

DAILY PRAYER & STUDY GUIDE
APRIL 1-MAY 5

Stories

for **LIFE**
finding wisdom in **Jesus' Parables**



Stories for Life

We live in a broken and crazy society, and we need wisdom to navigate it well. Jesus is a tremendous source of wisdom, which we can glean from his life and teachings. One portion of his teachings that really focuses on biblical wisdom is the parables. As Jesus told stories, he did so with a purpose; he did so with intentionality. To capture this wisdom and apply it to our lives, we are going to be studying most of the parables of Jesus. This study and prayer guide is designed to help you study and meditate on the parables and other biblical passages that convey similar themes, and it will also assist you in praying in response to God's truth.

Each Sunday, our sermon will be focused on one of the parables of Jesus. During the week leading up to that Sunday sermon, this guide will focus on that parable for three days (Monday, Wednesday, & Friday), and on the other three days (Tuesday, Thursday, & Saturday) it will focus on passages that convey very similar messages. So you will be learning from the parable as well as related Scripture. The guide will also help you pray in response to Scripture. During this series, we are encouraging everyone to pray for the entire Harvest church family, and each day some will be listed. Our missionaries are included in this alphabetical list and are marked by an asterisk (*). As you pray for Harvesters, we encourage you to shape your prayers around the biblical text we are focusing on that day, resulting in more opportunities to pray biblically. In *this* guide, unlike the last one, we are not providing sample biblical prayers—hopefully you will find joy and blessing in creating them yourself along the way.

You will notice that the questions are different on the “parable” days and the “non-parable” days—stay on your toes! Most of the parables stress one major point, and it would be good for you to study and think and pray about what that point is, as well as how it impacts your life. Indeed, Jesus told these stories FOR LIFE.

— THE PARABLE OF THE — SOWER



This parable gives the purpose of the parables and stresses that those who TRULY hear and understand God's Word will bear fruit.

MATTHEW 13:3-23

³ Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴ As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵ Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶ But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹ Whoever has ears, let them hear."

1. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of this parable. Then read it *several* times and meditate on it. Let it run through your mind and heart. Write a few *observations* about this parable.

2. What questions do you have about the parable?

3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:

- Richard & Norma Alamia
- Rodney & Zeela Andrade

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Mike Azzariti
 - Blake & Kali Badders (Lily & Lincoln)

1. Ask God for his help and read the parable again. What do we know (if anything) about the *context* for this parable?
2. What truths do you learn about GOD from this parable?
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Jerry & Tish Barber
 - Justin & Natalie Barber (Ayla, Judah, Matthias & Eliana)—Houston, TX*

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Duane Bitting
 - Lincoln Bitting

1. Prayerfully read the parable one more time. What is the main point (or points) that Jesus is making by telling this story?
2. Name at least one way you can apply the teaching of this parable to your life.
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Jim & Dee Blyth
 - Chris & Mary Bousman (Isla)—Papua New Guinea*

— THE PARABLE OF THE — WEEDS



This parable speaks of the separation of believers and unbelievers that will occur at the End of the world.

MATTHEW 13:24-30; 36-43

²⁴ Jesus told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. ²⁵ But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. ²⁶ When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. ²⁷ “The owner’s servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, didn’t you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?’ ²⁸ “‘An enemy did this,’ he replied. “The servants asked him, ‘Do you want us to go and pull them up?’ ²⁹ “‘No,’ he answered, ‘because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. ³⁰ Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.’”

1. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of this parable. Then read it *several* times and meditate on it. Let it run through your mind and heart. Write a few *observations* about this parable.

2. What questions do you have about the parable?

3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:

- Steve & Juanna Carpman
- Will & Melissa Cavanaugh (Kacie, Micah, Kinsey, Noah)

Tuesday, 4/9

Revelation 20:11-21:8

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Micah & Ruth Anna Chin (Elijah, Sophie, Noah, Lilah, & Judah)—Hickory Cove Bible Camp*
 - Maribell Chittenden

Wednesday, 4/10

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

1. Ask God for his help and read the parable again. What do we know (if anything) about the *context* for this parable?
2. What truths do you learn about GOD from this parable?
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Alex & Jessie Clay (Brant)
 - Liz Covington

Thursday, 4/11

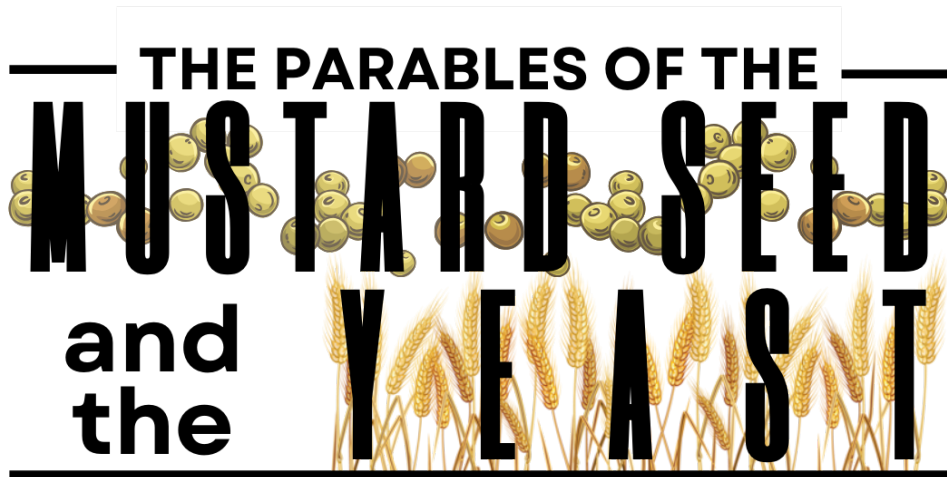
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Marcia Cox
 - Sherry Crater

Friday, 4/12

Matthew 13:24-30; 36-43

1. Prayerfully read the parable one more time. What is the main point (or points) that Jesus is making by telling this story?
2. Name at least one way you can apply the teaching of this parable to your life.
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Cathy Crewson
 - Tim & Linda Daniel



Both parables teach that God's Kingdom has small beginnings but a mature/huge end.

MATTHEW 13:31-35

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³² Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." ³³ He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

³⁴ Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. ³⁵ So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: "I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

1. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of these parables. Then read them *several* times and meditate on them. Let them run through your mind and heart. Write a few *observations* about these parables.

2. What questions do you have about these parables?

3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Ron & Nancy DuDonis
 - Nicki Fabry

Note: For this week only, the biblical passages for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday relate to the Lord's Supper to help prepare us for Communion next Sunday.

Tuesday, 4/16

Luke 22:1-16

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Zelalem & Emnet Feleke (Christian & Betsy)
 - Adrian & Jennifer Ford (Aidan & Asher)

Wednesday, 4/17

Matthew 13:31-35

1. Ask God for his help and read the parables again. What do we know (if anything) about the *context* for these parables?
2. What truths do you learn about GOD from these parables?
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Ondrej & Milina Franka—Serbia*
 - Peter & Miriam Fretheim—Nigeria*

Thursday, 4/18

Luke 22:17-30

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Takashi & Mariko Fukuda (Mitsuki & Kazuki)
 - Dave & Carol Garrott

Friday, 4/19

Matthew 13:31-35

1. Prayerfully read the parables one more time. What is the main point (or points) that Jesus is making by telling these stories?
2. Name at least one way you can apply the teaching of these parables to your life.
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - David & Ann Gatewood
 - Tim & Mary Gatewood (Charlotte & Elizabeth)

THE PARABLES OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE, PEARL and NET

The first two parables relay the incredible value of the kingdom of heaven, making it worthwhile to give everything for it. The parable of the Net describes the state of the kingdom when the Last Judgment comes, once again picturing the separation of the saved and the lost.

MATTHEW 13:44-52

⁴⁴ “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. ⁴⁵ “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. ⁴⁶ When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it. ⁴⁷ “Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ “Have you understood all these things?” Jesus asked. “Yes,” they replied. ⁵² He said to them, “Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old.”

1. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of these parables. Then read them *several* times and meditate on them. Let them run through your mind and heart. Write a few *observations* about these parables.

2. What questions do you have about these parables?

3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:

- Greg Glassman
- Peter & Becky Goins

Tuesday, 4/23

Luke 17:20-37

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Noel & Reina Gomez—Honduras*
 - Lorraine Gould

Wednesday, 4/24

Matthew 13:44-52

1. Ask God for his help and read the parables again. What do we know (if anything) about the *context* for these parables?
2. What truths do you learn about GOD from these parables?
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Cory & Amy Granata (Bryce, Addy, & Ty)
 - Roy & Susan Green

Thursday, 4/25

Luke 18:18-30

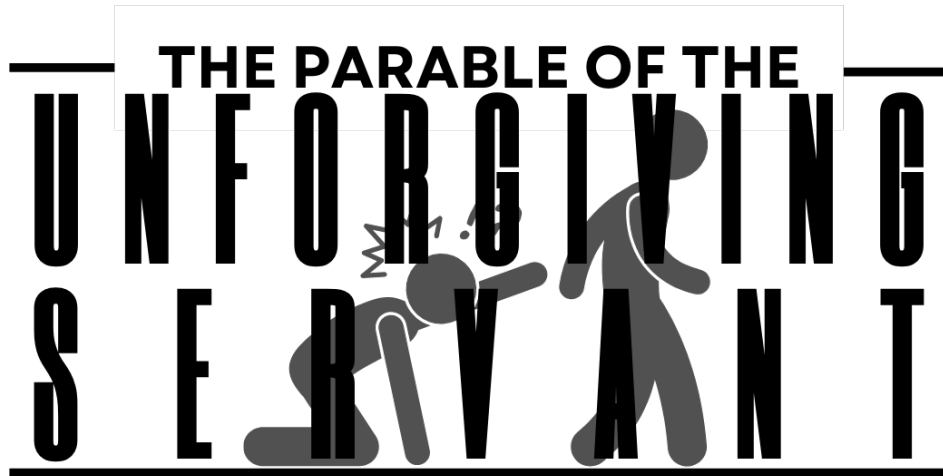
1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Sudheer Reddy Gundala
 - Jordan & Margaret Hall (Thomas, Peter, & John)

Friday, 4/26

Matthew 13:44-52

1. Prayerfully read the parables one more time. What is the main point (or points) that Jesus is making by telling these stories?
2. Name at least one way you can apply the teachings of these parables to your life.
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Neal & Beth Hambleton
 - Bob & Cheryl Hancock

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Nathan & Becky Hardenbrook (Lydia, Luke, Joshua, Samuel, & Ezra)
 - Tim & Carolyn Harrell (JJ)



**This parable shows our need to forgive others
since Christ has forgiven us so much more.**

MATTHEW 18:21-35

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” ²²Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. ²³“Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants...

1. Ask God to open your eyes to the truth of this parable. Then read it *several* times and meditate on it. Let it run through your mind and heart. Write a few *observations* about this parable.

2. What questions do you have about the parable?

3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Don & Sai Hill—Thailand*
 - Deanna Hillstrom

Tuesday, 4/30

Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Barry & Teresa Hutcherson
 - Grace Hutchinson

Wednesday, 5/1

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Ask God for his help and read the parable again. What do we know (if anything) about the *context* for this parable?
2. What truths do you learn about GOD from this parable?
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Bryan & Evelyng Huyhua (David & Nathan)—Peru*
 - Chris & Debbie Johnson—United States*

Thursday, 5/2

Luke 17:1-4

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Mike & Jennifer Jolly (Wesley, Ella, & Charlotte)
 - Ric & Michelle Jones

Friday, 5/3

Matthew 18:21-35

1. Prayerfully read the parable one more time. What is the main point (or points) that Jesus is making by telling this story?
2. Name at least one way you can apply the teaching of this parable to your life.
3. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Sheriffe & Hardaye Karim
 - Todd & Amy Keenan (Cohen, Luke, & Mae)

1. As you study the passage, write down observations and/or questions.
2. To apply the Bible, put on your Bible “SPECS” by looking for these things: (Some truth about God; Promise to claim; Example to follow; Command to obey; or Sin to confess and forsake):
3. Be still before the Lord.
4. Worship God based on what you learn about Him from this Scripture.
5. Based on the passage today, pray biblically for these Harvesters:
 - Daniel & Mary Kenyon (Cristal, Christopher, Alejandro, Dayana, & Mia)
 - Mark & Gratia Kirst (Ryan)