



WHAT DID HE SAY?

SERIES OVERVIEW

There is no doubt that Jesus is a master teacher. In this series, kids will explore Jesus' imaginative stories called parables. Each of His stories and parables instruct us about the kingdom of God, revealing truth about who He is and what He has for His followers. The more we read God's Word, the more we will know Him. But what will we do with His words? Will we simply read them and forget them? Or will we allow them to take root in our lives and change us? Will we become wiser? Further, Jesus' parables tell the depth of His love for each of us. His love helps us know how to show compassion to others in need.

WHAT DID HE SAY? EARLY CHILDHOOD SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

Lesson Title	Scripture	Wonder Truth	Word of Wonder
The Wise and Foolish Builders	Matthew 7	Jesus' Words Matter	Love the Lord your God with all your heart. —Luke 10:27a (NIRV)
Seeds and Soil	Mark 4	Jesus Wants Us to Hear and Obey	
The Good Samaritan	Luke 10	Jesus Teaches Us to Show Compassion	
The Lost Son	Luke 15	God Welcomes Us No Matter What	

SERIES INVITATION

You've probably heard the definition of parables as "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning."

In Matthew 13:10–11, Jesus' disciples came to Him and asked why He was speaking to the people in parables. His reply is somewhat puzzling, "Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them." He goes on to explain further in verse 16, "But blessed are your eyes because they see, and your ears because they hear." Jesus told these stories so that those who were prepared to hear the truth about who He is would grasp the heavenly meaning of these earthly stories.

Stories have a way of igniting our imaginations and forging direct paths to our hearts. Perhaps that's why children seem to connect with the parables—their imaginations remain active, ready to paint a vivid picture in their minds of the parable. The image of building a house on sand takes them to the sandcastles they have built on a beach, the farmer sowing seed becomes a timeless character, the good Samaritan gives a face to their concern for someone who is hurting, and the father who runs toward his lost son offers an embrace they can imagine from memories in their own lives.

Out of His deep love for us, Jesus told stories that activate the imagination and the heart, stories that allow us to feel the deep truths of His compassion and care for His people.

—**Courtney Wilson**

Children's Pastor

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