
Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 5: October 9-15

Monday	<i>John 6:25-40</i>
Tuesday	<i>John 6:41-59</i>
Wednesday	<i>John 6:60-70</i>
Thursday	<i>John 10:1-21</i>
Friday	<i>Luke 16:19-31</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 36</i>

Week 6: October 16-22

Monday	<i>Matthew 5:1-12</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 5:13-20</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 5:21-32</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 5:33-48</i>
Friday	<i>Matthew 6:1-15</i>
Saturday	<i>Matthew 6:16-34</i>

Week 7: October 23-29

Monday	<i>Matthew 7:1-12</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 7:13-29</i>
Wednesday	<i>Luke 10:5-12</i>
Thursday	<i>Mark 3:20-35</i>
Friday	<i>Mark 7:1-23</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 20</i>

Week 8: October 30 - November 5

Monday	<i>Matthew 22:15-22</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 22:23-33</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 22:34-35</i>
Thursday	<i>John 15:1-27</i>
Friday	<i>Luke 16:1-13</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 56</i>

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 9: November 6-12

Monday	<i>Matthew 23:1-12</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 23:13-37</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 24:1-35</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 24:36-51</i>
Friday	<i>Luke 18:1-8</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 34</i>

Week 10: November 13-19

Monday	<i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 24:32-35</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 24:45-51</i>
Friday	<i>Matthew 25:1-13</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 41</i>

Week 11: November 20-26

Monday	<i>Matthew 20:1-16</i>
Tuesday	<i>Matthew 21:28-32</i>
Wednesday	<i>Matthew 21:33-44</i>
Thursday	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>
Friday	<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>
Saturday	<i>Psalms 22</i>

Short-Stories By Jesus (About Himself)



Reading the Parables & Teachings of Jesus Together

Parable: a small story with a big point, often hidden and subversive.

Jesus's preaching is distinguished by his parables - deceptively simple stories drawn from every day life that *subvert* everyday life. If you like your teacher to be practical, obvious, black and white and straightforward - you will have to look elsewhere.

But if you are willing to be teased, surprised, disrupted, even offended - than there's no better story teller than Jesus.

Our reading of the Old Testament teaches us that Jesus comes to us not as the God we desired or expected. So naturally we ask: ***"Tell us who God is."***

Jesus, replies not with three point sermons or lectures, but with short stories. Stories from ordinary life that completely *subvert* ordinary life because that's what happens when God shows up - surprise and disruption.

Author Eugene Peterson says this about the purpose of parables:

Parables sound absolutely ordinary: casual stories about soil and seeds, meals and coins and sheep, bandits and victims, farmers and merchants... As people heard Jesus tell these stories, they relaxed their defences.

They walked away perplexed, wondering what they meant, the stories lodged in their imagination. And then, like a time bomb, they would explode in their unprotected hearts. An abyss opened up at their very feet. He was talking about God; they had been invaded!"

These stories are not *fables*. They do not offer moral examples for us to follow.

For instance there is the story about farmer scattering seed not carefully or meticulously as expected - but recklessly and haphazardly.

Or what kind of moral should we learn from the story of a farmhand who, while plowing a field, discovers buried treasure! He then covers it up with soil, sells all that he has, and goes to the owner of the field saying, "Call me crazy, but how much do you want for that worthless patch of dirt?"

Or what kind of person, journeying down the streets of Toronto would risk life and safety to pick up a dirty, half-dead and bleeding stranger, puts them up in the Hilton maxing out credit cards on their recovery?

What kind of fool would leave ninety-nine sheep unguarded and in jeopardy to go and find one lost lamb?

None of us would behave so unseemly, recklessly, and extravagantly.

These stories are not about us. They are stories about God.

We, who have been mistaken into thinking that Church is where we learn who we are and what we're supposed to do, must be carefully lured, and dislodged from our assumptions that we already know all there is to know about God.

The way Jesus accomplishes this is through his parables.

Perhaps Jesus was so fond of parables because he thought of himself as one: the storyteller who became part of the story to draw us back to God.

Scripture Reading Schedule

Week 1: September 11-17

Monday	Matthew 13:1-23
Tuesday	Matthew 13:24-30
Wednesday	Matthew 13:31-43
Thursday	Matthew 13:44-52
Friday	Matthew 13:53-58
Saturday	Psalms 57

Week 2: September 18-24

Monday	Matthew 17:24-27
Tuesday	Matthew 18:12-14
Wednesday	Luke 15:1-10
Thursday	Luke 15:11-24
Friday	Luke 15:25-31
Saturday	Psalms 25

Week 3: September 25-October 1

Monday	Matthew 18:23-35
Tuesday	Luke 14:7-14
Wednesday	Luke 14:15-33
Thursday	Luke 10:25-37
Friday	Luke 10:38-42
Saturday	Psalms 35

Week 4: October 2-8

Monday	Luke 11:1-13
Tuesday	Luke 12:13-31
Wednesday	Luke 12:35-40
Thursday	Luke 13:6-9
Friday	Luke 18:9-14
Saturday	Psalms 31