

# The Parables of Jesus: A Printable Summary Guide

Jesus often used everyday stories to help people see what God is like and how we are called to live. This guide offers brief summaries and questions for personal reflection or group discussion.

A note on the Scripture: the verse summaries in this guide are plain-English paraphrases, not quotations from a particular Bible translation. Read each passage in your preferred Bible for its full wording and context.

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## The Good Samaritan

**Luke 10:25-37**

A traveller is left injured beside the road, and respected passers-by leave him there. A Samaritan stops, cares for him, and pays for his recovery.

**Main point: Love of neighbour is shown through practical compassion, even across social boundaries.**

Reflect: Who might need my practical care today?

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## The Prodigal Son

**Luke 15:11-32**

A younger son leaves home, wastes his inheritance, and returns expecting to be treated as a servant. His father welcomes him with joy, while the older brother struggles with the celebration.

**Main point: God's mercy welcomes those who turn back, and invites us to share in that welcome.**

Reflect: Is there someone I find difficult to welcome?

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## The Sower

**Matthew 13:1-23**

A farmer scatters seed across several kinds of ground, and the harvest differs according to where it lands. Jesus uses the soils to describe different ways people receive God's word.

**Main point: A receptive heart can nurture faith and bear good fruit.**

Reflect: What helps me receive and live out God's word?

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## The Mustard Seed

**Matthew 13:31-32**

A tiny mustard seed grows into a large plant where birds can shelter. Jesus compares God's kingdom to a small beginning that grows beyond expectation.

**Main point: God's work can begin in ways that seem small and grow in reach.**

Reflect: What small act of faithfulness can I begin?

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## The Lost Sheep

**Luke 15:3-7**

A shepherd leaves the ninety-nine sheep in open country to search for one that is lost. When he finds it, he rejoices and shares the joy with others.

**Main point: God seeks the lost and celebrates when they return.**

Reflect: How can I show care to someone who feels far away?

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## The Lost Coin

**Luke 15:8-10**

A woman searches carefully through her home until she finds a coin she had lost. Jesus compares her joy with heaven's joy when a sinner turns back to God.

**Main point: Every person matters, and turning back to God is cause for joy.**

Reflect: How might I help someone feel seen and valued?

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## The Talents

**Matthew 25:14-30**

A master entrusts different amounts of money to three servants before travelling. Two put the money to work, while one hides it, and the returning master responds to how each servant used what was entrusted.

**Main point: Use what has been entrusted to you faithfully and responsibly.**

Reflect: What gift or responsibility can I use well?

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## The Wise and Foolish Builders

**Matthew 7:24-27**

One builder lays a house on rock, while another builds on sand. When storms and floods come, the house on rock stands, showing the wisdom of hearing Jesus' words and acting on them.

**Main point: A strong foundation is built by putting Jesus' teaching into practice.**

Reflect: Which teaching of Jesus can I put into practice this week?

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## The Persistent Widow

**Luke 18:1-8**

A widow repeatedly asks a judge for justice, and he eventually grants her request despite his lack of concern. Jesus uses her persistence to encourage his followers to pray and not lose heart.

**Main point: Keep bringing your needs to God with trust and perseverance.**

Reflect: Where do I need encouragement to keep praying?

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## The Rich Fool

**Luke 12:13-21**

A wealthy man's land produces an abundant harvest, and he plans to store it all for himself. He dies before enjoying his plans, reminding listeners that life and true riches cannot be secured by possessions.

**Main point: A life centred on possessions misses what matters to God.**

Reflect: What does a rich life mean beyond what I own?

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## The Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

**Matthew 13:44-46**

A person finds treasure hidden in a field and sells everything to buy the field. A merchant searching for fine pearls finds one of great value and sells all he has to acquire it.

**Main point: God's kingdom is worth wholehearted commitment.**

Reflect: What might wholehearted commitment to God's kingdom look like for me?

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## The Unforgiving Servant

**Matthew 18:21-35**

A servant whose enormous debt is cancelled refuses to forgive a fellow servant who owes him far less. The king rebukes him, showing the seriousness of receiving mercy while withholding it from others.

**Main point: Those who receive mercy are called to extend mercy to others.**

Reflect: What could help me take a step towards forgiveness?