



2011

# **Go And Make Disciples**

**The Cross and Beyond**

## **Lesson 29: More of Jesus' Parables**

**Scripture**

Matthew 13:24-30  
 Matthew 13:36-52  
 Mark 4:21-25  
 Luke 8:16-18

**Memory Verse**

If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross every day and follow Me.  
 Luke 9:23 (NIRV)

**Lesson Goals**

Understand that a relationship with Jesus Christ is a priceless treasure.

Understand that once you decide to follow Jesus you should let your light shine.

Understand that there will be a day of judgment where those who refused Jesus will be separated from those who followed.

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

In our last lesson, we talked about Jesus telling stories. Do you remember what the stories are called? They are called *parables*. Do you remember what a parable is? It is an earthly story with a heavenly meaning. Where was Jesus when He told these stories? A huge crowd had followed Jesus to the shore of the Sea of Galilee. He got into a boat and pushed out from the shore. Jesus shared the parables from there.

“Jesus told the crowd another story.” (Matthew 13:24 NIRV) This story was about seeds, too, but the meaning was different. Jesus explained what the kingdom of heaven is like. The kingdom of God is the way life is supposed to be lived; it is also the way life will be lived in heaven one day.

As Jesus shared the parable, He talked about a man who planted his field with good seed. While everyone was asleep, though, his enemy came in and planted weeds in the same field. When the seed began to grow, the weeds grew up with the good seed. “The owner’s servants came to him. They said, ‘Sir, didn’t you plant good seed in your field? Then where did the weeds come from?’” (Matthew 13:27 NIRV) When they found out that an enemy had planted the weeds, they asked if they should pull them up. “No,” the owner answered. “While you are pulling up the weeds, you might pull up the wheat with them.” (Matthew 13:29 NIRV) The weeds would grow together with the good seed until it was time for the harvest. Then, the weeds would be bundled together to be burned. The wheat would be gathered into the owner’s barn.

When asked to explain the story, Jesus told His disciples that He was the one who planted the seed. The field is the world we live in. The good seed are those who belong to God, or who belong to His kingdom - Christians. The weeds are the people who belong to the devil, our enemy, the one who plants the weeds. “The harvest is judgment day. And the workers are angels.” (Matthew 13:39b NIRV) Judgment day will be like the weeds that were pulled up, bundled together and thrown into the fire. “The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather from His kingdom everyone who does wrong or causes others to sin.” (Matthew 13:41 CEV) These people will cry and be in pain and will be punished forever and ever. “But everyone who has done right will shine like the sun in their Father’s kingdom. If you have ears, pay attention!” (Matthew 13:43 CEV)

Jesus shared a few more parables. With one, He asked a question. “Who lights a lamp and then covers it up? Lamps are to be put where you can see them,” Jesus explained. “If you have ears, pay attention!,” Jesus said again. (Mark 4:23 CEV) And then, Jesus shared about a few more things that are pretty common. Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that is hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy.

### Application

Our memory verse says, "If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself. He must pick up his cross every day and follow Me." (Luke 9:23 NIV)

Do you want to follow Jesus? Maybe that is a decision you have already made. What does it really mean to follow Jesus?

First, it means saying no to yourself. It's impossible to put yourself first when you **follow** someone. Are you willing to say "no" to yourself and say "yes" to Jesus?

Second, it means to pick up your cross everyday. What?!

Let me ask you a few questions. Is a cross comfortable?

Is it easy? Is it something you ask for? No. No. No!

There are things that happen in life that are difficult and uncomfortable.

Follow Jesus anyway. This is especially when you need to follow Him.

And third, you follow. Following means that you don't stay in the same place, you move and grow. Will you commit to live this verse out in your own life?

So he went out and sold everything he had. And he bought that field." (Matthew 13:44 NIV) The next parable was almost exactly the same. Again, comparing the kingdom of heaven to an earthly action, Jesus said, "the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl." (Matthew 13:45-46 NIV)

Then, Jesus shared a parable that was a little different. This one was still about the kingdom of heaven but it was compared to a net, the kind that fishermen use. Just like fishermen do, the net was thrown out into the water and it caught all kinds of fish. The fishermen pulled it in when it was full. Then, they separated their catch. The good fish went into baskets. The fish that weren't worth eating were thrown away. That is what judgment day will be like. The angels will come and gather everyone together. The good (Christians, those who did what is right) will be separated from the bad (those who refused to believe and who did what is wrong). Christians will spend forever with God. Those who refused to believe in and follow Jesus will be separated from God and punished forever.

So, what do all these stories mean for me and for you? Well, there is a priceless treasure that is worth all we have to give. That treasure is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Our memory verse says, "If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself. . ." (Luke 9:23a NIV) The verses that follow explain a little more. They say, "If he wants to save his life, he will lose it. But if he loses his life for Me, he will save it. What good is it if someone gains the whole world but loses or gives up his very self?" (Luke 9:24-25 NIV) The choice is yours. And the choice is mine.

Once we choose to follow Jesus we should share the good news of Jesus' love with others. That's what the story about the lamp meant. Once you have the light of Christ inside, you don't hide it; you show it off. Others need to know what you know! The parables of the seed and of the net talk about the day we will all be judged. A separation will take place that day. Those of us who have chosen to follow Jesus Christ will spend eternity with Him. Those who refused will not. Judgment for them will be punishment and pain for eternity. Think of the people you know who don't know Jesus. Will you tell them?

### Preparing for the Next Lesson

A Miraculous Change!



## Preschool Lesson

### Teachers:

Bring a pearl. Bring lots of coins in a treasure chest.

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“Jesus told the crowd another story.” (Matthew 13:24 NIV) He talked about things that many people would understand. Jesus talked about something called “the kingdom of heaven”. He explained what it is like. The kingdom of heaven is the way life is supposed to be lived; it is also the way life will be lived in heaven one day. Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure that is hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again. He was very happy. So he went out and sold everything he had. And he bought that field.” (Matthew 13:44 NIV)

Jesus told another story. The next parable was almost exactly the same. Jesus said, “the kingdom of heaven is like a trader who was looking for fine pearls. He found one that was very valuable. So he went away and sold everything he had. And he bought that pearl.” (Matthew 13:45-46 NIV)

If you knew where a hidden treasure or an expensive pearl was, wouldn't you do the same? But remember, Jesus isn't really talking about hidden treasure or pearls. What could He be talking about then? There is a priceless treasure that is worth all we have to give. That treasure is a relationship with Jesus Christ. Knowing Jesus and following Him are more important than anything else.



## Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Help your students make red signs in the form of a stop sign. Rather than write “stop” on each, instruct your students to write the memory verse. They might even want to write the word “no” larger than all the other words. Be sure to include the reference.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring sunflower seeds for the snack today.
- Run a relay race. Form two or more teams. Provide a treasure box full of coins several yards away from the starting point of each line. Also provide a bucket for each team. Instruct each runner to run to the treasure box, grab a coin, run back and drop the coin in the bucket. The team with the most coins in the bucket, not around it, wins.
- Sing “I Will,” “The Wise Man Built His House Upon the Rock,” “Mighty to Save,” or another song related to the lesson.
- Find the Sea of Galilee on a map of Israel. In today’s lesson, Jesus is still in the same boat, telling stories. Bring pictures of the Sea of Galilee and its coastline. Talk about Jesus getting into a boat and pushing out into the water so that the crowd on the beach could hear Him.
- Make a chart from the parable of the seed. Compare the parable in Matthew 13:24-30 with its meaning in Matthew 13:36-43.

If anyone  
wants to follow Me,  
he must  
say no to himself.

He must pick up  
his cross every day  
and **FOLLOW ME.**

Luke 9:23

What do you call a  
heavenly story  
with  
an earthly meaning?

— — — — — — —

What do you call a  
heavenly story  
with  
an earthly meaning?

P A R A B L E



# Focus on the Story

○  
**Story Title:**

**Scripture References:**

**Main Characters:**

**Story Summary:**

When?

○  
Where?

What?

How?



# Word Search

K Y O H R W O S U T W N R T S  
S N E A S W O N L T A E N Y Y  
E G D V S H E N O Y N A E S T  
V D O N O J U S T L T S V E N  
L D W I R D R E C G S I E M H  
E K H O C W R T H I T L R A N  
S F L E S M I H O T O N Y A S  
R D T M I H E A W T F S D I S  
U O I A H E H H E E O U A N E  
O D T T P W O E V O L J Y G V  
Y N S T U O R W A U L T V S E  
L S A D K R R E M W O L L O F  
O H Y E C D P T E N W O I R L  
O Y S W I R P S T N M D D E W  
F S E V P E S R U O E L O O F

Find the underlined words from the memory verse in the puzzle above.  
For an added challenge, find each word or phrase twice!

If anyone wants to follow Me, he must say no to himself.

He must pick up his cross every day and follow Me.

Luke 9:23



# Word Search

K	Y	O	H	R	W	O	S	U	T	W	N	R	T	S
S	N	E	A	S	W	O	N	L	T	A	E	N	Y	Y
E	G	D	V	S	H	E	N	O	Y	N	A	E	S	T
V	D	O	N	O	J	U	S	T	L	T	S	V	E	N
L	D	W	I	R	D	R	E	C	G	S	I	E	M	H
E	K	H	O	C	W	R	T	H	I	T	L	R	A	N
S	F	L	E	S	M	I	H	O	T	O	N	Y	A	S
R	D	T	M	I	H	E	A	W	T	F	S	D	I	S
U	O	I	A	H	E	H	H	E	E	O	U	A	N	E
O	D	T	T	P	W	O	E	V	O	L	J	Y	G	V
Y	N	S	T	U	O	R	W	A	U	L	T	V	S	E
L	S	A	D	K	R	R	E	M	W	O	L	L	O	F
O	H	Y	E	C	D	P	T	E	N	W	O	I	R	L
O	Y	S	W	I	R	P	S	T	N	M	D	D	E	W
F	S	E	V	P	E	S	R	U	O	E	L	O	O	F

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# Preschool Word Search

R F I J T R E A S U R E  
T Y B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A P E A R L N T E W S  
R I V D I S H E N E D S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U S O M A N E O  
S T O R Y I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H B U Y I T R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E R D O R B N  
L C H I D D E N E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

JESUS

STORY

HIDDEN

TREASURE

PEARL

BUY IT



# Preschool Word Search

R F I J T R E A S U R E  
T Y B E Y L L E C T O R  
H A P E A R L N T E W S  
R I V D I S H E N E D S  
J L A O L I V F N Y L S  
Q J E S U S O M A N E O  
S T O R Y I V E N M R E  
S A Y T H B U Y I T R S  
M D I L T W E T E R T S  
D I E S S E R D O R B N  
L C H I D D E N E R S J  
R O M L N S H V E A R N

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BUY IT