

Grade 5 - Chapter 8

Discover

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Discover

Catechist Tips: Parables

Jesus' parables usually feature people with whom a rural audience would have been acquainted—landlords, stewards, farmers, and shepherds.

- Parables are meant to challenge the worldview of the audience.
- Knowing how Jesus' hearers would have expected familiar figures to act can help students grasp a parable's meaning.

Catechist Tips: Familiarize the Setting

Urban or suburban fifth-graders may have real difficulty relating to the agricultural worldview of parables.

- Have the children suggest alternatives for the characters and settings of the parables.
- Workers in the vineyard could be factory workers or day laborers, and the road to Jericho could be a subway or an interstate highway.

Catechist Tips: God's Kingdom Is Like...

Set several types of art materials on a table. Organize a large group into pairs. Tell the children that in the next few minutes each pair is to come up with its own *story or image* of what God's Kingdom is like. Direct their attention to the supplies on the table. Encourage them to use images, ideas, and symbols. Tell them they can use visual arts or write a poem, skit, or story.

Afterward, have a few volunteers share their creations with the group. Discuss why there are so many ideas of what God's Kingdom is like?

Catechist Tips: Echo Pantomime

Use the following Echo Pantomime to share the Gospel (Luke 8:5-8). Have the children repeat the phrases, and do the gestures after you.

Listen to the story that Jesus told us: "Listen!" (Cup your ears). **A sower went out to sow some seed** (Gesture and move as if you are throwing seeds from a bag). **And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came** (Make flapping motions with your arms and swooping motions with your body) **and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground,** (Continue to "sow" seeds) **where they did not have much soil,** (Look dejected) **and they sprang up quickly** (Raise arms and look happy). **But when the sun rose,** (Make a wide rising sun motion with your arms) **they were scorched; and since they had no roots, they withered away** (Use your whole body and move down in a withering position). **Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them** (Make a choking motion with your hands). **Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty** (Raise arms and look happy). **Let anyone with ears listen!** (Cup your ears).

Glossary Activity: Kingdom of God

Have each child write a letter to an imaginary person who has never heard of the Kingdom of God.

- The letter should describe what life on Earth would be like if everyone accepted God's reign.
- Invite volunteers to share their letters with the group.

Additional Activity: Group Storytelling

Have the group sit in a circle.

- Ask a volunteer to begin a story.
- Hand this child a "talking stick" (the core from a roll of paper towels), and have him or her speak the first sentence of the story before passing the stick to the child on the right.
- Each child in turn adds a sentence to the story.

Additional Activity: Heart Puzzles

Distribute heart-shaped pieces of cardboard, markers, scissors, and envelopes.

- Have the children write on the heart one thing that they do at Mass that helps them feel close to Jesus.
- Have the children cut the hearts into a puzzle.
- Invite the children to exchange puzzles, fit the pieces together, and read the message.

Additional Activity: Cross-Curricular - Reading

Have the children locate examples of a fable, a folktale, and an allegory.

- Explain the differences between these genres.
- Have the children compare and contrast the parable with the fable, folktale, and allegory.