



Parables

EXPLORING JESUS' PARABLES
10 MINUTES AT A TIME



simply for students

SCOTT
FIRESTONE IV

10-Minute Moments: Parables

Exploring Jesus' Parables 10 Minutes At a Time

Copyright © 2010 Scott Firestone IV

Visit our website: simplyyouthministry.com

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior written permission from the publisher, except where noted in the text and in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical articles and reviews. For information, visit group.com/permissions.

Credits

Authors: Scott Firestone IV

Executive Developer: Nadim Najm

Chief Creative Officer: Joani Schultz

Editors: Rob Cunningham, Rick Lawrence

Cover Art Director: Riley Hall

Designer: Riley Hall

Production Manager: DeAnne Lear

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2007. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.

978-0-7644-6351-8

14 13 12 11 10

23 22 21 20 19

Printed in the United States of America.

INTRODUCTION

I know it's a weird thing, but I don't really like when people call the accounts of the Bible *stories*. "Today we're going to talk about the story of Noah!" To me that makes them seem less real, like they didn't really happen—and believe me, they happened. But this might sound weird to you: I'm completely OK calling Jesus' parables *stories* because that's what these particular passages of Scripture contain.

The things in these stories didn't actually happen. Jesus telling these stories did happen.

So why did he use stories to get his points across? Well, think about some of your best memories—they're all connected to a story, right? Stories have the power to create vivid pictures—they help us remember important memories or truths. For instance, I have a hilarious story that helps me remember to always check whether I'm going into the men's or women's bathroom in a restaurant.

Jesus knew the power of stories, so he told stories that people of his time could relate to—stories about fishermen and seeds and sheep. But just because they were told to those first-century crowds doesn't mean there's nothing here for us to learn.

Sometimes the stories will be difficult to understand. Don't worry: Jesus had to explain them to his disciples, too. This book will help you understand Jesus' stories—what they meant to his audience and what they mean to your life—every day.

Now, who wants to hear a story?

Praying for you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Firestone IV', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Firestone IV

Day 1

TWO BUILDERS AND TWO FOUNDATIONS



It's fitting that this is Jesus' first recorded parable; it's *foundational* to everything else he would say in his time on earth. It's easy to hear wise words, but the real wisdom comes in *applying* those words.

2 MINUTES

Read the passage below. Circle or underline any words/phrases/verses that you feel are important to remember.

Luke 6:46-49

⁴⁶"So why do you keep calling me 'Lord, Lord!' when you don't do what I say? ⁴⁷I will show you what it's like when someone comes to me, listens to my teaching, and then follows it. ⁴⁸It is like a person building a house who digs deep and lays the foundation on solid rock. When the floodwaters rise and break against that house, it stands firm because it is well built. ⁴⁹But anyone who hears and doesn't obey is like a person who builds a house without a foundation. When the floods sweep down against that house, it will collapse into a heap of ruins."

5 MINUTES

Think about the following questions and how they might apply to your life.

- You're not literally building a house, so what is Jesus talking about here?

- Think about one specific “floodwater” that has broken against your life. Was your response more like “standing firm” or more like “crumbling”? Explain. Why did you react the way you did?
- What does it mean to “dig deep and lay a foundation on solid rock”?
- Why isn’t it enough to just hear Jesus’ words? Doesn’t that make us smart enough to avoid “floodwaters”?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

- A house’s foundation is what keeps it strong and solid. Having God as our foundation is the only way we can withstand life’s floodwaters—and God wants nothing more than to be your foundation.
- Notice that Jesus doesn’t say having a strong foundation means the floodwaters won’t come.
- Ask God to help you not just listen to wise words, but to follow them as well.

EXPERIENCE

Find a rock you can fit in your hand. Squeeze it; try to change its shape. Think about how your life might change if you were to build it on something solid, like the rock. Also, if you get the chance, take a walk on a gravel path—or gravel on a playground—and notice how difficult it is to keep your footing and maintain a solid base.

THOUGHTS

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment.



Jesus was a controversial guy. He especially upset the Pharisees—a group of religious scholars who knew so much about religion that they completely missed the Savior of the universe in their midst. Making sure people followed the rules was very important to them—and Jesus’ habit of hanging out with sinners definitely went against their rules. But their rules lacked love.

2 MINUTES

Read the passage below. Circle or underline any words/phrases/verses that you feel are important to remember.

Luke 15:1-10

¹Tax collectors and other notorious sinners often came to listen to Jesus teach. ²This made the Pharisees and teachers of religious law complain that he was associating with such sinful people—even eating with them!

³So Jesus told them this story: ⁴“If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, what will he do? Won’t he leave the ninety-nine others in the wilderness and go to search for the one that is lost until he finds it? ⁵And when he has found it, he will joyfully carry it home on his shoulders. ⁶When he arrives, he will call together his friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me because I have found my lost sheep.’ ⁷In the same way, there is more joy in heaven over one lost sinner who repents and returns to God than over ninety-nine others who are righteous and haven’t strayed away!

⁸“Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Won't she light a lamp and sweep the entire house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, 'Rejoice with me because I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, there is joy in the presence of God's angels when even one sinner repents.”

5 MINUTES

Think about the following questions and how they might apply to your life.

- In what ways, if any, has Jesus pursued you in your life?
- How did you know it was Jesus pursuing you?
- Why do you think Jesus compares us to sheep?
- What might be the consequences of Jesus leaving the 99 to search for the one?
- Why is there so much joy over finding one lost sheep?

3 MINUTES

Hanging out with God

- If you are still a “lost sheep,” consider coming to the One who loves you enough to pursue you. If you take that step, talk to your youth pastor about your decision.
- If you've committed your life to Jesus, ask God to bring to mind friends who haven't made the decision to follow Jesus—in other words, right now they're “lost.” Imagine the party in heaven (and here on earth) when they are “found.”
- How can you show your appreciation to Jesus for caring so much about you?

THOUGHTS

This space is here for you to jot down some thoughts, write out a prayer, draw a picture, or do whatever you want to help you remember your 10-minute moment.



If you've got 10 minutes (and I bet you can find them lying around), then you've got enough time to listen to some of Jesus' stories.

10-Minute Moments: Parables is a 31-day devotional and journal that helps you discover the transformational power of parables taught by Jesus, the greatest storyteller ever. You'll take a look at a parable, spend a few minutes thinking about it, answer a few questions, and then get some ideas for prayer.

It's totally portable—do 'em on the bus, in the car, or in your room—and easy to understand.



Scott Firestone IV has been the associate editor for Group Magazine for five years, and is a lay leader in the youth ministry at Greeley Wesleyan church in Colorado. He likes playing board games and video games, and loves hanging out with his wife and two boys.

 doug fields'
simply youth ministry
simplifying ministry...saving you time

**Group**

ISBN 978-0-7644-6351-8



9 780764 463518

Religion/Christian Ministry/Youth