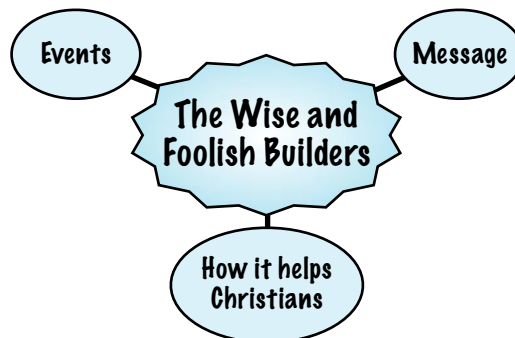
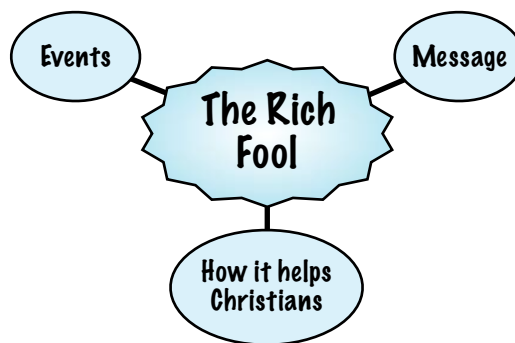


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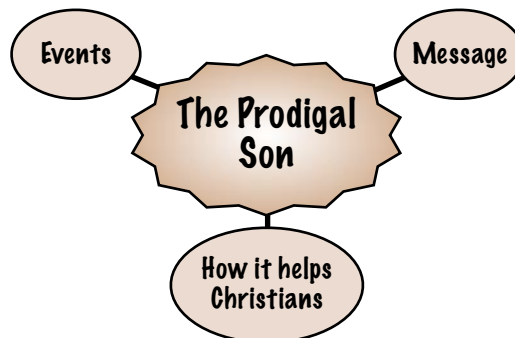
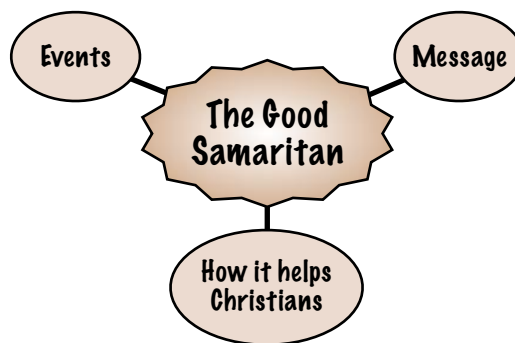
Read Parable Cards A and B. Complete the mind maps below to show what happens in the parable, what you think it means and how the story might help Christians today.



Name: _____ Date: _____



Read Parable Cards B and C. Complete the mind maps below to show what happens in the parable, what you think it means and how the story might help Christians today.



Name: _____ Date: _____



Choose four of the Parable Cards. Read them through carefully, then complete the table below to show what you think they mean and how they might help Christians today.

Parable Title	Parable Outline What happens?	Parable Message What is Jesus trying to say?	Application How might Christians apply the message to their lives?

A

The Rich Fool

Jesus was talking to a big crowd of people. Someone shouted out, "Teacher, tell my brother to give me my fair share of the family inheritance."

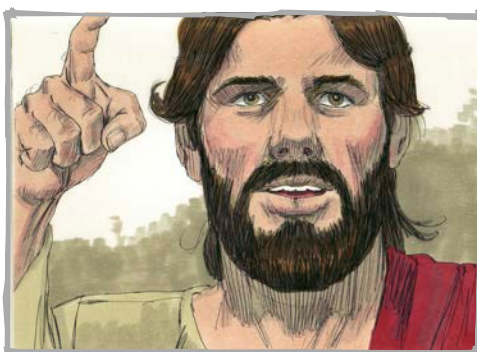
Jesus answered, "What makes you think I will be a judge or mediator for you?" He turned to the rest of the crowd and said, "Take care! Protect yourself against the least bit of greed." Then he told them this parable:

A certain rich man had lots of land that produced masses of crops. He said to himself, 'I have so many crops that they will not all fit in my barn. I know! I'll build a new and bigger barn. I'll keep all my grain and goods and then I'll be able to sit back and retire knowing I am a rich man. I'll enjoy myself and all my riches.' Just then, God spoke to him and said, 'You fool! Tonight you will die and your barn full of goods - who gets it?' That is what happens when you fill your barn with goods instead of with God.



B

The Wise and Foolish Builders



Jesus was teaching a group of people about how God wants them to live their lives. He taught them many things. "Whoever hears my teachings and puts them into practice," he said, "is like a wise builder who builds his house on a foundation of solid rock. When the fierce rain falls and the water levels rise, the house will stand firmly on the rock and not be washed away.

However, those people who hear my teachings but do not act on them are like a foolish builder who builds his house on sand. When the rains come and the water rises, the house will be washed away and be destroyed by the storm." When Jesus finished speaking, the crowd were amazed. He taught them like someone of authority and not like the teachers of the law.

C

The Good Samaritan

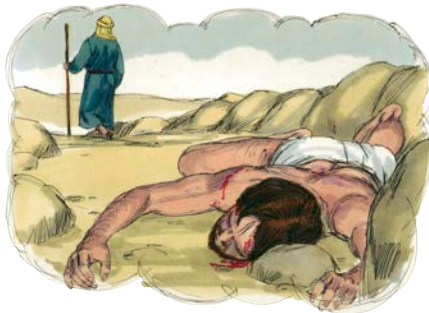
An expert in the law asked Jesus a question to see how he would answer. He knew that the scriptures said that to have eternal life you had to love God with all your heart and soul, and that you also have to love your neighbour as you love yourself. "But who is my neighbour?" the expert asked Jesus. Jesus told him a parable:

A man was on his way from Jericho to Jerusalem when a band of robbers attacked him. They took his clothes and all his possessions, and beat him almost to death. They then ran off, leaving the man wounded and dying.



A priest happened to be going down the same

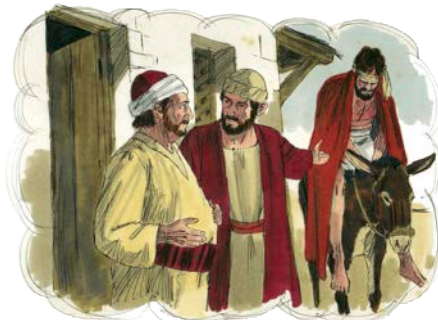
road but when he saw the injured man, he walked by on the other side.



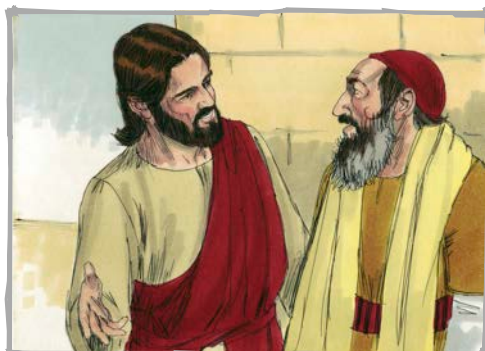
Next, a temple worker was walking along the same road and also saw the same man. He carried on going without stopping, just as the priest had done.

A little later, a man from Samaria was walking along the road and came

across the man. When he saw him, he felt sorry for him. He treated his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put him on his own donkey and took him to an inn.



When they got to the inn, the Samaritan gave the innkeeper two silver coins and said to him, 'Please take care of this man. If you spend any more on him than this, I will reimburse you when I return.'



Then Jesus turned to the expert of the law and said, "Which of the three men was a real neighbour to the man who was beaten up by robbers?" The man answered, "The one who showed pity." Jesus said, "Go and do the same!"

D

The Prodigal Son

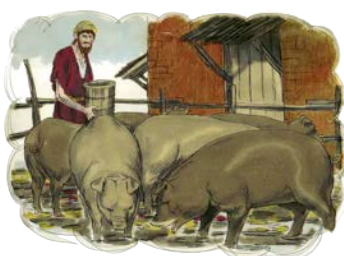
Jesus was talking with a group of people. He told them a parable:



Once a man had two sons. The younger son said to his father, 'Give me my share of your property now instead of waiting until your death. I want to go and make my own life.' So the father divided up his property between his two sons and gave them each their share.

The younger son soon left home to go and live as he pleased. He went to a foreign country and wasted his money on extravagant living. Soon he had spent all his money and had nothing left. To make matters worse, a bad famine hit the land and he was left with nothing to eat.

He decided to go and work for a man who sent him to go and take care of his pigs. He would have been glad to eat what the pigs were eating but no one gave him a thing.



Finally, he came to his senses. 'My father's workers

have plenty to eat, and here I am starving to death! I will go to my father and tell him that although I am no longer worthy to be called his son, I will offer to work for him as a servant.' So he started making his way back home.

As he neared his father's house, his father saw him approaching. He felt sorry for him and ran towards him. When he reached him, the father hugged and

kissed his son. 'Father, I have sinned against God and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But his father said to his servants, 'Hurry and bring the best clothes and put them on him. Get a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet. Get the best calf and prepare it for a feast so we can celebrate! This son was lost to me but now he is found!'

Everyone had begun to celebrate but the older brother was cross. He said to his father, 'For years I have worked for you and always obeyed you. But you have never given me even a small goat so I could have a feast with my friends. And now my brother comes home, having wasted all your money, and you throw him a party. It isn't fair.'

His father replied, 'My son, you are always with me and everything I have is yours. But we should be glad and celebrate! Your brother was dead but now he is alive. He was lost but now is found.'



E

The Great Banquet

Once again, Jesus used parables to teach the people:

The kingdom of God is like what happened when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent out lots of invitations but one by one, the guests started making excuses. 'I've just bought some land and I need to go and look it over. Please excuse me,' said one guest.

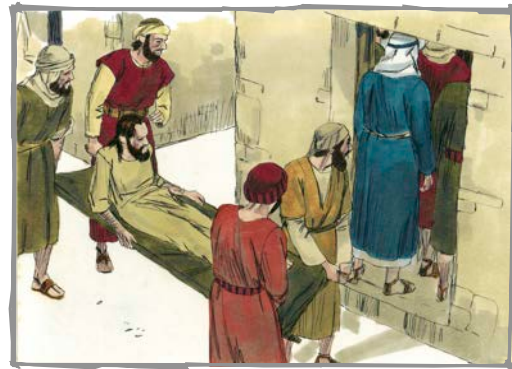
Another guest said, 'I've just bought a team of oxen and I need to break them in. Please excuse me.'

Another said, 'I've just got married so I have to stay with my wife. Please excuse me.'

When the king heard that all his guests were refusing to come, he became angry. 'Go into every street and alley in town,' he told his servants. 'Invite everyone who is poor, paralysed, blind or lame.' The servants did as they were told and lots of people came into his house to enjoy the feast.

'We have done as you have said,' said the servants, 'but there are still plenty more places for people at the feast.'

'Go out along the back roads and make everyone you see come to my feast,' said the king. 'Not one of my original guests will get even a bite of my food.'



F

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Jesus was talking with a group of people, some of whom were very self-righteous and looked down on other people. He told them this parable:

Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee, the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself. 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men - robbers, people who do evil, cheaters - even this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give ten per cent of all my money to the temple.'

But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not look up to heaven but instead looked downcast, and said, 'God, I am a sinner. Have mercy on me.'

"When they both went home, it was the tax collector who was pleasing to God and not the Pharisee," said Jesus.



Choose one of the Parable Cards. Read it carefully and think about what it means.

Your challenge today is to act out the parable and portray what it is teaching.

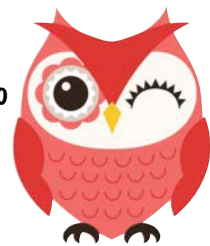
- * Think about how you can use facial expressions to portray what the characters in the story are feeling.
- * Think about how you can show what the story means. Can you incorporate it into the story or will you have an explanation at the end?
- * Think about the people who would have been listening to Jesus tell the story. What do you think they would have been doing?



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