

Parables

Discussion Guide

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The Parables of the Figs & The Weeds

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Main Idea

A parable is a story that parallels a deeper spiritual truth. Jesus, in His wisdom and with a profound understanding of how the human heart and mind comprehend the truth, chose to speak in parables. They are meant to demystify the supernatural, by drawing a parallel with the natural. So today we are looking for deeper revelation in two parables: The Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, and The Parable of the Weeds.

Anchor Verse:

Then the disciples came up and asked him, "Why are you speaking to them in parables?" He answered, "Because the secrets of the kingdom of heaven have been given for you to know, but it has not been given to them. (Matthew 13:10-11, CSB)

Read Luke 13:6-9, Matthew 13:24-28

Stop Expecting Others To Be Responsible For Your Development

Spiritual laziness and apathy are real. You have to own it.

Hebrews 6:11-12

How are you owning your own spiritual development? What are the various ways that we can evaluate our growth?

Be Resourceful

Fertilizers help a plant RETAIN the nutrition it has received & supplement anything that's possibly lacking. (HC Groups, MidWeek Chapel, Bible Studies)

Read: Ecclesiastes 4:9

Who is embedded around you to keep you strong?

Protect Your Fruit

You must protect your good fruit because there is always an assignment of the enemy to choke it out. Don't fall asleep. Don't get distracted. Stay on mission.

Read: Matthew 13:13, 16

What fruit is your life producing? If you were to ask your closest friends, what do you think they would say?

SUMMARY

Truth was spoken to all - but revelation was only received by those who believed in and followed after Jesus. Real revelation only comes when you take a step closer. We have the truth and access to revelation. Sometimes you just need to dig around it, fertilize it, protect it, and let it grow to produce fruit.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Take a moment to examine your life since you gave it to Jesus. What kind of fruit have you been bearing? Grab your journal and write down some of those details.
2. As you take responsibility for your spiritual growth, begin to think of ways that your fruit can benefit others. (Think about who, when, and how.)
3. Consider taking advantage of some of the resources that we offer at Hope City: MidWeek Chapel, [HC Group](#), and [Bible Studies](#).

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

Game: Icebreaker Beach Ball

Icebreaker beach ball is one of the most fun outdoor games for small groups. This activity encourages participants to talk and interact. You will play this game using a beach ball with various questions or prompts written on it.

Here is how to play the game:

1. Inflate a beach ball, and write many prompts on it.
2. Participants will sit or stand in a circle.
3. The host will play music and start the game.
4. Players will randomly pass the beach ball around to one another.
5. When the music stops, the player with the ball must answer the question or perform the prompt.
6. Players will perform the prompt or answer the question under their right thumb.

You can tailor the questions or prompts to the specific group, but be sure to include getting-to-know-you questions or fun challenges.

Icebreaker beach ball is a great way to promote team building, improve communication, and create a relaxed and fun atmosphere. You can play this game at social gatherings and picnics. The game encourages participants to open up and share their thoughts and experiences, helping build connections and foster community.

<https://teambuilding.com/blog/outdoor-group-games>