop Oscar Romero.
  - Children to discover the meaning of the word "martyr".
  - In what ways did these men show themselves to be Good Samaritans to others?
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- Divide the class into three groups and provide them with the text of the following Parables:  
The Parable of the Sower  
The Parable of the Wedding Feast  
The Parable of the Houses Built on Sand and Rock
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- Children to prepare a retelling of these Parables through drama. Instead of a simple retelling, consider presenting the Parable in the style of a television news report. The Wedding Feast could be by the Royal Correspondent. The Houses Built on Sand and Rock could be by the Weather Reporter. The Sower could be by the Farming Reporter.
  - The drama could be written up in a play script form. Support this with a proforma to identify the characters and the setting.
  - Each group should perform their drama for the rest of the class and they try and guess what the message of Jesus was in the Parable.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**Ch1** That the Good News Jesus lived and taught reveals God's love and forgiveness and brings joy and new life.

**R2** That human language seeks imagery to express the mystery of God.

**R3** Of how to find their way around the Bible.

- Know that Jesus taught his disciples about God's Kingdom through parables and sayings.
- Know the Parables of the Sower, the Wedding Feast, the Houses Built on Sand and Rock and the Good Samaritan.
- Understand that Jesus showed his disciples what God was like and what it meant to accept God's Kingdom through the Parables.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

continued...

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**Ch5** Key images of the Church used in Scripture and Tradition.

**R1** Observe and recognise ways in which people of today can hear and respond to God's call.

**C10** That everyone is called to be a disciple, growing to be more like Jesus.

- Explain to the children that Jesus used Parables to describe what God's Kingdom was like and how it could grow if people welcomed his Kingdom in their lives.
  - Children to brainstorm images that they might have of a kingdom (e.g. palace, king, etc.)
  - Is this the image of the Kingdom that, Jesus presents in the Parables? How is it different?
  - Revisit each Parable through discussion and questioning.
  - Who is the Sower? Why does some seed grow? What prevents other seed from growing? What does the parable teach about welcoming God's Kingdom?
  - Who do you think the King is in the Parable of the Wedding Feast? What stopped the guests from coming? Why were the other people keen to come? What does this Parable teach about welcoming God's Kingdom?
  - What is the big difference between the foolish and sensible man in the Parable of the Houses built on Sand and Rock? What does this Parable teach about welcoming God's Kingdom?
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- Revise with the children some of the images of the Church that they learnt in Year Three and Year Four (e.g. Body of Christ, People of God, etc.)
  - Explain that the Kingdom of God is another image that can be used of people who belong to the Church today.
  - Revisit the Parables just studied and reflect with the children about how they impact on the life of a member of the Church today (e.g. The Parable of the Wedding Feast reminds us that we are called to share in the Eucharist. The Parable of the Houses Built on Sand and Rock reminds us that we must listen and respond to the Word of God. The Parable of the Sower is about allowing God's life to grow in us because we respond to his invitation to share his life with us.
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- Many of Jesus' messages and saying are important for members of the Church to try and live their daily lives by.
  - In groups, children to look at these different texts and try to interpret the message contained within them:  
*Lk. 12:22-30*  
*Lk. 6: 27-36*  
*Mt. 5: 13-16.*
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- In what ways can these help people to be followers of Christ today?
  - Children to come up with examples from real life when they or other people could apply some of this teaching.
  - Create an "advice column" for a newspaper report based on some of this teaching.

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

**Ch5** That Jesus Christ is the source of the Church's unity and holiness.

**R1** That love and service express love of God and a response to God's Word, and at times this will involve sacrifice.

**C10** That everyone is called to be a disciple, growing to be more like Jesus.

- Know some of the important sayings of Jesus to his disciples.
- Understand that Christians follow these teachings as they try to love God and neighbour
- Think of ways in which these teachings can be applied to daily living.

Explore other sayings of Jesus about his Father's Kingdom. Word process the words for display – "The Kingdom of Heaven is like ....."

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Mk. 4: 1-9, 13-20*

*Lk. 8: 4-8, 11-15* – The Parable of the Sower

*Mt. 13: 1-9, 18-23*

*Mt. 7: 21-27*

*Lk. 6: 46-49*

– The Parable of the House built on Sand and Rock

*Mt. 22: 1-14*

*Lk. 14: 15-24*

– The Parable of the King's Wedding Feast

## OTHER LINKS

History links: Find out about how houses were built at the time of Jesus. How different are they from the houses we might live in? Find out about the work of a sower in Jesus' day.

Drama links: Lots to do in this unit.

Art links: Create displays of the Parables for the school.

Multicultural links: Learn about important sayings in other Faiths.

## COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Share the work that has been completed through a School Assembly.
- Learn some hymns about the Kingdom of God.
- Reflect with the children on praying for God's Kingdom to come in the "Our Father".
- Use some of the Sayings of Jesus as part of a penitential prayer service.

## 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?**