

What is a parable?



A parable is a special kind of story.

A parable can be used to **teach** us things as we think about the deeper meaning of the story we have heard.

The parables Jesus told were usually stories about things that his listeners would be **familiar** with.

Some of the stories he told were about everyday things like:

a farmer sowing seeds,
a father and his two sons,
a shepherd losing one of his sheep,
a lady losing part of a precious piece of jewellery.



The people who listened would have been able to identify with the people in the story.

As people listened, Jesus wanted them to **think** about the **deeper meaning** of the story. It was not just about a farmer or a father or a lady. There was a **deeper meaning**.



Now **fill in** the missing words.

A parable is a _____ kind of _____ .

A parable can be used to _____ us.

The _____ Jesus told were usually _____ about things that his _____ would be _____ with.

Jesus wanted people to _____ about the _____ meaning contained in the parable.

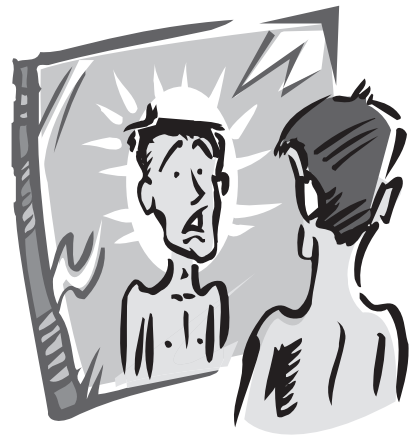


Jesus told parables

The parables Jesus told can teach us about different things. Christians believe that they can teach us about:

- God and what he is like.
- How we should treat others.
- Heaven and God's Kingdom.
- Ourselves and what we are really like.

A parable can be like a **mirror** that helps us to see what we are really like. Often we are not as 'good' as we like to think we are!



Jesus wanted people to **listen carefully** to his parables.



He also wanted them to **think** about the parables and what they might mean.



Then he wanted people to **put into practice** what they had learnt from the parable.

Jesus told parables



Now answer the questions below.

1. List four things that parables can teach us about.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

2. Write a sentence to explain how a parable can be like a mirror.

3. Beside each picture write down what Jesus wanted his listeners to do when they heard his parables.



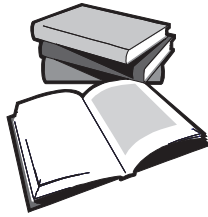






The Parable of the Sower

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Read Matthew chapter 13 v1 - 8.



Write your answers in the spaces below.



1. Where was Jesus sitting when he told this parable? (v2)

2. Who was Jesus talking to when he told this parable? (v2)

3. What happened to the seed that fell on the path? (v4)

4. Why did the seed that fell on the rocky ground sprout quickly? (v5)

5. Why did these young plants burn up in the sun? (v6)

6. What happened to the seed that fell among the thorn bushes? (v7)



7. Write down what happened to the seed that fell on the good soil. (v8)

But some seed fell on good soil, and _____

