

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN RESOURCE MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTS OF SYLLABUS

SECTION B: FOUNDATIONS OF RELIGION - CHRISTIANITY

PART 3: THE PERSON AND PREACHING OF JESUS

<b>Syllabus Aim</b>	To examine the meaning of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus for his followers, then and now. (Syllabus p14)
<b>Syllabus Objectives</b>	As a result of studying this section students should be able to identify the characteristics of the kingdom of God as preached by Jesus. (Syllabus p17)
<b>Key Concepts</b>	Kingdom of God – in parable
<b>Description of Content</b>	Identify the characteristics and meaning of the kingdom of God as preached and witnessed to by Jesus in word ... – in parable.
<b>Methodology</b>	A variety of methodologies are used including concept formation and interpretation of data. These methodologies were used so as to give students an opportunity to identify, explore and clarify the concepts and to structure and elaborate on their existing knowledge and understanding of the content.

**Procedure**

**Introduction**

Write 'Parable' on to the chalkboard and brainstorm the students for answers to the question:

What words or images come to mind when you think of a parable?

Take feedback from the students and note their understanding of parable on the chalkboard.

Present the students with one or more dictionary definitions of parable e.g.

*The Collins Dictionary* - "allegory, story with a moral lesson"

*The Oxford Dictionary* - "a story told to illustrate a moral lesson"

*The Universal English Dictionary* - "1. Brief narrative or story, conveying a spiritual or moral lesson, or illustrating some spiritual condition or relation.... 2. phrase with hidden meaning.... 3. Speech...."

*Student Assignment - Written / Oral:*

Pick any one of the words or images that came into mind when you think of a parable and describe how it is true to a dictionary definition of parable.

***The characteristics and meaning of the kingdom of God as preached and witnessed to by Jesus in word ... – in parable.***

In the time of Jesus many Jews were expecting the promised Messiah to make the Jewish nation into a great kingdom as it had been in the time of King David. When Jesus began preaching, he claimed: "The right time has come...and the kingdom of God is near!" (Mark 1:15) When Jesus spoke of the Kingdom of God, he meant the rule of God in peoples' lives, not a political kingdom.

*Student Assignment:*

Ask students to look up the following Bible references and write out in their own words what Jesus had to say about the kingdom of God (Matthew 6:33; Mark 10:15; Luke 17: 20-21; John 18:36).

Many of the parables in the Gospels are "parables of the kingdom" beginning "the kingdom of heaven is like..." In these short parables Jesus used situations from everyday life to illustrate something important

about God's Kingdom. Thus Jesus' parables are like allegories in so far as major elements of the story match some other reality. For example read the parable of the Sower: Luke 8:11-15.

Discuss: To whom is the Parable addressed? Do you find this significant?

Parables like this were an effective teaching method because they referred to everyday situations, which were relevant to the listeners and easy to remember. The spiritual truth within a parable was not always easily understood, even if the setting was familiar. Jesus' parables often hid their message within an entertaining story, unless the hearers really thought hard about it they could miss the meaning. These parables presented people with the challenge to take God's message seriously.

*Student Assignment:* Reread the parable of the Sower substituting the following words:

*First Reading*                      *Second Reading of the parable of the Sower*

- seed = word of God
- those on edge of path = those tempted by devil
- those on rocky ground = those whose faith can't take root; those who give up
- those on thorny ground = those whose worries, riches, pleasures choke their faith
- those on rich soil = those who take the word of God to heart and let it grow to great abundance

*Written Assignment:* Give students time to read the parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard (Luke 20:9-18) and explain what each of the following elements in the parable represent e.g. Vineyard = Israel.

®Vineyard owner ®Tenants ® Servants ® Son ® Death of Son ® Vineyard given to others ® Crushing by stone

Take feedback from the student assignment and explain that Jesus told several parables about the kingdom of God. Each had something different to tell us about the Kingdom. By exploring various examples we can build up a picture of the characteristics of the Kingdom of God. The parables listed below describe the Kingdom in Matthew's gospel.

*Student Assignment:*

Give students time to read a selection of these parables and discuss the following questions:

- |                               |          |                                 |          |
|-------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------|----------|
| The Weeds                     | 13:24-30 | The Hidden Treasure             | 13:44    |
| The Pearl                     | 13:45-46 | The dragnet                     | 13:47-48 |
| The unforgiving Servant       | 18:23-34 | The Workers in the Vineyard     | 20:1-6   |
| The Two Sons                  | 21:28-31 | Invitation to the Wedding Feast | 22: 1-2  |
| Man without a wedding garment | 22:2-14  | The ten bridesmaids             | 25:1-13  |
| The Sheep and the Goats       | 25:31-44 |                                 |          |

- What do you think Jesus is trying to say about the kingdom of God in these parables?
- Which of the parables describe God's nature, qualities, attitudes in dealing with people?
- Which of the parables describe how we should act if we hope to "enter the Kingdom"?
- Which of the parables describe people's relationships with one another and the world at large?
- Which of the parables describe the future coming of God's kingdom in its fullness?

*Written Assignment:* In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus tells us that the Kingdom:

- has small beginnings
- grows to huge proportions
- is worth giving up everything for
- has good and bad people within it.

Look up the parables in Chapter 13 of Matthew's gospel and match the statements below with the relevant parables.

The Kingdom	Parables in Chapter 13 of Matthew's Gospel :
- has small beginnings	
- grows to huge proportions	
- is worth giving up everything for	
- has good and bad people within it.	

Ask students to pick one of these parables and write a modern day version of it. Encourage them to try to get a balance between the story and the meaning. Take feedback from the students.

Divide the class into groups and give each group a couple of parables from the list below to research, guided by the questions that follow:

<i>Matthew</i>		<i>Mark</i>		<i>Luke</i>	
9:16-17	13:31-32	2:21-22	4:30-32	5:36-39	20:9-19
13:1-8	13:33	4:1-9	4:26-29	8:4-8	14:7-11
5:5	13:24-30	4:21	12:1-11	8:16	18:10-14
21:33	21:28-31			13:18-19	15:8-11
20:1-16	18:12-14			13:20-26	13:44
13:45-46	18:23-35			7:41-43	14:31-33
				14:28-31	17:7-10
				16:1-13	11:5-8
				18:1-8	

Discuss with your group regarding the parables you are dealing with:

1. What do you think is the most important moment in the story? Give reasons
2. What do you think is the most important message or meaning in this story?
3. Jesus told this story to explain something about the Kingdom of God. What do you think Jesus is trying to tell us about the Kingdom of God in this story?

Take feedback from the students.

*Resources which teachers have suggested include:*

A Time to Live New Christian Way Series 3 Veritas, pages 59-61, and 98-101.

All About Faith 1 Gill and Macmillan Series, pages 74-79, 81-88 and 92-95.

Community of Faith Veritas, pages 12-15, 99 and 101-104. .

Community of Hope Veritas, pages 34-49.

Logos.

Love One Another New Christian Way Series 1, Veritas, pages 34-40, 101-107, 110-113, and 115-122.

Show Us The Way New Christian Way Series 2 Veritas, pages 140-141, 146-156 and 215.

Teach Me Your Ways, The Light of the World Series 1 – Gill and Macmillan, Chapter 22.