

# Bible Story 33: JESUS TELLS PARABLES AND CALMS STORM

SCRIPTURE:	Parable: "The Sower"	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23; Mark 4:1-29
	Parable: "Enemy Sows Weeds"	Matthew 13:24-30
	Parable: "Mustard Seeds"	Matthew 13:31-35
	Calms Storm	Matthew 8:23-27
	Sends Twelve Disciples:	Luke 9:1-6
	John the Baptist's Death:	Matthew 14:1-12

MEMORY VERSE: Psalm 119:105

## BIBLE STORY:

Jesus taught His disciples by telling parables. What is a parable? It is a story that teaches a heavenly meaning.

As Jesus was sitting in a boat on a lake, He told a parable about a sower.

*One day a farmer was sowing his seeds. Some seeds scattered and fell beside a pathway. Birds ate these seeds.*

*Some seeds fell where it was rocky. These seeds sprouted but quickly dried up because of the hot sun.*

*Other seeds fell on thorny soil. The thorns spread, not giving space for the seeds to grow.*

*Other seeds fell on good land allowing the seeds to grow and multiply.*

Later, Jesus explained what the parable meant, saying that this parable compares how the Word of God grows in people's lives. Jesus said,

*"One person hears the Word of God, but does not keep the Word in his heart.*

*"Another person hears the Word of God, thinks about it for a short while, but there is no root. When trouble or persecution comes, he stops allowing the Word to grow.*

*"Another person hears the Word of God, but when he is overcome by worries and deceitfulness, the Word stops growing.*

*Another person hears the Word of God, understands it and allows it to grow abundantly."*

Jesus told another parable about an enemy sowing seeds.

*A man sowed seeds on good land. One*

*night when everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered bad weeds.*

*As time passed the plants grew. The weeds began to sprout in the middle of the good seeds.*

*The servants asked the owner what they should do with the weeds. He told them to let everything grow. When it is harvest time, then separate them, gathering and throwing away the weeds, and gathering and putting the wheat in the barn.*

Jesus then told another parable about a mustard seed.

*The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. Even though it is the smallest seed, the mustard seed will grow into the largest plant and the birds will be able to sit on its branches.*

That night Jesus entered into a boat with His disciples and went to the other side of the boat. Jesus slept, because He was tired.

A very strong wind came causing the waves of the water to enter the boat. His disciples were very afraid of drowning. They woke up Jesus saying, "**Master! We are going to die!**"

Jesus got up and commanded the winds to be calm. Immediately the winds and the water were calm!

Later Jesus told his twelve disciples to go out and preach about the Kingdom of God and heal the sick. They obeyed. When they returned, they told Jesus all that happened.

During this time King Herod put John the Baptist to death.

## LIFE LESSONS:

1. Jesus taught His disciples through telling parables, stories with a heavenly meaning. We can learn lessons from the parables that will help us in our life.
2. When the seeds were planted in good soil, they grew. Let the Word of God grow in your life.
3. When the disciples were afraid during the storm, they asked Jesus to help them. When afraid, pray to Jesus and He will listen. He will help and protect you.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

1. What is a parable?
2. In the Bible story, who told parables?
3. Tell the parable of the farmer sowing his seeds.
4. Explain what happened to the seeds as they were sown. What do the seeds represent? What is the Word of God? What happens to the Word of God when it is told?
5. How can the Word of God grow in our lives?
6. Tell the parable of the man who sowed seeds on good land and the enemy came.
7. What does the parable about the “enemy planting weeds among good seeds” mean?
8. Tell the parable of the mustard seed. What does the parable mean?
9. What happened when Jesus entered a boat and a very strong wind came? Why were the disciples afraid?
10. Are you ever afraid? What are some things that make us afraid?
11. Who can we pray to whenever we are afraid? How can God help us when we are afraid?
12. Who are some people who can help us when we are afraid? How?

**SUGGESTIONS FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:**

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

**PRESENTATION:**

- Show different types of seeds to the group. Talk about the seeds, such as: **“How are they similar? How they are different? Where should we plant these seeds - in the shade or in an area with lots of sunlight? How should we take care of the seeds so they’ll grow? How will the plants look like when they are grown?”** (If possible, show plants or pictures of what the seeds will look like when they are grown.) (If apple seeds, let each one eat an apple.)
- Explain that today’s story is about parables. Ask: **“What is a parable?”** (A story with a heavenly meaning) Explain that one of the parables talks about a farmer who went out to plant his seeds.
- Using appropriate expressions, tell the Bible story in your own words.
- Immediately after telling the story, make applications of the lessons taken from the Bible story and apply to the lives of the listeners.

**PLANTING:**

- Each person plants something and cares for the plant so it will grow. Examples:
- **Option 1:** Plant a bulb or seeds in dirt in the ground, dirt in a can or into a flower pot.
- **Option 2:** Put dried beans on wet cotton in a plastic cup or can. Place near sunlight. Keep moist.
- **Option 3:** Secure a carrot with toothpicks on a jar or container with water. The narrow end of the carrot should be touching the water. Place by sunlight.
- Attention:** Care for these and watch them grow.

**VISITOR:**

- Invite a farmer or a gardener to come and talk about planting, cultivating the crop and harvest time. If possible, show some seeds and plants.

**MISSION ACTIVITY:**

- Do a mission activity. Whenever necessary, be sure to receive permission to do your project beforehand.
- **Activity 1:** Plant flowers, a tree, or a garden in your yard. Then take care of it during the year.
- **Activity 2:** Plant flowers or a tree at your church.
- **Activity 3:** Plant flowers and take care of them for an elderly person in your neighborhood or from your church.
- **Activity 4:** Send seeds to a missionary.

**OUTING:**

- Visit a farm or garden to observe the plants being planted, cultivated and/or harvested. If possible, eat some produce and/or bring home a flower or plant.

**GAME: “TURTLE’S WALK”**

- **Option 1:** Walk around the room/house according to what the leader says: **“Turtle’s Walk”** (slow); **“Elephant’s Walk”** (stomping); **Squirrel’s Walk”** (fast), etc.
- Suggestion:** Substitute the name of the animal for another animal that is familiar in your area.
- **Option 2:** Divide into two groups, marking the beginning and ending of the walk. Leader calls out the type of walk. Recognize which group finishes first.

**DAILY BIBLE READING** - Matthew 13:1-9,18-35; 8:23-27; 14:1-12; Mark 4:1-29; Luke 9:1-6

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>
Matthew 13:1-9,18-23	Mark 4:1-29	Matthew 13:24-30	Mathew 13:31-35	Matthew 8:23-27	Luke 9:1-6	Matthew 14:1-12