



PARABLES OF JESUS

REDEEMER CHURCH

A GUIDE FOR THE JOURNEY

Jesus didn't simply invite people to learn from Him...He invited them to follow Him!

Throughout this semester, we'll spend time in the parables of Jesus, allowing His stories to shape not only what we believe but who we become. The goal of this guide isn't to help you check off another devotional. It's to help you slow down, listen to Jesus, and practice living as citizens of His Kingdom.

Each week follows the same simple rhythm:

Read: Read the assigned parable along with the Gospel reading plan. As you move through Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John this semester, you'll see the broader story of Jesus' life and ministry, giving greater context to the parables we're studying together.

Memorize: Each week includes a Scripture memory passage. Rather than memorizing isolated verses, we'll gradually build a collection of passages from Jesus' teaching, including several of His parables, that we pray will stay with you long after this semester ends. God's Word hidden in our hearts becomes a lifelong source of wisdom, encouragement, and transformation.

Reflect: Spend time considering what the passage reveals about God, yourself, and the Kingdom. Ask the Holy Spirit to expose what needs to change, not simply what you need to know!

Practice: Formation isn't about trying harder—it's about regularly placing ourselves before Jesus so that, by the Holy Spirit, He changes us from the inside out. Each week offers one simple practice designed to help you live out what you're learning. Don't underestimate small acts of faithfulness. Over time, they shape us into people who look more like Jesus.

Share: God often grows us in community. Use the discussion questions to talk with your family, Gospel Community, or a friend about what God is teaching you. Encouraging one another is one of the ways Christ forms His people.

Our prayer is that over these next fifteen weeks you would become more attentive to the voice of Jesus, more rooted in His Word, and more faithful in living as a citizen of His Kingdom. May these parables not simply give us something to think about, but by God's grace, become truths that transform the way we live.

*"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock." **Matthew 7:24***



WEEK 1: THE PURPOSE OF PARABLES

MATTHEW 13:10-17

Reading Plan: Matthew 1-5 **Memorize:** Matthew 13:18-23

Theme

The kingdom is revealed to those who are willing to see and hear. God is speaking, but we must slow down and pay attention to receive what He wants to show us.

Reflect

Jesus often taught in parables, but not everyone responded the same way. Some heard His words and were changed. Others heard the exact same message but walked away unchanged. The difference wasn't Jesus' teaching... it was the posture of their hearts!

- How do you usually come to Scripture—open, distracted, hurried, or resistant?
- What tends to compete for your attention when you try to spend time with God?
- Where might God be inviting you to slow down and listen more carefully?

God is speaking. The question is whether we're making room to hear Him.

Practice

Create intentional space to listen to God this week. Choose one simple step:

- Set aside 10 uninterrupted minutes each day to read Scripture.
- Remove one distraction (your phone, music, notifications, multitasking) during that time.
- Begin by praying: "God, help me see what You want to show me. Help me hear what You're saying."

Don't worry about reading a lot. Focus on being present with God and paying attention to what stands out.

Share

Ask someone this week, "What helps you stay attentive to God?" Share one way you're creating space to listen this week, and invite them to check in with you.

Take It Further

Pay attention to your own patterns this week.

- When do you feel most distracted?
- When do you feel most aware of God's presence?
- What practices help you slow down enough to actually listen?

Ask God to cultivate in you a heart that is ready to hear and willing to respond.





WEEK 2: THE SOWER

MATTHEW 13:1-23

Reading Plan: Matthew 6-10 **Memorize:** Matthew 13:18-23

Theme

The kingdom grows where God's Word is truly received. But our hearts are often distracted, shallow, or resistant, and we need God to do a deeper work in us.

Reflect

In this parable, the same seed is scattered, but it produces very different results. The difference isn't the Word—it's what's happening beneath the surface of the heart! Jesus names the reality honestly: distraction, shallow roots, and competing desires.

- Where do you see yourself in this parable right now?
- What tends to crowd out or weaken your attentiveness to God?
- Where do you feel resistant, distracted, or spiritually shallow?

This parable isn't inviting you to pretend your heart is healthy. It's inviting you to bring your heart honestly before Jesus, trusting that He is the one who softens, clears, and brings life.

Practice

Bring your heart honestly to Jesus each day this week. Set aside a few minutes and simply come as you are. You might pray: "Jesus, this is what my heart feels like right now: distracted, tired, resistant, or uncertain. Would You meet me here and begin to change me?"

Then read a short passage of Scripture, sit with it quietly, and notice what rises in you. The goal isn't to perform, it's to be present with God.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: Where do I see my heart struggling to receive from God right now? Share honestly about distractions, resistance, or areas where you feel shallow or inconsistent. Invite them to ask thoughtful questions and pray that God would make your heart more receptive to His Word.

Take It Further

As you go through the week, pay attention to what is shaping your heart.

- What consistently pulls your attention away from God?
- What feels difficult to sustain spiritually?
- When do you feel most open, and most closed off, to Him?

Instead of trying to fix everything, begin by noticing. Ask, "What is forming my heart right now?" Then bring those places honestly to Jesus, trusting that He is at work even before you see the fruit.





WEEK 3: THE MUSTARD SEED & THE LEAVEN

MATTHEW 13:31-33

Reading Plan: Matthew 11-18 **Memorize:** Matthew 13:18-23

Theme

The kingdom often grows slowly, quietly, and beneath the surface, but its transformation is real and unstoppable.

Reflect

Jesus compares the kingdom to things that are easy to overlook—a tiny seed and a small amount of leaven. Neither looks impressive at first. Neither works quickly or visibly. But over time, both change everything. We tend to expect fast growth, visible results and dramatic change.

But Jesus shows us a different reality—the kingdom works slowly, quietly, and from the inside out.

- Where do you feel discouraged by slow or unseen growth?
- Where are you expecting quick results—from yourself, others, or God?
- What might God already be doing that you haven't noticed yet?

Practice

Pay attention to small, unseen ways God may be at work. Each day this week, take a few moments to reflect:

- Where did I see even a small sign of growth?
- Where did I sense God at work internally or relationally?

Then simply thank Him: "God, thank you that you are working, even when I don't see it clearly." The goal is not to force growth, but to begin to notice it.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this: "Where do I feel discouraged or impatient with how things are growing in my life?" Share honestly about areas that feel slow or places where you expected more change by now.

Invite them to help you see what you might be missing and remind you that God often works in ways that aren't immediately visible

Take It Further

As you move through the week, notice your expectations:

- When do you feel frustrated by slow progress?
- Where do you want something to change quickly?

Gently ask, "am I expecting God to work differently than He says He does?"





WEEK 4: THE GROWING SEED

MARK 4:26-29

Reading Plan: Matthew 19-28 **Memorize:** Matthew 13:18-23

Theme

The kingdom grows by God's power, not ours. We are called to faithful participation, but only God brings the growth.

Reflect

In this parable, the farmer scatters the seed...and then waits. The growth happens slowly, quietly, mysteriously, and most importantly—outside of his control.

- Where do you feel pressure to make something happen in your life?
- Where are you striving for outcomes you can't actually produce?
- When have you seen God work in ways you didn't expect or control?

The farmer is active, but he is not in control.

Practice

Release one area of your life to God this week. Choose something specific:

- your spiritual growth
- a relationship
- a situation you can't fix
- a longing you're carrying

Each day, take a moment to pray: "God, I trust you to do what I cannot. Help me be faithful in what you've given me." You might also open your hands physically as you pray and name what you're releasing to His control.

Share

Talk with someone about this question: "Where am I trying to control something that belongs to God?" Invite them to listen, pray with you, and remind you to trust God this week.

Take It Further

This week, take a step toward trusting God with what you cannot control. You don't have to force growth. Pay attention to when you feel anxiety, urgency, or frustration.

When those reactions arise, pause and ask, "is this something I'm responsible for or something I need to trust God with?"





WEEK 5: THE HIDDEN TREASURE & THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

MATTHEW 13:44-46

Reading Plan: Mark 1-5 **Memorize:** Luke 18:9-14

Theme

The kingdom is worth everything. Whether you stumble upon it unexpectedly or spend your life searching for it, when you truly see the value of Jesus, surrender becomes a joyful response.

Reflect

Both men encounter something of such overwhelming value that they gladly give up everything else to obtain it. The kingdom doesn't ask for sacrifice because God wants to take things from you. It invites surrender because Jesus is better than anything you could hold onto. Whether you've been following Jesus for years or are just beginning to explore who He is, these parables ask the same question: Is Jesus your greatest treasure?

- What do you treasure most right now?
- What are you pursuing, hoping will satisfy or secure you?
- What competes with Jesus for your attention, affection, or trust?
- What makes it difficult to fully surrender to Him?

The question isn't simply whether Jesus is important to you. The question is whether *He is your greatest treasure*.

Practice

Choose one area of your life to intentionally place under Jesus' lordship this week. Ask yourself, "If Jesus is truly my greatest treasure, what would change?" Then take one concrete step:

- Time: Make space for God.
- Money: Give generously.
- Comfort: Step into something you've been avoiding.
- Obedience: Act on something God has already made clear.
- Relationships: Reorder a relationship or conversation around faithfulness to Jesus.

Make your response visible and practical. Pay attention to what it feels like to trust that what you gain in Christ is greater than what you're giving up.

Share

Ask someone you trust, "What would it actually look like for me to live like Jesus is my greatest treasure?" Share the step you're taking and invite them to pray for you and follow up with you.

Take It Further

Fast from something that regularly occupies your attention this week. Each time you feel its absence, turn your attention to Jesus and pray, "What I have in Christ is better than what I'm giving up." Notice what feels difficult to release and ask God to help you trust that He is better.

Blank lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.



WEEK 6: THE UNFORGIVING SERVANT

MATTHEW 18:21-35

Reading Plan: Mark 6-10 Memorize: Luke 18:9-14

Theme

The kingdom is marked by grace that transforms how we treat others. Those who have received mercy are called to extend it.

Reflect

In this parable, a servant is forgiven an unpayable debt but refuses to forgive someone else a much smaller one. The issue isn't simply his behavior—it's that he has not been shaped by the mercy he received! We often carry wounds longer than we realize, allowing them to shape us instead of God's grace.

- Is there someone you are struggling to forgive right now?
- What feels unresolved, unfair, or painful in that situation?
- Have you allowed yourself to fully receive the depth of God's mercy toward you?

When we lose sight of grace, we begin to relate to others through fairness instead of mercy.

Practice

Take one real step toward forgiveness this week. Forgiveness doesn't mean everything is resolved...it means you begin to entrust the hurt to God.

Choose one:

- Name the hurt honestly before God.
- Pray for the person (even briefly).
- Release your right to hold the offense over them.
- If appropriate, take a step toward a conversation.

Pray: "God, help me extend the grace you've given me."

Share

Tell someone you trust who you're struggling to forgive and what step you're taking. Ask them to pray for you and check in with you this week.

Take It Further

Pay attention to what surfaces this week – anger, resistance, or grief. Don't ignore it or suppress it. Bring it honestly to God, trusting that He can use His grace to reshape your heart.





WEEK 7: THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD

MATTHEW 20:1-16

Reading Plan: Mark 11-16 **Memorize:** Luke 18:9-14

Theme

The kingdom runs on grace, not merit. God's generosity is not based on what we deserve and that is good news for us!

Reflect

In this parable, workers who labored all day are paid the same as those who came at the end. The issue isn't the generosity of the master—it's the reaction of those who feel they deserve more. We can spend so much energy measuring our lives against others that we miss the joy of God's grace.

- Where do you find yourself comparing your life, effort, or recognition to others?
- Do you struggle when others receive something you wanted or worked for?
- In what ways do you subtly believe God "owes" you something?

When we measure our lives by fairness, grace will always feel offensive.

Practice

Replace comparison with gratitude this week. When comparison rises, pause and pray, "God has been generous to me."

Then take one step each day:

- Celebrate someone else.
- Name specific ways God has been kind to you.
- Thank Him for what He's given you instead of focusing on what you lack.

Share

Talk with someone about this question: "Where do I feel overlooked, behind, or frustrated, and how is that shaping me?" Invite them to remind you of God's grace.

Take It Further

Pay attention to moments of irritation, resentment, or feeling unseen this week. When they surface, bring them honestly to God: "Help me trust your goodness and your timing, and rest in the grace you've already given me."





WEEK 8: THE WICKED TENANTS

MATTHEW 21:33-46

Reading Plan: Luke 1-5 **Memorize:** Luke 18:9-14

Theme

The kingdom belongs to the King. The Son has come, and every person must decide how they will respond to Him.

Reflect

In this parable, the owner repeatedly reaches out to the tenants. He sends servant after servant. Finally, he sends his son. Again and again, the tenants reject him. Jesus tells this story to reveal both the patience of God and the seriousness of rejecting the Son He has sent. Yet the rejected Son becomes the cornerstone of God's kingdom. The question at the center of this parable is simple: "What will I do with Jesus?"

- What does this parable reveal about God's patience?
- What does it reveal about Jesus?
- Why do you think people often want God's blessings without God's authority?
- Are there areas of your life where you find it difficult to trust or surrender to Jesus?

The kingdom is not simply about receiving good things from God. It is about receiving the Son whom God has sent.

Practice

Spend a few minutes each day this week reflecting on who Jesus is and what He has done for you. Read Matthew 21:33-46 again and ask:

- What stands out to me about Jesus?
- What does this passage reveal about God's heart?
- Where is God inviting me to trust Him?

Pray: "Jesus, help me see you more clearly and trust you more fully."

The goal this week is not to do more for Jesus, but to know Him more deeply.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: "What stands out to me about Jesus in this parable?" Share honestly where it feels easy or difficult to trust Him as King, and ask them to pray with you.

Take It Further

Pay attention this week to moments when you resist God's leadership. When you want control, prefer your way, or want God's blessings without trusting His wisdom, bring those moments to Jesus. Remember that the Son who was rejected became our Savior, and ask Him to help you trust Him more.



WEEK 9: THE TEN VIRGINS

MATTHEW 25:1-13

Reading Plan: Luke 6-11 Memorize: Luke 18:1-8

Theme

The kingdom calls for readiness. Kingdom people live attentive and prepared for the coming of the King.

Reflect

In this parable, all ten virgins expected the bridegroom to come, but only five were prepared when He arrived. The difference wasn't desire. It was daily preparation. Jesus reminds us that faithfulness isn't built in dramatic moments, but through ordinary obedience over time. Readiness isn't driven by fear that Jesus might come back tomorrow. It's fueled by love for the King and a desire to be found faithfully following Him whenever He comes.

- Where have I become spiritually distracted or passive?
- What habits are shaping my love for Jesus right now?
- Are there areas where I've delayed obedience, assuming I'll have another opportunity later?
- What would it look like to cultivate a life that is awake, attentive, and expectant?

Readiness isn't built in a moment. It's formed through thousands of small acts of faithfulness.

Practice

This week, choose one simple practice that helps you stay attentive to Jesus. It could be a daily time in God's Word, a brief pause to pray during your day, or ending each evening by reflecting on where you noticed God's presence. Don't aim for perfection...simply practice faithfully, trusting that God forms us through ordinary rhythms of obedience.

Pray: "Lord, keep my heart awake. Form in me a life that delights in You and is ready for Your coming."

Share

Ask someone you trust: "What helps you stay spiritually attentive and grounded?" Then share where you've been drifting and one rhythm you're committing to. Invite them to check in with you this week.

Take It Further

Spend some time with the Lord this week asking Him to reveal where your heart has grown distracted or passive. What has been shaping your attention? Where are you slowly drifting rather than intentionally following Jesus? Invite the Holy Spirit to show you one area where He is calling you to greater faithfulness, and ask Him to form in you a heart that is awake, attentive, and ready, not out of fear, but because you love the King and long to walk closely with Him! What am I slowly drifting toward?

Then ask: "What needs to shift for me to live with greater intentionality?"



WEEK 10: THE TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Reading Plan: Luke 12-17 Memorize: Luke 18:1-8

Theme

The King entrusts His people with His work. Kingdom people invest their lives faithfully for the joy and purposes of the King.

Reflect

In this parable, a master entrusts his servants with resources before departing. The issue isn't how much each servant receives...it's what they do with what they've been given. Jesus reminds His followers that life in the kingdom is not passive. While we wait for the King, we are invited to faithfully participate in His work.

- What has God entrusted to you?
- What opportunities, relationships, gifts, or resources has He placed in your care?
- Where do you feel tempted to play it safe rather than step out in faith?
- What fears keep you from investing your life in what matters to God?

The question isn't whether you have enough. It's whether you'll faithfully use what God has already placed in your hands.

Practice

This week, spend time reflecting on what God has entrusted to you: your gifts, relationships, resources, opportunities, and influence. Then ask, "How might God want me to invest these things for His purposes?" Choose one intentional step of faithfulness. It might be serving someone, encouraging a friend, using a gift you've neglected, giving generously, or stepping into an opportunity you've been avoiding. Remember, God isn't measuring success by the outcome but by your willingness to faithfully steward what He's placed in your hands.

Pray: "Jesus, help me faithfully use what You've entrusted to me for Your purposes."

Share

Talk with someone you trust about what God has entrusted to you and where you feel excited, uncertain, or hesitant. Ask them to pray for faithfulness and courage.

Take It Further

Pay attention this week to moments when fear, insecurity, or comparison surface. Ask, "Am I focused on what I've been given or what I wish I had?" Remember that God isn't asking you to steward someone else's life...only yours. This week, take one step of faith with what He's already placed in your hands.





WEEK 11: THE PERSISTENT WIDOW

LUKE 18:1-8

Reading Plan: Luke 18-24 **Memorize:** Luke 18:1-8

Theme

Kingdom people pray with hope because the King is good and welcomes bold, persistent trust.

Reflect

Jesus tells this parable so that His followers would “always pray and never lose heart.” The widow continues to come because she believes her request matters. Jesus’ point is not that God is reluctant like the unjust judge, but that He is infinitely better. When life feels uncertain, delayed, or difficult, we often begin to question whether God sees us, cares, or is listening. Jesus invites us to come again because the Father welcomes us.

- Where are you currently waiting on God?
- What prayer have you become discouraged from praying?
- What do you believe God thinks about your repeated requests?
- How would your prayer life change if you were convinced that God welcomes you?

Kingdom prayer is not about convincing God to care. It is about continually bringing our lives to a Father who already does.

Practice

Choose one burden, need, or longing to bring before God every day this week. It may be a relationship, a difficult circumstance, a personal struggle, a hope for the future, or someone you love. Return to that same prayer each day, not simply asking God to act, but allowing Him to deepen your trust as you wait. The goal isn’t merely to receive an answer...it is to become the kind of person who trusts the Father’s goodness, even when you cannot yet see what He is doing.

Pray: “Father, help me trust Your goodness even when I cannot see what You are doing.”

The goal is not simply to receive an answer. The goal is to grow in trust.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: “Where am I tempted to lose heart in prayer?” Share what you’re praying for and ask them to pray alongside you this week.

Take It Further

Notice what happens when your prayers seem unanswered. Do you become discouraged, anxious, impatient, or distrustful? Instead of withdrawing, bring those reactions honestly to God and ask, “What am I learning about trust?” Don’t stop asking because you’ve stopped expecting. The King is good, He hears you, and He welcomes your prayers.



WEEK 12: THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR

LUKE 18:9-14

Reading Plan: John 1-5 Memorize: Luke 18:1-8

Theme

The kingdom belongs to the humble, not the self-righteous.

Reflect

Two men enter the temple to pray. One points to his accomplishments. The other pleads for mercy. Only one leaves justified. Jesus tells this parable because self-righteousness can hide in surprisingly religious places. We can begin to believe that our standing with God depends on our performance rather than His grace. The tax collector brought nothing but his need and that was enough because God's mercy meets those who come honestly to Him.

- Where do you find yourself comparing yourself to others?
- What makes you feel spiritually successful or unsuccessful?
- Are there places where you rely more on your performance than God's mercy?
- What would it look like to come honestly before God today?

The kingdom is not for people who have earned their place. It is for people who know they need grace.

Practice

Begin each day this week with a simple prayer: "God, be merciful to me." Spend a few moments honestly acknowledging your need for God, then thank Him for the grace that is already yours through Christ. The goal is not to dwell on your failures but to remember your dependence.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: "Where am I tempted to rely on myself instead of God's grace?" Share honestly about where pride, comparison, judgment, or self-reliance show up in your life, and ask them to pray that humility and gratitude would grow in you.

Take It Further

Pay attention this week to moments when you feel defensive, superior, judgmental, or the need to prove yourself. When those moments come, pause and remember: "I stand before God by grace, and grace alone." Come back to Him honestly—you don't need to impress Him. You simply need His mercy.





WEEK 13: THE GOOD SAMARITAN

LUKE 10:25-37

Reading Plan: John 6-10 **Memorize:** Luke 15:20-24

Theme

The kingdom redefines who our neighbor is. Kingdom love is visible, costly, and marked by compassion.

Reflect

Jesus tells this parable in response to the question, "Who is my neighbor?" Instead of drawing boundaries around who deserves love, Jesus expands the definition of neighbor and calls His followers to move toward people with compassion. The Samaritan crosses barriers to enter another person's suffering, pointing us to Jesus, who first moved toward us in our greatest need. As we receive His compassion, we become people who extend it to others.

- Who are the people you naturally overlook or avoid?
- What barriers keep you from engaging people who are different from you?
- Where has God placed people around you who may need practical care, friendship, or the hope of the gospel?
- What keeps compassion from becoming action?

Practice

Ask God to show you one person He may be inviting you to move toward this week. Then take one intentional step of love. That might mean:

- Starting a conversation.
- Inviting someone into your home.
- Offering practical help.
- Listening to their story.
- Asking how you can pray for them.

Don't worry about doing something impressive. The goal isn't simply to do a good deed...it's to love your neighbor the way Jesus has loved you, trusting that small acts of compassion often become opportunities for the Kingdom.

Pray: "Jesus, help me see people the way You see them, and give me the courage to move toward them with Your love."

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: "Who might God be inviting me to move toward?" Share what feels uncomfortable or costly, and ask them to pray for courage.

Take It Further

This week, notice who you naturally move toward and who you avoid. Ask God to open your eyes to opportunities He's already placed around you and give you the courage to respond with the compassion of Christ.





WEEK 14: THE LOST SHEEP

LUKE 15:1-7

Reading Plan: John 11-15 Memorize: Luke 15:20-24



Theme

The King actively seeks the lost, and kingdom people share the heart of the Shepherd.

Reflect

Jesus tells this parable because religious people are frustrated that He welcomes sinners. In response, He reveals the heart of God. The shepherd notices one sheep is missing, goes after it, and rejoices when he finds it. This isn't primarily a story about a lost sheep...it's a story about a pursuing Shepherd! He pursued us when we were far from Him, and now He invites us to share His heart for those who are still far away.

- How has God pursued you throughout your life?
- What does this parable reveal about God's heart for people who are far from Him?
- Who in your life is currently disconnected from God?
- When you think about people who don't know Jesus, what emotions do you feel?

Before kingdom people go, they learn to love what the King loves.

Practice

Choose one person who is far from God and commit to praying for them every day this week. As you pray, ask God to give you His heart for them and to show you one intentional step you can take. That might mean reaching out, inviting them to coffee or a meal, listening to their story, asking meaningful questions, or simply welcoming them into your life. Don't focus on having all the right words. The goal isn't to pressure someone into faith...it's to join the Good Shepherd in pursuing people He loves.

Pray: "Jesus, give me the heart of the Shepherd."

Share

Talk with someone you trust about one person God may be inviting you to pursue with prayer and intentionality. Pray together and encourage one another to take a step.

Take It Further

This week, pay attention to how often you think about people who don't know Jesus. What fears or assumptions keep you from engaging them? Ask God to give you the Shepherd's heart and the courage to respond when He opens a door.

Blank lined paper with horizontal ruling lines.



WEEK 15: THE PRODIGAL SON

LUKE 15:11-32

Reading Plan: John 16-21 Memorize: Luke 15:20-24

Theme

The kingdom is marked by extravagant grace. The Father joyfully welcomes sinners home and invites His people to share in His celebration.

Reflect

Jesus tells this story to reveal the heart of the Father. One son runs away in rebellion. The other stays close but becomes consumed with resentment and self-righteousness. Yet the Father moves toward both sons. He runs to welcome the younger son home. He goes out to plead with the older son to join the celebration. Both sons misunderstand the Father's heart, but the invitation is the same for each: receive the Father's grace and come into the joy of His house.

- Where do you see yourself in this story?
- Do you tend to relate more to the younger son who wandered? Or the older son who struggles with comparison, resentment, or self-righteousness?
- What makes it difficult to fully receive God's grace?
- How do you respond when God shows grace to people who don't seem to deserve it?

The kingdom is not built on earning God's love. It is built on receiving it.

Practice

Spend time this week reflecting on the ways God has shown grace to you. Each day, thank God for specific ways He has forgiven you, pursued you, been patient with you, and welcomed you.

Then ask: "Who am I struggling to celebrate the grace of God in?" Pray for that person and ask God to help your heart reflect His. The goal is not simply to receive grace for yourself. It is to become someone who delights in seeing others receive it too.

Share

Talk with someone you trust about this question: "Which son do I relate to most right now, and why?" Share honestly about where you struggle to receive grace or extend it. Ask them to remind you of the Father's heart and pray for you.

Take It Further

Pay attention this week:

- When do you feel the need to earn God's approval?
- When do you compare yourself to others?
- When do you struggle to celebrate what God is doing in someone else's life?

Ask: "Am I living more like a beloved child or like someone trying to earn a place in the family?"



Blank lined paper for writing.

READ WITH US

Join us as we take a deep dive into the parables of Jesus. The parables help disciples of Jesus understand deep Gospel truths about God and what it means to live on mission for God.

WEEK OF 8/16

- Matthew 1
- Matthew 2
- Matthew 3
- Matthew 4
- Matthew 5

** Matthew 13:10-17*

WEEK OF 8/23

- Matthew 6
- Matthew 7
- Matthew 8
- Matthew 9
- Matthew 10

** Matthew 13:1-23*

WEEK OF 8/30

- Matthew 11&12
- Matthew 13&14
- Matthew 15&16
- Matthew 17
- Matthew 18

** Matthew 13:31-35*

WEEK OF 9/6

- Matthew 19&20
- Matthew 21&22
- Matthew 23&24
- Matthew 25&26
- Matthew 27&28

** Mark 4:26-29*

WEEK OF 9/13

- Mark 1
- Mark 2
- Mark 3
- Mark 4
- Mark 5

** Matthew 13:45-46*

WEEK OF 9/20

- Mark 6
- Mark 7
- Mark 8
- Mark 9
- Mark 10

** Matthew 18:21-35*

WEEK OF 9/27

- Mark 11
- Mark 12
- Mark 13
- Mark 14
- Mark 15&16

** Matthew 20:1-5*

WEEK OF 10/4

- Luke 1
- Luke 2
- Luke 3
- Luke 4
- Luke 5

** Matthew 21:33-43*

WEEK OF 10/11

- Luke 6
- Luke 7
- Luke 8
- Luke 9
- Luke 10&11

** Matthew 25:1-13*

WEEK OF 10/18

- Luke 12
- Luke 13
- Luke 14
- Luke 15
- Luke 16&17

** Matthew 25:14-30*

WEEK OF 10/25

- Luke 18
- Luke 19
- Luke 20
- Luke 21&22
- Luke 23&24

** Luke 18:1-8*

WEEK OF 11/1

- John 1
- John 2
- John 3
- John 4
- John 5

** Luke 18:9-14*

WEEK OF 11/8

- John 6
- John 7
- John 8
- John 9
- John 10

** Luke 10:25-37*

WEEK OF 11/15

- John 11
- John 12
- John 13
- John 14
- John 15

** Luke 15:1-7*

WEEK OF 11/22

- John 16
- John 17
- John 18
- John 19
- John 20&21

** Luke 15:11-32*

