PARABLES
OF
JESUS
CHALLENGE
When I was a seminary student, I took a class on the Parables Of Jesus by the distinguished professor Dr. Craig Blomberg. He’s an expert in the parables of Jesus and the New Testament, and is actually one of the translators of the NIV Bible!

I was so excited to take this class years ago because I have always been drawn to the parables of Jesus. I find the parables to be fascinating, but also mysterious in their meaning sometimes.

And actually, that is a major point of Jesus’ parables - He created them to draw those seeking Him while repelling others that wouldn’t accept His wisdom.

Jesus’ message isn’t easy to handle, and God is immensely interested in having our entire self devoted to Him... not just portions of us.

Why? Because of His love.

God knows that we cannot figure out life ourselves and He, as the Master and Creator of us and this entire universe, provides us a different way of life.

The parables of Jesus can and should refine and renew you too. Anytime we intentionally meet with God through prayer and Scripture study, well... He moves mountains.

Sometimes we don’t notice it, or have become dull to the phenomena, of God’s work in our life - but it is very true. By looking at the parables of Jesus over the next 31 days, life as you know it could radically change.

Our God is that powerful and that magnificent and all we have to do is show up and be willing to grab ahold and not let go or lose our focus.

So join me this adventure and see what Jesus has to say to you through His parables. I bet it’s exactly what you need to hear.
WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE CHALLENGE:

1. DAILY SCRIPTURE & A PLACE TO WRITE IT OUT
   In your guidebook, we provide you a piece of Scripture each day. Underneath that is a box for you to write the Scripture for yourself. (If you are not printing the Challenge, then just write it out in your journal or on some paper).

2. A REFERENCE TO THE WHOLE PARABLE
   This is really important for the Challenge. We want you to read the entire parable in your own Bible or online. Due to space and copyright laws we cannot provide you the entire parable.

   In order to really take on this Challenge you will need to have your Bible with you or access to Scripture online: biblegateway.com is a great place to look up Scripture.

3. A SHORT SUMMARY OF EACH PARABLE
   For each parable, we give you a quick summary of what the parable means. This is to help you dive deeper into the text and to help you process the Scripture.

4. A REFLECTION QUESTION
   This is to help you apply the parable to your own life. God always is speaking to us and this is the time to process what He is saying to you in your life right here and now through the words of Jesus. We provide you a space to write out your answers.

5. A PRAYER PROMPT
   And finally we end each day with a prayer prompt. This is a guiding thought to help you bring it all before the Lord. We provide a space for your to write out your prayer.

6. MOTIVATION MONDAY EMAILS
   Every Monday evening around 7pm EST we will send out an email to help encourage you and plant your feet firmly in the Lord for the week. Mondays are hard, right? So we want to help you by carving out some time each Monday evening to be renewed and refreshed.
WAYS TO PUT TOGETHER YOUR CHALLENGE:

PRINT IT OUT

- Three-hole punch all the papers and put in a binder.
- Three-hole punch it and bind it with metal rings, ribbons, or scraps of fabric. You could go to an office supply store or a craft store and look for ways to creatively bind your Challenge.
- Take it to a print shop (Office Depot, Staples, etc.) and have them print and spiral bind it.
- Someone once showed me how they used the blank side of adult coloring sheets to write their Challenge. Neat idea!
- The possibilities are endless for creatively putting together your Challenge!

KEEP IT ON YOUR PHONE, COMPUTER, OR TABLET

- Find a program that will let you interact with the Challenge on a screen. OneNote for Microsoft is one we have heard worked. Anything that can write on a PDF is a possibility.
- Finally, you can simply keep an accompanying journal or notebook to fill out the questions and write your Scripture out.

IDEAS FOR WRITING OUT THE BIBLE VERSES

AS YOU WRITE THE SCRIPTURE OUT, WE WANT YOU TO BE OPEN TO GOD SPEAKING TO YOU. TRY TO KEEP YOUR MIND SITUATED AROUND THE TEXT AS YOU WRITE. KEEP YOURSELF ALERT TO GOD’S PRESENCE AND WHAT HE MAY BE SPEAKING.

- You can write out a piece of the passage that speaks the most to you.
- Use a different translation.
- Pick one word from the text and make a word-map.
- Find a font you like and try to write it out with that font.
- Use crayons, colored pencils, washi tape, stickers, etc.
- Or you can simply write the passage out as it is, whatever you feel is best suited for you!

WE HAVE A MASTER LIST OF RESOURCES YOU CAN FIND AT:

https://spirituallyhungry.com/challenge-resources/
MAKE SURE YOU ARE RECEIVING OUR EMAILS

Did you know your email also has filters? If you want our emails to show up in your main box and not into spam or promotions, you must whitelist our email address. Instructions for this is on the page you downloaded this Challenge from: https://spirituallyhungry.com/enjoy-the-parables-of-jesus-challenge

Unfortunately, even doing all of this won’t automatically ensure our email will come through to you! I know, annoying right? That’s just how email and social media works nowadays!

If you want to make sure you are receiving our emails and all the freebies and giveaways, then it’s important that you open our emails when they come into your box. When you do not open or click into emails, your email server interprets that as though you are not interested and it can will eventually start putting that into spam or different folders. A good tip is also to add hello@spirituallyhungry.com to your contacts. If you ever have trouble getting emails, sign up again for any Challenge and go through the sign up process again.

TIPS FOR MAKING THE MOST OUT OF THIS CHALLENGE:

1.) Take some time, right now, and pray to God about committing to this Challenge. It’s really easy when you first start a Challenge to say you are going to do the entire thing. Hey, we are guilty of this too! What we want you to do is to be serious about this Challenge and view it as a portion of your walk with Christ. It’s only a few minutes a day and what you will reap from that small time has life-lasting reward.

2.) Connect with us and the others on social media either through the Spiritually Hungry Challenges Facebook Group or on Instagram. There will be content unique to these platforms, not to be found in the Challenge, and you’ll want to follow along!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook: @christianresourceproject

3.) Please share this Challenge with others who you think would benefit from doing it. Wouldn’t it be a fun, great Christian community building activity to do this Challenge with some friends from church?

Why not invite them to come along? We are stronger together. They can sign up here: https://spirituallyhungry.com/parables-of-jesus/
Our names are Alexis and Aaron and we are the married ministry couple behind Spiritually Hungry.

This Challenge is an outpouring of our heart and it has been our prayer that this time seeking the Lord is incredibly transformational for you.

We love Jesus. Seriously love Him. We think that He is the best thing that has ever happened to this world and His ministry not only affects our eternal salvation, but our life here and now. Jesus is the game changer.

Our lives as a ministry professionals and seminary graduates have been spent in pursuit of helping people - and ourselves - draw deeper into God’s love, power, and presence. Because that is the only thing worth pursuing.

If you follow this Challenge every day this month, we truly believe your life could change, because anytime we intentionally come before God we are changed. We’re excited to see what God does through this Challenge and we hope and pray both of us can experience God’s truth and love in more profound ways.

We are so glad you are taking this Challenge!

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If you’d like for your friends to take the Challenge with you, please ask them to go to the Challenge page and sign up for the Challenge personally.

https://spirituallyhungry.com/parables-of-jesus/

*The translation used for this Challenge is the NIV

With all of that covered, let’s get started!
behold
the kingdom
of heaven is
like...
Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
This parable is about valuing your faith and seeking after it at all costs. As we begin this month, what are some new ways you’d like to develop and grow your faith in Jesus?

Prayer Prompt: Spend some time asking God to help you give Him more of yourself so that He can grow you further.
He answered, Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbor as yourself. v. 27

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
Ask God to expand the depths and walls of your heart. Ask Him to help you take on a servant’s heart like the Samaritan and Jesus.
Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. v. 24

PLEASE READ MT. 7:24-27 THE WISE & FOOLISH BUILDERS

Reflection Question:
This parable is about centering our life on Jesus.
What are some of the things in your relationship with God that ground you and bring Him into greater focus?

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to build a firmer foundation in your life so that you can stand strong in His love, truth, and strength no matter what happens.
DAY 4  MATTHEW 20:1-16

The Parable Of The Workers In The Vineyard

So the last will be first, and the first will be last.

v. 16

Please Read Mt. 20:1-16 The Workers In The Vineyard

Reflection Question:

This parable is about God’s grace and how it’s His to bestow. What are some ways God has rewarded you even when you didn’t deserve it?

Prayer Prompt:

Spend some time thanking God for His good grace to you, and ask Him for help in extending grace to others.

Write Scripture

Spend some time thanking God for His good grace to you, and ask Him for help in extending grace to others.

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Blessed is the one who will eat at the feast in the kingdom of God.

Reflection Question:
This parable has multiple layers of interpretation. One meaning relates to God’s willingness to use anyone who responds to His calling. How has God used you in situations when no one else seemed to care?

Prayer Prompt:
Thank God for the opportunities He has provided to serve and love others and ask Him to show you new places where He can use you.
Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.

Write Scripture

**PLEASE READ MT. 24:32-35 THE PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE**

Reflection Question:

This parable is about encouraging us to trust the truth of Jesus. In what ways has your life been changed by relying on Jesus and His teachings?

Prayer Prompt

Spend some time asking God to help you become better accustomed to His voice and responsive to His direction.

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Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.

Write Scripture

Please read Mt. 24:42-51 The Faithful Servant

Reflection Question:
This parable is about remaining vigilant in our faith at all times. Are there certain situations that cause you to move away from your faith or be tempted by sin?

Prayer Prompt:
Spend some time asking God to help you become more balanced and dedicated to Him in all circumstances.
Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it?

LUKE 15:4-6

PLEASE READ LUKE 15:4-6  THE LOST SHEEP

Reflection Question:

This parable is about God’s care for each of His children. In what ways do you believe God has sought after you, even when you felt rebellious or tried to hide?

Prayer Prompt:

Thank God for his relentless pursuit of you in love, and ask Him to equip you to stay in His love and presence more completely.

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As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.

Reflection Question:
This parable is about how God prepares us for faith and service. What are some of the ways God has prepared you for His work, and who has helped you along the way?

Prayer Prompt:
Ask God to show you how He has equipped you or is in the process of growing you. Thank Him for His investment in you.
For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the importance of loving and caring for those in need. How have you shown compassion to others? How have others extended that grace to you in love?

Prayer Prompt:
Ask God to help you become a more compassionate person, seeking out chances to show God’s love to others.
And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? v. 7

Write Scripture

**PLEASE READ LUKE 18:1-8 THE PARABLE OF THE WIDOW**

**Reflection Question:**
This parable is about persistence in faith. What is something you’ve prayed consistently and found it answered in time? Are you still waiting for an answer from God on another matter?

**Prayer Prompt:** Spend some time asking God to bring to light subjects where you should have more dedication to prayer.
DAY 12

LUKE 15:11-32

The Prodigal Son

For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.

v. 24

Write Scripture

PLEASE READ MT. 25:31-46 THE LOST SHEEP

Reflection Question:

One interpretation of this parable shows us how God has endurance in His love for us, despite our sin. How has God shown you love in the past, even when you felt you were moving away from Him?

Prayer Prompt:

Thank God for His endless desire and love for you.
Day 13: Matthew 13:3-9

Parable of the Seeds

Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. Whoever has ears, let them hear.

v. 8-9

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the various responses to the Gospel. Can you identify with one of the seeds in this parable? Have you at times responded hesitantly to God’s call?

Prayer Prompt: Spend time asking God for help in flourishing and growing in your faith. Ask Him for protection against falling away and endurance.

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Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.

reflection question:
This parable is about the reality that sin and evil people will be with us in this world, but God is fixing the issue. Does it give you comfort to know that God is going to ultimately deal with the problem of sin? Why?

prayer prompt:
Ask God to bring someone to your mind who needs redemption from sin. Pray for them and ask God how you can continue to love them.
Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Reflection Question:
This parable is about being good stewards of what we’ve been given. Are you naturally thankful for what you have, or is it a struggle for you? Do you “work with what you have” or long for more?

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to become more grateful and satisfied with your place in life. Seek God’s wisdom in becoming a better steward of your life.
You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

**Write Scripture**

Not exactly a parable, this famous illustration is about the importance of showing our faith. Are you comfortable being an example of God’s love? What good things God has done would you like to share more?

**Reflection Question:**

Ask God to help you find more ways to spread the light and goodness He has given you.
This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the futility of materialism. Do you struggle with an intense desire for money and things? If so, why do you think money has a hold over you? If not, why is money less important to you?

Prayer Prompt:
Pray to God about a healthy attitude toward money and possessions. Ask Him for help in cultivating a generous heart.
In the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples.

Reflection Question:
Ask God to help you see what personal sacrifices are necessary in your life to follow Him. Ask for Help and guidance in making changes.

PLEASE READ LUKE 14:28-33 THE PARABLE OF TOWER & WAR

These parables are about dedicating ourselves completely to discipleship and faith. What is something you’ve given up to dedicate yourself to God? Is there anything you think you should give up?
Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much.

v. 21

Please read Luke 16:1-13 The Shrewd Manager

Reflection Question:
This parable is about doing right with the blessings God has given. What are some of the ways you use your home or possessions to bless others?

Prayer Prompt:
Ask God to show you how you can use your life and property to show love and grace to others.
DAY 20  LUKE 14:7-14

The Parable Of The Wedding Feast

But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

v. 13-14

Write Scripture

PLEASE READ LUKE 14:7-14  THE WEDDING FEAST

Reflection Question:

This parable is about the value of humility and service to others. When you meet a humble person, how do you respond? Do you tend to overlook them, or do you see their deep qualities?

Prayer Prompt:

Spend time reflecting on your own recognition of humility, in yourself and others. Ask God to give you a deeper understanding of humility.
DAY 21  MATTHEW 9:16–17

The Parable Of New Wine Into Old Wineskins

No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment; for the patch will pull away from the garment, making the tear worse.  v. 16

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the need for finding new ways to share the Gospel. Do you enjoy exploring your faith? Do you seek out new ways to connect to God? What are some new expression of faith you’d like to try?

Prayer Prompt:
Ask God for guidance in seeking out new ways to grow in faith. Ask God to show you how you can grow in faith and connection to Him.

PLEASE READ MT. 9:16-17 THE WINESKINS

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Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish.

Write Scripture

This parable is about how not everyone will respond to hearing the Gospel. Have you ever been confused or hurt by people who claim to be Christian, but whose actions show they aren’t following God? How so?

Prayer Prompt: Spend some time asking God to find forgiveness for past hurts, and to find ways to forgive, love and learn from past experiences in faith.
DAY 23  MATTHEW 21:28-32

Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.

Please read Mt. 21:28-32 The Parable of the Two Sons

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the value of action over words. Do you struggle with keeping promises and agreements? Do you need to improve in this area, or how has God changed and grown you?

Prayer Prompt:
Spend time with God evaluating the strength of your words and actions. Is there a disconnect between the two God wants you to work on?

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Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
This is another parable about remaining strong in faith. Is the uncertainty of our death, or the return of Christ, a motivating factor for you? Is it something that you fear, or instead recognize it as part of God’s timing?

Prayer Prompt:
Ask God to help you remain prepared, not just for death, but also all the storms and uncertainties that life can throw at us.
DAY 25
LUKE 11:21-23

When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up his plunder.

Write Scripture

PLEASE READ LK. 11:21-23  THE PARABLE OF THE STRONG MAN

Reflection Question:
This parable is about finding strength in Jesus. Have you often felt weak and powerless? In what ways has God given you strength to endure trials and suffering?

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to help you grow in your dependence on Him for strength and perseverance in all circumstances.
DAY 26  LUKE 7:41-43

The Parable Of The Two Debtors

Now which of them will love him more? Simon replied, I suppose the one who had the bigger debt forgiven. You have judged correctly, Jesus said.

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
This parable is about our response to forgiveness. Do believe sin is a major obstacle you need rescue from, or is God’s forgiveness vague to you? What would it look like to better embrace God’s forgiveness?

Prayer Prompt:
Thank God for His forgiving, loving nature. Identify something God has forgiven you for and praise Him for His mercy.

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Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the value God places on your life? Do you see yourself as a precious child of God? Do you find dignity and worth in knowing you are God’s beloved, or is this a hard concept for you? Why?

Prayer Prompt:
Take time to reflect with God about how He sees you and how you can learn to better accept the love and dignity He wants for you.
The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

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**Reflection Question:**

This parable is about the value of following Jesus. What is the biggest change that has happened in your life because of Jesus? How are you different now, or what would your life be like if you didn’t follow Him?

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**Prayer Prompt:** Spend time thanking God for the direction and guidance He provides you.

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DAY 29

LUKE 18:9-14

The Parable Of The Pharisee And The Tax Collector

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, God, have mercy on me, a sinner. v.13

Reflection Question:

This parable is about God’s desire for humility in our faith. Do you often act without being concerned if others see it because you know God does? Why do you think such actions are important?

Prayer Prompt:

Ask God to help you place greater importance on His view of you, and less on what others think or know of your good deeds.

PLEASE READ LK. 18:9-14 THE PHARISEE & THE TAX COLLECTOR

Write Scripture

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He had one left to send, a son, whom he loved. He sent him last of all, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’

Write Scripture

Reflection Question:
This parable is about the history of rejection of God’s prophets and, ultimately, Jesus. Do you believe doing good and speaking truth is noble, even though people are frequently treated poorly for doing so? Why?

Prayer Prompt:
Spend time talking to God about strengthening you to stay strong in His truth, despite other circumstances.
The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

Write Scripture

Please Read Mt. 13:31-32 Parable of the Mustard Seed

Reflection Question:
This parable is about how God uses the smallest things to His glory. How has God grown virtues or attributes in your life for His purposes? How would you like for God to continue to use you for His Kingdom?

Prayer Prompt: Spend time in prayer asking God that you would continue to be open to His growth and movement in your life.
Congrats! You finished the Parables of Jesus Challenge!

Our next Challenge begins June 1st and goes all summer long. Come join us for the Psalms Challenge and see what God does for you through these beautiful and deep words.

You’ll find the next Challenge at the website below:
www.spirituallyhungry.com
PARABLES OF JESUS CHALLENGE

MATTHEW 13:45-46
LUKE 12:25-37
MATTHEW 7:24-27
MATTHEW 20:1-16
LUKE 14:15-24
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MATTHEW 24:42-51
LUKE 15:4-6
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