What is a Parable?

Jesus’ parables are short stories that teach a moral or spiritual lesson by analogy or similarity. They are often stories based on the agricultural life that was intimately familiar to His original first century audience. Some aspect of an unfamiliar concept, such as the kingdom of God, was compared to something from everyday life that could easily be understood. It is the lesson of a parable that is important to us.

Jesus was the Master of Teaching in parables. His parables often have an unexpected twist or surprise ending that catches the reader’s attention. They are also cleverly designed to draw listeners into new ways of thinking, new attitudes, and new ways of acting (Getty-Sullivan, pp. 2-4).

Each of Jesus’ parables teaches only one or two important lessons. It is a mistake to look for meaning in every sentence or detail of the story (Lockyer, Parable). If we get bogged down analyzing the details of the parable, we may miss the central point, as in the proverbial saying, “You can’t see the forest for the trees.”

Why Did Jesus Teach in Parables?

When he was alone, those who were around him along with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside, everything comes in parables; in order that:

‘They may indeed look, but not perceive, and may indeed listen, but not understand; so that they may not turn again and be forgiven.’ “ (NRSV, Mark 4:10-12)

Jesus’ explanation seems harsh and out of character. Was He deliberately trying to hide the truth by speaking in parables? Were the mysteries of the kingdom of God to be known only by the disciples? Both experts and lay persons are puzzled, and many different explanations have been proposed.

Jesus quoted from Isaiah 6:9-10. The prophet Isaiah had found that people were so lost in sin that they resented hearing God's Word and deliberately turned away. Jesus experienced the same disappointment and frustration. Thus, the most common interpretation of Jesus' saying is that the people's hardness of heart (pride, arrogance, and prejudice) prevented them from understanding and accepting Jesus' teachings.
United Methodist Men
Second Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

United Methodist Women
Share & Care Circle with Gail Cahan, first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
Wesley Ann Circle with Karen Dutour, third Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m.

Bible Study
- Bible Study with Alice is every Tues. in the Fellowship Hall at 7:00 p.m.
  Bible Study is postponed until further notice!
- Ladies Bible Study with Sandra Collins is on Wednesday’s, at 10:00 a.m.
  call- (386)-937-6475

CIRCLE OF CONCERN – Those needing our prayers: The Bigsby family; Tommy Brooks; The family of Bonnie Trauerman; Belinda Mullins; Jimmy Wood; Thayer; Lillie; Kayla; Jo Dunn; Carolyn Deel; Tia Lingle; Kathy Baker; Charlene Cole; Leslie Lewis; and Taylor; Those in the nursing homes and our shut-ins; San Antonio de Rio Blanco Church in Cuba; the persecuted Church; Moseley Elementary School & teachers; Children at the Methodist Children’s Home; our Nation’s leaders & military; your Pastoral family & your church.

STEWARDSHIP REPORT (Through 2/28/2021)

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<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Total Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Estimated needed to date</td>
<td>$39,299.88</td>
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<td>Received to date. **</td>
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<td>Amount of Received to date that came from E-giving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of “needed to date” that has been collected</td>
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<td>Percent of Year that is complete</td>
<td>17.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Percent of Yearly contributions that have been received</td>
<td>10.60%</td>
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DESIGNATED CONTRIBUTIONS

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<tr>
<td>Kids’ Klub</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cuba Covenant</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salary-Worship Leader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children’s Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>In memory of Harry Strickland</td>
<td>$700.00</td>
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Would You Like to Help?

Trinity has three teams of two people each who count the tithes, offerings, and donations on Sunday morning at the conclusion of the 10:30 service. Each team counts one month and then has two months off. The counting takes about 30-45 minutes and requires that the collections be taken to the night deposit box at TD Bank in Palatka at the end of the process. The teams are currently in a transition as several members have been unable to come for various reasons. We need two to three additional persons who would be willing to help if one or both of the team members are unavailable. The hope is that we would know soon enough before the Sunday service so plans can be made. If you are interested or would like more information, call Gary Simpson (386) 972-0708 and we can talk about the process.

KIDS’ KLUB CORNER

Kids’ Klub celebrated Jesus’ call for us to “Follow Him” in the month of February. We sent out Valentines to share the Good News with others, celebrated the beginning of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service which began our journey to the cross, focusing on preparing for Easter. As we journey into March we will be learning about Jesus and His love for us. If you are a kid between three years old and eighth grade come and see what blessings God is showing us. We will learn about Jesus, play games, sing, and pray together. Supper will be served each week. We are looking forward to seeing you from 5:00 to 7:00 each Wednesday afternoon.
NE DISTRICT UPCOMING EVENTS

*Mondays March 1, 8, & 15 at 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Advanced Lay Servant—Lay Servants as Christian, Transformational Leaders with Ms. Carol Carroll.

*Tuesdays March 2, 9, 16 at 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Advanced Lay Servant—Public Prayer with Ms. Tina Roach.

*Wednesday, March 17 at 11:00 am. Monthly District KidMin Meeting.

Spiritual Enrichment Experience (S.E.E.) - UMW Spring Event

The NE District UMW will be hosting a one-day Spiritual Enrichment Experience (S.E.E.) on March 13, 2021 @ Middleburg UMC. Registration is online this year. Check out our website for more information - [https://www.flumc.org/eventdetail/14958625?month=3&year=2021&day=1&display=m](https://www.flumc.org/eventdetail/14958625?month=3&year=2021&day=1&display=m).

REGISTER HERE

Develop an
INTENTIONAL DISCIPLESHIP PATH
Two-Part Workshop
When: March 20, (part 1) & May 8, 2021 (part 2)
9:30am—12pm

Where:
VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM
Link will be sent via email upon registration.

Is your congregation clear on your process for discipleship?
Do you know if your discipleship process is effective?
Do you have a team working on the discipleship pathway in your church?

CLICK HERE TO REGISTER!
Team Registration is encouraged
there is no cost to attend.
COVID-19 and Prayer
Let us all continue to pray, hug, (with masks on) & love those around us and those we come in contact with. Share the love of Jesus Christ...continue his passion for kindness, compassion, and sacrifice.

Flower Calendar:
March 7-- Holy Communion
March 14--Open
March 21-- Open
March 28-- Open

If you have any information for next month’s newsletter, (April) the deadline to have it in the Church office is Monday March 22, 2021. Please send an e-mail or drop something off in writing.

Thank You,
Carolyn Hayes

Wish a Happy Birthday To:
03-Jeffery Cahan
08-Stran Kellan Cahan
08-Nickie Gill
10-Angela Brown
13-James Beryl Peterson
18-Robert Hare
27-Tracy Underwood
28-Robynn Hare
31-Vicki Hare

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY:
12-Errol & Andrea Findlater
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday Schedule</strong>&lt;br&gt;Sunday School 9:15&lt;br&gt;Worship: 10:30</td>
<td>1 Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Lay Servants as Christians 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm</td>
<td>2 Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Public Prayer with Ms. Tina Roach 7:00 pm-9:00 pm</td>
<td>3 <em>Ladies bible study with Sandra Collins 10:00 a.m.</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Kids’ Klub 5-7 Fellowship Hall, kids age 3 thru 8th grades.</em></td>
<td>4 Share &amp; Care Circle 7 p.m.</td>
<td>5 World Day of Prayer</td>
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<td><strong>7 Holy Communion</strong>&lt;br&gt;Altar flowers-Sharon</td>
<td>8 Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Lay Servants as Christians 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm</td>
<td>9 Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Public Prayer with Ms. Tina Roach 7:00 pm-9:00 pm</td>
<td>10 <em>Ladies bible study with Sandra Collins 10:00 a.m.</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Kids’ Klub 5-7 Fellowship Hall, kids age 3 thru 8th grades.</em></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13 (S.E.E.) - UMW Spring Event</td>
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<td><strong>14</strong>&lt;br&gt;Altar flowers-Open</td>
<td>15 Wesley Ann Circle 9:00 a.m.&lt;br&gt;Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Lay Servants as Christians 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm</td>
<td>16 Advanced Lay Servant-&lt;br&gt;Public Prayer with Ms. Tina Roach 7:00 pm-9:00 pm</td>
<td>17 <em>Ladies bible study with Sandra Collins 10:00 a.m.</em>&lt;br&gt;<em>Kids’ Klub 5-7 Fellowship Hall, kids age 3 thru 8th grades.</em>&lt;br&gt;*Monthly District KidMin Meeting. 11:00 am</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Part 1 of a Discipleship Pathway workshop 9:30-Noon</td>
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<td><strong>21</strong>&lt;br&gt;Altar Flowers-Open</td>
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<td><strong>28 Palm Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;Altar Flowers-Open</td>
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How much do you know about the Bible? Find out with this week's **Bible Quiz** and **Crossword Puzzle**.

Christian Bible Reference Site
[https://www.christianbiblereference.org/](https://www.christianbiblereference.org/)