

# Parables



## California Kid's Camp 2019 *Teen Workbook*

*"Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God"*

## **Preface**

This year, God willing, we are going to study some of the Parables of Jesus. In doing so, we will learn powerful lessons about diligence, responsibility, preparedness, faithfulness, forgiveness and compassion. We will learn to examine what's in our hearts, make plans for the future according to God's will, guard against covetousness, and to treasure the truth and the hope of the kingdom more than anything else!

Indeed, there is a great deal for us to learn if we commit ourselves to a careful study of the parables of Jesus. We hope that you will enjoy this study and benefit greatly from your preparation for a week of fellowship at Kid's Camp in June, God-Willing.

May God grant you wisdom and knowledge as you endeavor to more greatly understand His Word!

## Projects (Bring to Kid's Camp)

Choose one of the following projects to complete before camp. Please bring it with you to camp. Projects will be displayed in the main assembly room throughout the week.

- **Character Study**
  - a. Do a character study of how Yahweh's character is depicted in different ways in the parables we studied.
- **Theme Study**
  - a. Choose one of the themes from the parables and do a study on it. Be sure to follow the method of study and provide a summarization (learn, investigate, find the principle and apply the lesson).
- **Posters (choose one)**
  - a. Prepare a poster that lists all of the ways in which Jesus' parables showed the true character of the Jewish leaders of his day.
  - b. Prepare a poster with the title "The Kingdom of Heaven is Like", that highlights the parables which started with this phrase.
  - c. Prepare a poster highlighting the key principles and lessons from one of the parables.
- **Practical Lessons**
  - a. After completing your study of the parables, write and explain the top 5 lessons you learned, and how it will help you in your daily life at home and at school.
- **Diorama**
  - a. Make diorama box depicting one of the parables, using whatever materials you want. Include labels to highlight the main features and principles of the parable (for example if you did the sower, label the different types of ground and what they represent, etc.). Write a summary of the lessons you learned from the parable, and how it will help you in your daily life at home and at school.



## Tools

Tools you will need to complete your workbook

- A good attitude and an open mind
- A plan (see next couple of pages)
- A King James Bible (fill in the blanks are from this version)
- Also recommend another version such as RSV, NASB, or ESV to compare any difficult passages
- A Strong's "Exhaustive" Concordance.  
(there are many phone apps, programs and websites where you can quickly search for passages and determine the original meanings such as:
  - <http://www.e-sword.net>
  - <http://www.biblestudytools.net/Concordances/StrongsExhaustiveConcordance/>
- A Bible Atlas/Bible Dictionary  
(can find online also)



## Method of Study

Our reading and study of God's word should always begin with prayer!

The way in which we study our Bible makes a great difference in what we learn and can readily apply. Sometimes, we find ourselves frustrated or confused as to what the passage is talking about. More often than not, this is because we are not following a structured method. For our studies, we will follow a simple method of study, which has been adapted from Uncle Roger Lewis' which he talks about in his "How to be a Good Bible Student" class. The method is outlined below:



1. **Read the passage** completely, without stopping



2. **Learn** the passage by reading it carefully, asking questions. Put yourself in the shoes of those who were there... see the story from their perspective.



3. **Investigate** the passage by looking up the meanings of names, places, important cross-references, relevant facts, Bible themes, etc.



4. **Find the Principle** contained the passage. What general principles are taught?



5. **Apply the Lesson** – apply the principle to us. What is the exhortation? How can this instruct us in our everyday life?



## Plan

### Guidelines

- You should be able to complete 4-6 pages per hour. If you worked on the workbook for 20 minutes per day, you would be done with loads of time to spare.

### Set Goals

- Use the guidelines above to help you set a weekly goal for how much you need and want to accomplish. Review your goal with your advisor(s) at the beginning and end of each week
- Use the goal chart on the next page

### Tips

- Don't forget to pray to God for understanding!
- Use a PENCIL – that way you can correct mistakes
- If you get stuck on a question, put a star (\*) next to it and move on to the next. When you have completed the section, go back and try again.
- HAVE FUN!

### If you find it hard

- Be sure you are answering the questions using a King James Version Bible. This is also called the “Authorized Version”. Of course, you should consult other versions to help understand the meaning, but the fill-in-the-blanks are all from the King James Version.
- Ask for assistance if you are truly stuck!!!

## Goal Chart

Use the following chart to set and track your progress

[illegible]

## Matthew 13:1-23 – The Sower



Begin by reading Matthew 13:1-23



Learn



Where was Jesus when he told this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was he there? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was/were standing? Who was/were sitting? \_\_\_\_\_

“A sower went forth to sow”. Explain in your own words what it means to “sow”?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the following table from the parable

Type of Ground	Description	What Happened

Following the parable, what question did the disciples ask Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus answered: “Because it is \_\_\_\_\_ unto \_\_\_\_\_ to know the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. But to them it is \_\_\_\_\_. For whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ to him shall be



\_\_\_\_\_, and he shall have \_\_\_\_\_: but whosoever \_\_\_\_\_, from him shall be \_\_\_\_\_ even that he \_\_\_\_\_. Therefore speak I to them in parables, because they \_\_\_\_\_ not ; and \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ not, neither do they \_\_\_\_\_”.

This is a fulfillment of what prophet’s words? \_\_\_\_\_

After repeating the prophecy, Jesus said: “But \_\_\_\_\_ are your \_\_\_\_\_, for they \_\_\_\_\_: and your \_\_\_\_\_, for they \_\_\_\_\_.”

What had many prophets and righteous men desired to see and hear? \_\_\_\_\_

After this explanation, Jesus went on to explain the parable of the sower. Fill out the table with exactly what he said each type of ground represents:

Type of Ground	Represents
The way side	
Stony	
Thorns	
Good	



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** You’ll find this question at the beginning of every section. Use your marginal references, concordance, or Harmony of the Gospels to find the parallel accounts.

What is a parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Parables are used as a teaching device a number of times in the scriptures. Can you think of some parables from the Old Testament? List the passages here: \_\_\_\_\_

In Matthew 12, what had the Jewish leaders accused Jesus of? (v24) \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said in v31-32 that this accusation amounted to blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. In what way did it do that? (think about what the Holy Spirit is) \_\_\_\_\_

Note: these events marked a change in the teaching of Jesus, where he spoke in parables, and so Matthew 13 begins with “the same day...”

In v9, after giving the parable of the sower, Jesus said: “Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.” What do you think he meant by this? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus references a prophecy of Isaiah in v14-15. Use your marginal references or other resources to find the reference in Isaiah: \_\_\_\_\_

See also verse 34 which is clear that Jesus is not only speaking parables to the leaders but to the people also. What other old testament passage is quoted from in v34? \_\_\_\_\_

From the context of that passage, what past generation of Israel is Jesus basically saying the current generation is like? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***The Sower***

Search through chapter 13. How many times can you count the words hear, heard, hearing. What can we infer then is the response Jesus desired from this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up “thorns” in the concordance. When did thorns become an issue on the earth (after what)? \_\_\_\_\_

Who else reaped a hundred-fold harvest? (Genesis 26:12) \_\_\_\_\_



### Find the Principle

Research the phrase “mystery” in the New Testament. What are the “mysteries of the kingdom of heaven”?

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Explain in your own words what Jesus is saying in v11-13. It seems kind of backwards when you first read it.

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Spiritual blindness and hardening of heart were happening to the Jewish leaders, who had ample opportunities to change from their ways and embrace Jesus as their Messiah. Now that they had not only rejected Jesus, but the power behind the miracles – the way forward was through parable. The simple, the teachable would recognize the essence of truth taught through the everyday experience, lessons of the kingdom of God. But the understanding would be lost on the self-righteous leaders and those unwilling to accept Jesus and his teaching.

Read John 12:37-43. What were some other reasons the chief rulers did not confess their belief in Jesus?

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As we go through the parables, it will be sad to see the reactions of the Jewish leaders, and to see that many of the parables were demonstrating their failures, and that of the nation, including their crucifixion of Jesus himself. Read Romans 11:7-11. What was the result for us of their fall? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read Romans 11:25-29. Is this blindness for Israel permanent? \_\_\_\_\_

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*The Sower*

What does the seed represent and Who does the sower represent? (provide some passages to support your answer... hint part of the answer is found in a parallel account)

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Why do you think Jesus doesn't explain who the sower is in this parable? (but he does in the parable of the tares) \_\_\_\_\_

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### *The Wayside*

What is the main cause of a hardened heart (Hebrews 3:12-13)? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who then is the "Wicked one"? (Luke 8:12->John 6:70) \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Stony*

Luke 8:6 (a parallel account) informs us that the stony ground was a challenge due to lack of moisture. This is why the roots didn't have the chance to grow deep. On the spiritual level, what does water / moisture represent? (Deuteronomy 32:1-2) how is that critical to our developing deep roots? (see also Ephesians 3:16-19, Colossians 2:6-7) \_\_\_\_\_

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How do "deep roots" in the word of God prepare us for trials ahead? \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Thorns*

The parallel accounts expand on what the thorns represent. List the additional points made in the parallel accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

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When a plant is in danger of being overtaken by thorns, what can be done to ensure the plant's survival?

How does this principle relate to overcoming the thorns in our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

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*Good ground*

What aspect of the good ground eases our minds on what God expects of us? How does that also help us to avoid comparing ourselves to others? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Apply the Lesson**

The parable of the sower should make us ask ourselves the question “what kind of ground am I”? Surely, we all want to be good ground. What can we do to avoid being the wayside, stony, and thorny ground? What can we do to ensure we are good ground? For each of the types of ground, we no doubt recognize challenges in our lives. In the table below, list some challenges from each type of ground, and what we need to do to meet that challenge with God’s help!

Type of Ground	Personal Challenge	What to do?
The way side		
Stony		
Thorns		
Good		



## Luke 16:1-18 – The Unjust Steward



Begin by reading Luke 16:1-18



Learn

What accusation against the steward had been brought to the attention of the rich man? \_\_\_\_\_



What does it mean to “give account” of the stewardship? \_\_\_\_\_

When the steward realized he would be losing his job, what options did he think he had? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he decide to do in the end? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he hope would happen? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the table of debtors, debts and how their bill was written down

Debtor	Debt	Write-down
1 <sup>st</sup>		
2 <sup>nd</sup>		

“And the lord \_\_\_\_\_ the unjust steward, because he had done \_\_\_\_\_: for the \_\_\_\_\_ of this \_\_\_\_\_ are in their \_\_\_\_\_ than the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.”

Jesus begins his commentary on the parable.

“And I say unto you, make to yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; that, when ye \_\_\_\_\_, they may \_\_\_\_\_ into \_\_\_\_\_.”

Jesus said that “he that is faithful in that which is least” would also be “faithful” in what? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said that “he that is unjust in that which is least” would also be “unjust” in what? \_\_\_\_\_

He said if they “have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_”.

And if they “have not been faithful in that which is another man’s, who shall \_\_\_\_\_ you that which is your \_\_\_\_\_?”

What did he say would be the result of trying to serve two masters? \_\_\_\_\_

What were the two masters he was referring to here? (v13) \_\_\_\_\_

What characteristic of the Pharisees is mentioned in v14? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the Pharisees do against Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

He said: “Ye are they which \_\_\_\_\_ yourselves before \_\_\_\_\_; but \_\_\_\_\_ knoweth your \_\_\_\_\_ for that which is \_\_\_\_\_ esteemed among \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.”

What did he say were “until John”? \_\_\_\_\_

What had been happening since that time? \_\_\_\_\_

What is easier to happen then “one tittle of the law to fail”? \_\_\_\_\_

Before continuing with the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus, which we will look at later, Jesus said:

“Whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ away his \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ another, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_: and whosoever \_\_\_\_\_ her that is \_\_\_\_\_ from her \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_”



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Look up “Steward” in your concordance. What is a “Steward”? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the term “write-down” and “devalue” in a dictionary. Write the definitions here. In what way had the unjust steward “written-down” and “devalued” what was owed to the rich man? \_\_\_\_\_



What is surprising about the reaction of the “Lord” when he discovers what the Steward has done?

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In what way had the unjust steward behaved “wisely”? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there any way in which the unjust steward behaved in a “morally” wise way? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the word “generation” mean (v8)? \_\_\_\_\_

Use your concordance to find out what “mammon” is? \_\_\_\_\_

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What is a “title” of the law? \_\_\_\_\_



### Find the Principle

As we try to find a satisfactory interpretation to this parable and Jesus’ comments on the parable, it’s important for us to try to support our ideas with scriptures “comparing scripture with scripture”. It’s also helpful to re-read in as many versions as possible. Do your best and try to think clearly and logically. Who do you think the rich man represents in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

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Who do you think the unjust steward represents? (v14) \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the “children of the world” and what is their generation? (John 8:44) \_\_\_\_\_

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Who are the “children of light”? (Ephesians 5:8-17, John 12:36) \_\_\_\_\_

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Based on your research, try to explain what v8 means: \_\_\_\_\_

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What do you think “unrighteous mammon” is referring to (Matthew 6:24, 1 Timothy 6:9-10)?

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Who are the “friends” the Bible warns us not to have? (James 4:4) \_\_\_\_\_

Who are the “friends” we definitely want to have? (John 15:13-15, James 2:23) \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the only one who can receive us into “everlasting habitations” (John 17:2)? \_\_\_\_\_

Based on your research, try to explain what V9 means: \_\_\_\_\_

What are the “true riches” (Ephesians 1:18)? \_\_\_\_\_

How can we be “faithful” in the “unrighteous mammon” (1 Timothy 6:17-19)? \_\_\_\_\_

The “Law and the Prophets” exclusively focused on who? (Romans 3:1-2). \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning with the preaching of John the Baptist, and through Christ, who would it be extended to? (Luke 1:76-79, Luke 13:28-29, Romans 1:16, Matthew 21:43) \_\_\_\_\_

The Pharisees “devalued” the truth of the word, and “valued” the riches of this life (that which is highly esteemed among men), and the praise of men more than God. Their “devaluing” of the truth involved laying aside the commandments of God in order to satisfy the tradition of men (Mark 7:6-13). Why do you think Jesus had to remind them of the principles of divorce and remarriage in V18? (Matt 19:3-12)



### Apply the Lesson

List some scenarios/responsibilities that you have that are part of your everyday life where it is important to be trustworthy/faithful (for example, being honest about a take-home test when no one is watching, giving correct change back to your parents when they gave you a \$20 to buy a snack, etc.) then for each of those scenarios/responsibilities, how does that relate to what Jesus is saying in v9-11?

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How can “lowering the bar” in our commitment to first principle doctrines or in the application of God’s word, be just like the unjust steward’s actions? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Matthew 18:23-35 – The Unforgiving Servant



Begin by reading Matthew 18:23-35



Learn

What is the kingdom of heaven “likened unto” in this parable?

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A man is brought to the king, and how much did he owe?

What was the punishment to be as he could not pay? \_\_\_\_\_

What 3 things did the steward do/say to the king?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

How did the king react? And what did the king do? \_\_\_\_\_

In the meantime, the steward had a fellow-servant who owed him how much? \_\_\_\_\_

What 3 things did the steward do/say to his fellow-servant?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What was the response of the fellow-servant? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the steward have compassion on him? What did he do? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the king find out what had happened? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the king say to the steward? \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how the king was feeling? \_\_\_\_\_



What did the king do to him? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus say the lesson was? \_\_\_\_\_



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

What topic was Jesus discussing with his disciples immediately before giving this parable and how does that topic relate to this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

What does it mean to “take account of his servants”? \_\_\_\_\_

The fact that the steward is “brought” before the king indicates what? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a “talent”? \_\_\_\_\_ see if you can find out how much that is in today’s \$

What is a “pence”? \_\_\_\_\_ see if you can find out how much that is in today’s \$

The steward owed: \_\_\_\_\_ that steward’s fellow-servant in turn owed him: \_\_\_\_\_

The steward’s sin had the possibility to affect his family. Can you think of some examples in the Bible where someone’s sin had repercussions on their family? (e.g. Numbers 16:27, Joshua 7:24) \_\_\_\_\_

When the king initially pronounced judgment on the steward, he knew the steward could not pay so he, and his family would be sold as slaves, and their property sold, and that would be the payment. When the steward pronounced judgment on his fellow-servant, he commanded him to be cast into prison, until he should pay the debt. Would it be possible for that man to repay while in prison? What does this tell us about what the steward is more interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

Who does the king represent in the parable? (v35) \_\_\_\_\_



### Find the Principle

In verse 26, the steward offered to “repay all”. What issue was he not taking accountability for? (hint: if we shoplift a pair of shoes, then offer to pay for them after getting caught, will the police let us go as long as we pay for them?) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The debt owed by the steward was an impossible debt to repay. How is this like the debt we owe God because of our sins? (Psalm 49:6-8)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What aspects of Yahweh’s character come out perfectly in this parable? (Exodus 34:6-7, Romans 11:22)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How did Jesus use this parable to cause us all to examine our lives and how we treat one another?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Peter had asked in v21, “how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?”. Jesus’ response was no – until “seventy times seven”. In other words, there is no limit. Jesus then tells this parable where the steward is forgiven a huge debt, but can’t find it in himself to forgive a relatively smaller debt. At the conclusion of the parable, he emphasizes the key principle of forgiving “from the heart”. What does that mean? What is the difference between telling someone you’ve forgiven them, and forgiving them “from the heart”? (Use some scriptures to support your answer)

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### Apply the Lesson

Have you ever had a situation where you felt you couldn't forgive someone for something they did to/against you? How will the study of this parable help you in that or future situations? What kind of spirit should we have towards others, knowing that God has provided a way for our impossible debt of sin to be forgiven?

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## Matthew 21:1-46 – The Fig Tree, Two Sons, Vineyard



Begin by reading  
Matthew 21



Learn

### *The Fig Tree*

The first part of this chapter (v1-12),

what does Jesus do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



After that, what does he do? (v12-17) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

The next day, when Jesus saw a fig tree bearing no fruit, what did he say to it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What then happened to the fig tree? \_\_\_\_\_

When the disciples were amazed at what happened, Jesus told them if they had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

they would be able to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ ye shall \_\_\_\_\_”.

### *The Two Sons*

What was the question the chief priests and elders asked Jesus that preceded the parable of the two sons?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus initially answered their question by posing his own question to them. What was it, and why did they not want to answer it? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

When they refused to answer, Jesus said: \_\_\_\_\_



Then he immediately went into the parable of the two sons. As he introduced the parable, what did he say to them? \_\_\_\_\_

In the parable, what did the “certain man” say to both his sons? \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out the table with the initial response and what each of the sons actually did:

Son	Initial Response	What They Did
First		
Second		

When Jesus asked them which one did the will of his father, what did they answer? \_\_\_\_\_

Then Jesus told them who would go into the kingdom of God before them? \_\_\_\_\_

(v32) “For \_\_\_\_\_ came unto you in the way of \_\_\_\_\_, and ye \_\_\_\_\_ him not: but the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ believed him: and \_\_\_\_\_, when ye had \_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_ not afterward, that ye might \_\_\_\_\_ him”.

### *The Vineyard*

Then Jesus tells a parable about a certain householder who planted a vineyard. List all the things that he did to his vineyard: \_\_\_\_\_

Who did he lend it out to? \_\_\_\_\_ where did he then go? \_\_\_\_\_

At what point in time did he send his servants to the husbandmen? And what were they supposed to do? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the husbandmen do to the first three servants (and more)? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did the householder eventually send and what was his reasoning for doing that? \_\_\_\_\_

What did they say/do when they saw his son? \_\_\_\_\_

What would happen to the husbandmen when the householder returns? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said (v42) “Did ye never \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_ which the \_\_\_\_\_, the same is become the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_: this is the \_\_\_\_\_ doing, and it is \_\_\_\_\_ in our \_\_\_\_\_?”

What would be taken from them and who would it be given to? \_\_\_\_\_

(v44) “And \_\_\_\_\_ shall \_\_\_\_\_ on this \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_: but on \_\_\_\_\_ it shall \_\_\_\_\_, it will \_\_\_\_\_ him to \_\_\_\_\_”

Who figured out that Jesus was actually talking about them? \_\_\_\_\_

What did they want to do to Jesus when they heard his parables? Why didn't they? \_\_\_\_\_



### **Investigate**

Find any parallel accounts (where these parables occur in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Fig Tree***

Research the Fig tree in the Bible. What does the Fig tree represent? \_\_\_\_\_

Read: Matt. 3:8, 7:15-20, John 15:1-17. What does “Bearing fruit” represent? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Two Sons***

How does the parable of the two sons fit with the parable of the vineyard? \_\_\_\_\_

*Vineyard*

Research the “Vineyard” in the Bible (e.g. Isaiah 5:1-7). What does the “Vineyard” represent? Note any similarities between Isaiah 5 and Matthew 21: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who was the true owner of the land of Israel? (Leviticus 25:23) \_\_\_\_\_

If the Vineyard represents God’s people, the “husbandmen” must be their leaders. When they act selfishly and not one with God’s purpose, they are “wicked husbandmen”. In Jesus’ day, who do the “wicked husbandmen represent”? \_\_\_\_\_

The servants that were sent by the owner and mistreated by the wicked husbandmen represent who? (e.g. 2 Chronicles 36:15-16) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Who does the son represent and what event is foreshadowed in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Where else in scripture was someone, like the son, cast out of his own inheritance and killed? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The “stone which the builders rejected” is a quotation from where? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a “chief cornerstone”? \_\_\_\_\_

Where else in scripture do we see a stone that is “cut without hands”, cause destruction and “break in pieces” or grind to dust? \_\_\_\_\_

What do all three of these parables have in common? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Find the Principle**

**Fig Tree**

What was Jesus showing would happen to Israel if they didn’t bear fruit for God? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What spiritual attribute was Jesus trying to impart to his disciples in this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus instructed his disciples that through faith they could remove a mountain and cast it into the sea.

What is the greatest “mountain” in our lives to be overcome, which through Christ can be cast into the sea?

And how does it relate to faith? (Micah 7:18-19) \_\_\_\_\_

### *Two sons*

Which of the two sons is like the leaders of Israel at that time? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Who do you think the other son represents? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Vineyard*

How does the parable of the husbandmen teach us about the longsuffering and patience of God towards His people, Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

Read John 15:1-10. Here, Jesus teaches us that he is the true vine and we are the branches, and God is the husbandmen. We speak often of “glorifying God” – how does this passage say God is glorified? \_\_\_\_\_

The concluding part of this passage (v43-44) is the key lesson from these three parables. What is Jesus saying is going to happen (Acts 28:26-28)? \_\_\_\_\_

Some harsh truths were being delivered to the leaders of Israel in these parables. What indications do we have that some of them actually understood the meaning? (e.g. v45, Luke 20:16) \_\_\_\_\_

Explain how 1 Peter 2:4-10 fits with this parable. Jesus Christ is the chief corner stone of what? How do we fit into it? \_\_\_\_\_



### Apply the Lesson

#### *Fig Tree + Vineyard*

List some of the ways in which God's word can "bear fruit" in our lives. This requires effort on our part to be committed to the process. What will happen if we don't "bear fruit"?

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#### *Two Sons*

The first son didn't follow through on his commitment to his father. Have you ever said you would do something and then failed to follow through? How can thinking of this parable help you to keep your commitments? \_\_\_\_\_

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Luke 12:13-48 - Rich Fool, Watchful Servants,  
Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant



Begin by reading Luke 12:13-48



Learn

How many people were gathered to hear what Jesus had to say? (v1) \_\_\_\_\_

One of the multitude asked Jesus to do what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus reply to him? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus then said to the crowd: "Take heed and beware of \_\_\_\_\_: for a man's \_\_\_\_\_  
consisteth not in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the things which he \_\_\_\_\_

***Rich Fool***

What happened to the ground of a certain rich man? \_\_\_\_\_

What problem did he realize he would have? \_\_\_\_\_

What solution did he come up with? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

After this, he determined: "And I will say to my \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, thou hast much \_\_\_\_\_ laid up for  
\_\_\_\_\_ years; take thine \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and be \_\_\_\_\_"

But what did God say to him? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What was the lesson Jesus gave at the end of the parable? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Then, from verse 22-30, Jesus speaks to his disciples about not worrying about what? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What examples does he give them to reassure them that God will provide for them? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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Luke 12:13-48 - The Rich Fool, Watchful Servants, Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant

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(v31) "But rather seek ye the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_; and all these \_\_\_\_\_ shall be \_\_\_\_\_ unto you"

"Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." Luke 12:32

They were too (v33) "\_\_\_\_\_ that ye have, and \_\_\_\_\_, provide yourselves \_\_\_\_\_ which \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_. " a "\_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ not, where no \_\_\_\_\_ approacheth, neither \_\_\_\_\_ corrupteth."

(v44) "For where your \_\_\_\_\_ is, there will your \_\_\_\_\_ be also."

Jesus then told them: V35: "Let your \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_ about, and your \_\_\_\_\_"

***Watchful Servants***

Then he told them a parable to tell them they needed to be like watchful servants.

In the parable, who are the servants waiting for? \_\_\_\_\_

Where has he been? \_\_\_\_\_

What will he do when he returns? \_\_\_\_\_

What will the servants do for him? \_\_\_\_\_

How will the lord react if he finds his servants being watchful? \_\_\_\_\_

What will he do for his servants? \_\_\_\_\_

Even if he comes in the \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ watch, and find them watching, they will be \_\_\_\_\_

What would the "goodman" of the house have done if he knew what hour the thief would come? \_\_\_\_\_

(v41) What did Peter then ask Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

***Faithful and Wise servant***

In response, Jesus continues with the servant theme parable: "Who then is that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ steward, whom his lord shall make \_\_\_\_\_ over his \_\_\_\_\_, to give them their \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ in due \_\_\_\_\_?"

What will the lord do to/for him if he finds him so doing when he comes? \_\_\_\_\_

***Evil Servant***

Jesus then contrasts the faithful servant with an evil servant who does the opposite - who says in his heart:

What did he do to the other servants? \_\_\_\_\_

What else did he do? \_\_\_\_\_

For that kind of servant, the lord will come:

a. In a day when \_\_\_\_\_

b. At an hour when \_\_\_\_\_

What will the lord do to him? \_\_\_\_\_

Who would be beaten with “many stripes” \_\_\_\_\_

Who would be beaten with “few stripes” \_\_\_\_\_

What is the criteria of judgment? \_\_\_\_\_



### **Investigate**

Find any parallel accounts (where these parables occur in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the words for “Master” (v13) and “Judge” (v14). How are they related? \_\_\_\_\_

How did this man’s request (v13) relate to the parable that came immediately after? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Rich fool***

Covetousness is a problem for the flesh. Where else in the scriptures are we warned about this? (Exodus 20:17, find at least 3 more references) \_\_\_\_\_



## Luke 12:13-48 - The Rich Fool, Watchful Servants, Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant

Count and highlight in your Bible the number of times the rich fool says “I” and “my”. What does this indicate about where he thinks the source of his wealth is coming from? \_\_\_\_\_

Who in the Old Testament was called a “fool”, was unwilling to use his wealth to help others, and had a similar sudden fate? (1 Samuel 25) \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Watchful servants***

The watchful servants are waiting for their lord to return from a wedding. How is that different from the parable of the 10 virgins? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the “second” or “third” watches of the night? What does this tell us about how long the wait could be? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up “Goodman of the house” what does it mean? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Faithful servant***

Lookup “Steward” in your concordance? Is this the same word as used in the parable of the “unjust steward”? How is the “steward” different from the “goodman of the house” and what are the “steward’s” responsibilities? \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Evil Servant***

How is the attitude of the evil servant like the “scoffers” of 2 Peter 3:3-4? \_\_\_\_\_



### **Find the Principle**

#### ***Rich fool***

What does Psalm 62:10 exhort us if we suddenly become rich? \_\_\_\_\_

The fact that the rich fool was blessed by an abundant harvest, needing additional barns was not the point of this parable. What was it about the attitude of the man, and the “imagination” of his heart that made him a “fool”? \_\_\_\_\_

## Luke 12:13-48 - The Rich Fool, Watchful Servants, Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant

How does James 4:13-15 get to the heart of Jesus' point with the parable of the rich fool? What's the lesson?

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Contrast the "thoughts" of the rich fool with David's perspective in 1 Chronicles 29:11-15. \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***Watchful servants***

Where in scripture is the return of Christ referred to as a "thief in the night", and the exhortation to "watch"? \_\_\_\_\_

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Is there a way to avoid Christ's return being like a "thief in the night" for us? (Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 and explain in your own words)

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### ***Faithful and wise servant***

"to give them meat in due season"

a. what does this phrase mean? (look up in other translations/concordance) \_\_\_\_\_

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b. How can this apply to our teaching/instructing others in the truth? (1 Corinthians 3:1-2, Hebrews 5:12-14) \_\_\_\_\_

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c. How is this an example of how God instructed Jesus? (Isaiah 50:4) \_\_\_\_\_

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### ***Evil servant***

## Luke 12:13-48 - The Rich Fool, Watchful Servants, Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant

Both the Rich fool and the Evil servant's problems begin with the seed of a "thought" in their "heart" that then was allowed to germinate and grow – into either selfish plans, or wicked actions.

- a. What does Jeremiah 17:9 tell us about our "heart"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. The seed thoughts for the Rich fool and Evil servants are the natural thinking of the flesh. What has to happen to avoid letting those "seeds" germinate in our mind? How did Paul describe this battle in Romans 7:14-25? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- c. Explain how this relates to the "enmity" promised in Genesis 3:15? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

"Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required:" is a foundation principle of how God works with us. Explain what this means for someone who has grown up in the truth and has had all the advantages such as being able to go to kids camp, etc. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### Apply the Lesson

How many times have our parents or aunts / uncles reminded us that our plans are "God willing" or "Lord willing"? How will the study of the rich fool help you to remind yourself of that fact when thinking about, or talking about, our plans for the future? How does prayer help us in this regard?

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## Luke 12:13-48 - The Rich Fool, Watchful Servants, Faithful *and* Wise Servant, Evil Servant

When no adults are around to check our behavior, it can be tempting to act (in some ways) like the evil servant and allow the flesh to get the better of us, in how we treat other young people, our siblings or classmates. Who is always watching, even when we are by ourselves? What are some passages that help to remind us of this fact? Will the parable of the evil servant remind you to do the right thing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Do you ever feel like Jesus' return must be so far away in the future... because we've been waiting so long already? What can we do to make his return feel like it could be any day? (because it actually could be) What are some ways we can be "watchful" so that when he does return, we are ready? How can passages like 2 Peter 3:8-9 help us?

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## Matthew 7 – Moat and Beam



Begin by reading Matthew 7



Learn

Where was Jesus when he told this parable and who were with him at that time? (Hint: this discourse goes several chapters back) \_\_\_\_\_

Why did Jesus tell them not to judge others? \_\_\_\_\_

If they did judge, what standard would they be held to in their own judgment by God? \_\_\_\_\_

In the parable, what is preventing the person from removing the mote from someone else's eye? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the person to do first? \_\_\_\_\_



Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Use your concordance to find out what a “mote” is? \_\_\_\_\_

Use your concordance to find out what a “beam” is? \_\_\_\_\_

This parable is giving us a “ridiculous” picture in our minds to teach a lesson. What is “ridiculous” about the imagery of this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

What is a hypocrite? \_\_\_\_\_

In what way is hypocrisy “ridiculous”? \_\_\_\_\_



Jesus warned against hypocrisy on a number of occasions. Who did he specifically call out as hypocrites? (e.g. Luke 11:44) \_\_\_\_\_



### Find the Principle

This parable is in the context of the parable of the blind leading the blind straight into a ditch. In what way are both individuals in this parable “blind” both literally and figuratively?

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Read 1 Samuel 16:7, Isaiah 11:1-4 how is Yahweh and Christ’s judgment different from ours?

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Read 1 Corinthians 6:1-6. The Apostle Paul is concerned that the brothers and sisters were turning to the legal courts to solve problems and make judgments on the issues arising between them. Why doesn’t Paul remind them about the words of Jesus about judgment? Instead he admonishes them that they should be able to make these judgments themselves. What is the difference between what Jesus is saying in Matthew 7 and what Paul is saying? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. How did Paul follow Jesus’ advice in this parable in his own life? \_\_\_\_\_

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Recall back to the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18), what principle from this parable applies to that case? \_\_\_\_\_



### Apply the Lesson

Have you ever been concerned about about a friend? Concerned for something they are doing, watching, playing, saying, etc. and you want to help them? Or it could be something someone should be doing but are not? What does this parable and related studies (see Jude 22-23, Galatians 6:1, Philippians 2:3-4) teach us about our responsibilities in this case?

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If someone expresses concerns to us about our behavior or actions, is it appropriate for us to point out their own failings or hypocrisy (if they do the same thing)? How should we react?

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Is it valid for us to say “don’t judge me?” to someone who is expressing concerns about our behavior or actions? Explain.

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## Luke 15 – Lost Sheep, Coin, Sons



Begin by reading Luke 15



Learn

### *Lost Sheep*

Who had gathered around Jesus to hear him?

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Who else were there watching and listening?

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What else were they doing? \_\_\_\_\_

Provide a couple of examples from Israel's history when they "murmured" \_\_\_\_\_

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How many sheep did the shepherd have? \_\_\_\_\_ How many were lost? \_\_\_\_

How did the shepherd get the sheep home after finding it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the shepherd's reaction and how did he feel when the sheep was safely brought home?

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Who did he share that joy with? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said: "Likewise..." (complete the verse 7). \_\_\_\_\_

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### *Lost Coin*

In this parable, who lost a coin? \_\_\_\_\_

List the three (3) actions she took after losing it:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



What did she do when she found the coin? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said: "Likewise I say unto you, there is..." (complete the verse 10). \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Lost Sons*

What did the younger of the two sons ask of their father? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

So the father divided to both of them his: "\_\_\_\_\_"

Not many days after this, what 3 things did the younger son do:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

After he had spent everything, what happened in the land? \_\_\_\_\_

When he began to be in want, who did he "join" himself to? \_\_\_\_\_

What job was he given? \_\_\_\_\_

He was so hungry what was he tempted to do? \_\_\_\_\_

Did anyone give to him? \_\_\_\_\_

When he "came to himself", what realization did he come to? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What 3 things did he determine to say to his father?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

While he was "yet a great way off", list the 5 ways the father's response is described, even before the son has a chance to say anything:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

List the 5 things the father asks his servants to do, to celebrate the return of the younger son:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Where was the elder son when he heard music and dancing? \_\_\_\_\_

How did the elder son find out what had happened? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the reaction of the elder son at the news? \_\_\_\_\_

Who came out to intreat the elder son? \_\_\_\_\_

The elder son complained that he had: \_\_\_\_\_

and had never \_\_\_\_\_

and his father had never \_\_\_\_\_

The father's response: (v31-32) "... Son, thou art \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ that I \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that we should make \_\_\_\_\_, and be \_\_\_\_\_: for this thy brother was \_\_\_\_\_, and is \_\_\_\_\_ again; and was \_\_\_\_\_, and is \_\_\_\_\_"



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where these parables occur in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

### *Lost Sheep*

Read v.4 in another translation, like the English Standard Version (ESV). Instead of the "wilderness", what kind of place did the Shepherd leave the 99 sheep? \_\_\_\_\_

What do "Sheep" represent in scripture? (see John 10:14, Ezekiel 34:30-31, 1 Peter 5:1-3)

Who was Jesus sent to? (Matthew 15:24) \_\_\_\_\_

What do the items in the parable of the lost sheep represent?

Group/Item	Represents
Shepherd	(John 10:11)
99 Sheep not Lost	(Luke 15:7)
1 Sheep Lost	(Luke 15:1,7, Matthew 10:6)
Friends and neighbors	(see Luke 2:13-14, Job 38:7)

### *Lost Coin*

What does the “Woman” represent in scripture? (see Ephesians 5:27. 2 Corinthians 11: 1-3)

What does the “House” represent in scripture? (see 1 Peter 2:5, 1 Timothy 3:15)

Look up the word for “pieces of silver” using your concordance. What is the Greek word? What kind of coin is it? \_\_\_\_\_

When coins are no longer in circulation, do they become *less* valuable or *more* valuable to collectors? How would a collector feel if they lost a single coin in their set?

What does the candle, providing light to the house represent in scripture? (Psalm 119:105) \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the ultimate representation of that light? (John 8:12/John 1) \_\_\_\_\_

What does “sweeping/cleansing” represent in scripture? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Lost Sons***

Based on the laws of inheritance, what percentage of their father’s wealth would be given to each of the brothers? (Deuteronomy 21:17) Younger: \_\_\_\_\_ %, Older: \_\_\_\_\_ %

What does the phrase “when he came to himself” mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What part of his confession did the son not get the chance to say to his father? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_


What do all three parables in this chapter have in common? (e.g. something was lost)

Lost Sheep	Lost Coin	Lost Sons

List some of the unique differences between each parable in the table below: (for instance, compare *how* and *where* each was lost)

Lost Sheep	Lost Coin	Lost Sons

How about the percentages (%) lost in each parable?  
Lost Sheep: \_\_\_\_\_ %, Lost Coin: \_\_\_\_\_ %, Lost Sons: \_\_\_\_\_ %



**Find the Principle**

*Lost Sheep*

If we apply the parable of the lost sheep to the ecclesia today...

a. Who might the ninety-nine represent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Who might the one lost sheep represent? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Is there any such thing as a “Just person needing no repentance?” (see Ecclesiastes 7:20, Isaiah 53:6, 1 Peter. 2:25). In what way is everyone like a lost sheep?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Read Luke 5:29-32. How was this parable ironic considering the attitude of the Scribes and Pharisees?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

“I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek thy servant;  
For I do not forget thy commandments.” – Psalm 119:176

### *Lost Coin*

Research passages that connect understanding of God’s word with light. (e.g. Isaiah 8:20, 2 Peter 1:19, Psalm 119:30). How can God’s word help us “find” someone who has been “lost” inside the Ecclesia?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If a house is dirty, messy and disorganized, it is a lot harder to find something that is lost (or even know that it’s lost). It’s a lot easier if you clean things up, which is what the woman did. How does this principle teach us the reasons behind someone being “lost” inside the Ecclesia? And how does it teach us what is necessary in order to “find” that person? (see 2 Corinthians 7:1)

\_\_\_\_\_

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*Lost Sons*

The first 2 parables of the lost teach lessons using a sheep and a coin, which we may not relate to as readily. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final parable is easier for us to relate to – why? -----

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The inflection point in this parable happens when the son has run out of money and a famine hits. God has used natural events in His providence on many occasions, and famine specifically teaches some important lessons:

- a. Can you think of another example in scripture when a famine causes events to transpire, leading to a family's reconciliation? (Hint in Genesis) -----  
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- b. Read Amos 8:11, 4:6-11. What is God hoping that those affected will realize they are really lacking? -----  
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The younger son said: "I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight". What was the son acknowledging about who he had primarily sinned against and how should that knowledge affect our attitude when we seek forgiveness? (See Psalm 51:4) -----  
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In this parable, the son has to "come to himself" (acknowledge his sin), repent, and take positive action. The father is on the lookout for the son, but he requires the son to come back of his own volition. Read also 2 Chronicles 15:1-2, and James 4:8. How does this demonstrate how God works with us (and what He requires) when we have separated ourselves from Him? -----  
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Psalm 103:8-18 contains a beautiful description of the mercy and compassion of Yahweh. How did the father in the parable demonstrate these attributes? We should be greatly encouraged by this!! -----  
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In v24 and v32, the father states the son was “dead” and is “alive again”. Of course, he was not literally dead... what does this teach us about our true position when we sin and turn our back on God? (Ephesians 2:1-6) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

In v28, the Father comes out to the elder son to intreat him in his wrong behavior, just as God continued to intreat the leaders of the Jews (through his son) to repent. How were the leaders of Jesus day acting exactly like the older brother? (see also Matthew 23:13) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think we’ve titled the third parable the “Lost Sons” and not “Lost Son”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### Apply the Lesson

#### *Lost Sheep*

How does the attitude and actions of the Shepherd show us how we should seek to recover those who have left the truth? Or maybe even a young person who has stopped coming to Ecclesial activities like CYC?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

#### *Lost Coin*

Sometimes, we can feel disconnected from the Ecclesia, and maybe going to meeting, CYC and Sunday School feels like a chore – and we just go through the motions. We can be there physically, but mentally – lost/far away. We learned from the parable of the lost coin that the Ecclesia needs to make sure the glow of the word is strong, and clean up unnecessary clutter, and be actively seeking people in that situation to prevent them from being “lost inside the house”. How can we apply these same principles to cleaning our own personal “house” and get things back on track?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Lost Sons*

The younger son learned bitter truth about how harsh the world can be once it has extracted all it can from us. Hopefully we never have to go through an experience like the younger son did! Based on our study of this parable, is there ever a point where we are too far gone/lost to the world such that we can't come back to the truth? Explain with examples/passages.

It is an ugly, yet normal, reaction of the flesh to be jealous of the attention others receive. It can raise its ugly head (like it did for the elder brother), even on occasions when we should be really happy for someone, such as when they work to straighten out their spiritual lives. How can we guard against the same selfish and self-righteous attitudes? How can the words of the father to the elder son help us avoid being lost ourselves?



## Matthew 25 – Parables of Judgment



Begin by reading Matthew 25



Learn

### *The 10 Virgins*

V1 the “kingdom of heaven” is likened to whom?

\_\_\_\_\_

Who are they going to meet and what do they bring

With them? \_\_\_\_\_

Five are described as: \_\_\_\_\_ and the other five as: \_\_\_\_\_

What did the “wise” bring with them that the “foolish” did not? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to all of the virgins while the bridegroom tarried? \_\_\_\_\_

What cry was made at midnight: “ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ”

What was the first thing they all did when they arose? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the “foolish” ask the “wise” to give them? \_\_\_\_\_ what had happened to their lamps?

\_\_\_\_\_

What did the “wise” say in response to this request? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What happened while the “foolish” had gone to buy? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened to “they that were ready” (i.e. the “wise”) \_\_\_\_\_

After they entered the marriage, what happened to the door? \_\_\_\_\_

Later, when the other (“foolish”) virgins came back what did they say? And what was the response?

\_\_\_\_\_

What did Jesus say in v13 the lesson was for the listeners? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *The Parable of the Talents*

In the next parable, (connecting back v1) Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven (or the son of man) as a

man who was about to do what? \_\_\_\_\_

Who did he call and what did he give to them? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Fill out the chart with the main facts from the parable

Servant	#Talents	What He Did	Results	Reward/Punishment
1				
2				
3				

What excuse did the servant who received one talent give for his actions? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did the lord say he should have done? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What did the lord do with the talent in the end? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus then taught that the process of judgment would be like a shepherd doing what? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Which went on his right/ which his left? \_\_\_\_\_

How many acts of compassion does Jesus list that the accepted engaged in, and the rejected failed to uphold? \_\_\_\_\_

When the question is asked “when” did they do or not do these things, Jesus will answer: “\_\_\_\_\_

as ye did/did it not to \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ my \_\_\_\_\_, ye have done/not done to \_\_\_\_\_”.



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where these parables occur in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

What is the context of these parables? Who were primarily listening to Jesus? \_\_\_\_\_

### *The 10 Virgins*

Look up the meaning of “wise” in a concordance. Fill in the following blanks:

Strong's #: \_\_\_\_\_

Greek word: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the meaning of “foolish” in a concordance. Fill in the following blanks:

Strong's #: \_\_\_\_\_

Greek word: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

What does the oil represent? (Leviticus 24:1-4) \_\_\_\_\_

What does the lamp represent? (Psalm 119:105) \_\_\_\_\_

### *Talents*

Look up the meaning of a “talent” in a concordance. Fill in the following blanks:

Strong's #: \_\_\_\_\_

Greek word: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_



### **Find the Principle**

How did these 2 parables, demonstrate the two attributes of his true servants that he had just been speaking about? (Matthew 24:45) \_\_\_\_\_

### *The 10 Virgins*

The theme of a prepared bride, ready to meet her groom is found throughout scriptures such as representation of the true Ecclesia being ready for the return of Christ (Rev. 19:7, 2 Corinthians 11:2, Ephesians 5:32, etc.). The foolish had some oil, but no reserves. How does that relate to being prepared for his return? \_\_\_\_\_

Were the wise virgins refusing to help or were they saying it was not possible for them to help at that point? (Psalm 49:7) \_\_\_\_\_

What is the principle of the “door being shut” as it relates to the Kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### *Talents*

Who provided the talents in the first place and what does it remind us about our abilities? (1 Peter 4:10-11, 1 Cor. 15:10, 1 Corinthians 4:6-7) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Did the lord reward the men based on results or faithfulness? \_\_\_\_\_

What does this say about how God is looking at our lives? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you think the one-talent man was really afraid or were these just excuses? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



### **Apply the Lesson**

#### *The 10 Virgins*

While Christ remains away, every day is a day of opportunity to put oil in our lamps that we will be ready. Brainstorm some ways that you can every day put a little of the oil of the word into your reservoir, ready to power your lamp!

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

### *Talents*

The one-talent man expended effort in digging in the “earth”. What are the dangers of using our opportunities and talents solely for earthly purposes? What are some examples of this? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

God has provided us with opportunities and abilities in this life that He expects us to use faithfully in His service. Make a list of some ways you have opportunities and abilities to use in His service

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**Luke 16:18-31 – Rich Man and Lazarus**



Begin by reading Luke 16:18-31



Learn

The certain rich man was clothed in \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_

How often did he “fare sumptuously”? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the certain beggar’s name \_\_\_\_\_

Where did he lie? \_\_\_\_\_

What was he “full of”? \_\_\_\_\_

What did Lazarus desire to be fed with? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the dogs do? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened when the beggar died? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened when the rich man died? \_\_\_\_\_

When the rich man looked up, who did he see? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the rich man ask? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Abraham’s response? \_\_\_\_\_

What was preventing anyone from “crossing over” from “hell” to “Abraham’s bosom” or vice-versa?

Seeing Lazarus could not come to him, where did the rich man ask Abraham to send him? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the rich man hoping his 5 brothers would avoid? \_\_\_\_\_

Abraham said: “They have...” (complete the verse) \_\_\_\_\_



What did the rich man think would help his 5 brothers repent? \_\_\_\_\_

What was Abraham's response to that? \_\_\_\_\_



### Investigate

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

Here's the sequence of thoughts leading up to this parable in Luke 15 and 16, relating to the Scribes, Pharisees and Chief Priests, that can be helpful seeing why Jesus told this particular parable.

Passage	Sequence of thoughts
15:1-2	Jesus' eating and drinking with the publicans and sinners are criticized, leading to a sequence of parables
15:28	The elder son refuses to feast with repentant younger brother
16:1	Unjust steward wastes his Lord's goods
16:4-7	Unjust steward writes down the debts owed to his Lord
16:14	Parable applied to Pharisees as "lovers of money"
16:19	Parable of rich man and Lazarus, designed to make them think about the consequences of their actions

What phrase begins this parable? What other parable in this chapter begins with the same phrase?

A popular false doctrine is some kind of after-life consisting of eternal rewards for the righteous and eternal torments for the wicked. Starting with the serpent's lie in Genesis 3:4 and continuing in the false religion and mythology from Mesopotamia, the Greeks, Romans, etc. these notions gave rise to various false beliefs even amongst the Jews of Jesus day. We can read in ancient writings such as Josephus' "Discourse to Greeks on Hades" that even the Pharisees had adopted these false notions. How fitting then, that they were condemned by their own parable!

According to the scriptures, what really happens when we die? (Ecclesiastes 9:5-6,10)

Even today, many Christians believe in heaven-going at death. Sometimes they use this parable as proof. But this parable says nothing about heaven going, and the picture developed is one where the punished and the rewarded can see and speak to each other! What did Jesus say about who ascends to heaven? (John 3:13) \_\_\_\_\_

Where was Abraham in Jesus' day and where is Abraham today? (Genesis 25:8-9, Hebrews 11:13, 39-40) \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus used parables to teach a specific message, that could only be understood with careful thought. What other parable have we looked at where the details of the parable are not real or possible? \_\_\_\_\_

In the parable, the rich man is clothed in purple and fine linen. Who else wore purple and fine linen, that could indicate who Jesus is talking about in the parable? (Exodus 28:2,5) \_\_\_\_\_

Do some research on Annas the High Priest. How many sons did he have and why might that be significant to this parable? \_\_\_\_\_

Look up the meaning of "Lazarus" in a concordance. Fill in the following blanks:

Strong's #: \_\_\_\_\_

Greek word: \_\_\_\_\_

Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

What other parable depicts the uncaring attitude of the Jewish leaders to someone in need? (e.g. Luke 10:31-32) \_\_\_\_\_



### Find the Principle

In the parable, the beggar is not comforted or assisted in any way by the rich man, even though he is lying at his gate and basically eating with the dogs. What responsibilities had Yahweh given them under the Law for caring for the poor? (e.g. Deuteronomy 15:11, Leviticus 19:9-10) \_\_\_\_\_



Why is the thought of “role-reversal” in the future potentially a powerful motivator to change our ways?  
What other parable have we looked at with a similar idea? (which parable’s lesson was that we will be judged by same standard we judge others?)

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The fact that this parable concludes that nothing will persuade the rich man’s 5 brothers from their evil ways tells us what about the potential for the Jewish leaders to change their behavior at this point?

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In a few short weeks, someone would be raised temporarily from the dead (John 11:53, 12:10) what was his name and what was the reaction of the leaders to this event? \_\_\_\_\_

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Ultimately, Jesus himself was raised from the dead and returned to be seen by his disciples – did it change anything for the leaders (Acts 4:1-2)?

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The attitude towards the poor that is depicted by the rich man in the parable, would also be a problem in the first century Ecclesia. Give some examples of this, and the advice given to them by the apostles (e.g. James 2:1-8, 14-18, 1 Corinthians, 11:18-22) \_\_\_\_\_

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### Apply the Lesson

Fear of punishment can be a strong motivator to do the right thing, but can it help us develop true compassion for others? What are some ways we can develop compassion for others? (Philippians 2:1-5, do some research and find some more passages on this)

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Without a doubt we live in a wealth-obsessed, self-centered, materialistic age (and part of the world). How can we combat these forces in our lives?

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## Matthew 13:24-58 – The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...



Begin by reading Matthew 13:24-58



Learn

### *Tares*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man who did what? \_\_\_\_\_

What happened while “men slept”? \_\_\_\_\_

When the wheat grew up and the head began to emerge from the stem, what did they discover was also growing amongst the wheat? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the servants of the householder ask him when they saw the tares? \_\_\_\_\_

What was his response? \_\_\_\_\_

The servants offered to go through the field and pull up the tares. Why did the man tell them not to? \_\_\_\_\_

What was his solution to the problem? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Mustard Seed*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is like what? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the man do it? \_\_\_\_\_

The mustard seed: “is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all seeds: but when it is \_\_\_\_\_, it is the \_\_\_\_\_ among \_\_\_\_\_, and becometh a \_\_\_\_\_”

What animals lodge in its branches? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Leaven*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is like what? \_\_\_\_\_

What did the woman do with it? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the end result? \_\_\_\_\_

V34: “All these things spake Jesus unto the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_; and without a \_\_\_\_\_ spake he not unto them”

What prophecy was fulfilled by this? \_\_\_\_\_



After Jesus sent the multitude away, where did he go with the disciples? \_\_\_\_\_

Which parable were the disciples really interested in finding the meaning of? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus explains the parable of the tares. Fill out the table with what Jesus said.

Who/what?	Represents
Sower of the good seed	
The field	
The good seed	
The tares	
The enemy that sowed the tares	
The harvest	
The reapers	
Gathering/Burning of the tares	
Gathering of Wheat	

“Who hath \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, let him \_\_\_\_\_”

### *Treasure*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is like what? \_\_\_\_\_

What three things does the man do when he finds the treasure? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Pearl*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is like what? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the man searching for? \_\_\_\_\_

What did he find and what did he do? \_\_\_\_\_

### *Net*

In this parable, the kingdom of heaven is like what? \_\_\_\_\_

When the net was cast into the sea, what kinds of sea life were gathered up? \_\_\_\_\_

When they drew the net to shore and sat down:

a. What did they do with the “good”? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What did they do with the “bad”? \_\_\_\_\_

How did he say this would be just like the “end of the world”? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

When Jesus asked the disciples if they had “understood all these things?” what was their response? \_\_\_\_\_

***The instructed scribe***

He then said to them (complete the verse) “Therefore every \_\_\_\_\_ which is \_\_\_\_\_  
unto the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ is like a man that is an \_\_\_\_\_, which bringeth  
forth out of his \_\_\_\_\_ things \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_”

After these parables, Jesus left there and went where? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the reaction of the people there? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What were Jesus’ 1/2 brother’s names? \_\_\_\_\_

Did Jesus have any sisters? \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus said unto them, “A \_\_\_\_\_ is not without \_\_\_\_\_, save in his own \_\_\_\_\_ and  
in his own \_\_\_\_\_”.

Why did he not do many mighty works there? \_\_\_\_\_



**Investigate**

Find any parallel accounts (where this parable occurs in another gospel). Note the passages, and any differences, such as additional or missing information, context notes, etc. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What parable, that we’ve already looked at, preceded the parable of the tares? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you remember where Jesus was when he gave that parable? And who was listening? (v2) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is in the same place for the parables of the tares, mustard seed, and leaven in meal!

What is leaven? What is it most well known for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the prophecy referred to in v35? \_\_\_\_\_

In what way are the parables of the mustard seed and the leaven similar? (what aspect of the kingdom do they speak to?) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### *Treasure, Pearl, Net, Scribe*

Why do you think Jesus only told the parables of the Treasure, Pearl, Net and Scribe to the disciples and not to the multitudes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is the main difference between the parable of the Treasure and Pearl? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



### **Find the Principle**

Throughout our studies, time and again, Jesus introduces his parables with the expression “the kingdom of heaven is like...”. But isn’t the kingdom going to be on the earth? Find passages that prove the kingdom will be on the earth, and explain why it is called by Jesus the “kingdom of heaven”. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Who do you think the Tares represent in the parable of the tares? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Leaven spreads throughout the dough. In what way is the kingdom like this? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What does the attitude of the person in the parables of the treasure and pearl teach us about the attitude we should have towards the truth and the kingdom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What lesson do you think the disciples (and us) were meant to take from the parable of the Net? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Do you see the truth and the kingdom as valuable treasure or a pearl of great price? If you do, what's the most important step you can take to demonstrate what it means to you? If you have not yet taken that step, what is your plan to get to that point? What's holding you back?

Congratulations. You are almost done! Have you enjoyed studying the Parables this year? What lessons did you find particularly meaningful? How do you intend to apply them?

This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features ten identical rows of horizontal guidelines. Each row consists of three parallel lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line. These lines are evenly spaced across the entire page to help learners practice letter formation and alignment.

