

Storyteller

The Parables of Jesus



Jesus used everyday stories to reveal life-changing truths about God's kingdom. In our Storyteller series, we'll explore four of Jesus' parables: The Good Samaritan, The Rich Fool, The Man at the Gate and The King's Business. Together, we'll discover what these stories teach us about loving our neighbours, living generously, caring for those in need and faithfully using all that God has entrusted to us.

Storyteller

The Parables of Jesus

Sermons

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

The Rich Fool Luke 12:13-21

The Man at the Gate Luke 16:19-31

The King's Business Luke 19:11-27



How to Use This Guide

This guide is not meant to replace the Sunday sermon but is designed to help you apply the Biblical teaching given on a Sunday in your Life Groups. We don't want our Life Groups to feel like another 'mini-sermon', but rather to be places where we learn to obey what God says in Christian community. You can find our latest sermons here <https://oasischurch.com.au/audio/>

Church Services

Keep this guide with your Bible and bring it with you to church.

There is space for you to take down notes during the sermon as well.

Life Group

Use this guide during life Group each week. There are Life Group questions for each sermon in the series, and space to write down prayer points that come from the discussion that week or prayer requests from the members of your group.

Personal Devotions

Although this guide is primarily designed for Life Groups, it can also be used in personal devotions. After you have heard the sermon preached on the Sunday, go through this guide and use it to apply what you have learnt. It may be more natural to go through these questions with your family. There are also leader's guides available that give additional information to aid leaders in arriving at Biblical answers. Leaders use these to help them lead the group but you may find one beneficial in your personal devotions. If you would like a copy of a leader's guide please contact our team (lifegroups@oasischurch.com.au).

Guidelines for Discussion

Your group needs to be a safe place for all people to share and to enter the discussion. This means, all members of the group need to follow a few guidelines:

We Lead With Grace

We respond to one another in light of what Christ has done for us, understanding that we are all in need of His grace, compassion, and mercy.

We Treat Each Other With Respect

We can wrestle with ideas and disagree with one another without judgement, personal attack, or dismissal. We don't laugh at others when they've shared and no putdowns of any kind. These are the actions that make others withdraw and feel uneasy about sharing.

We Are Here To Support One Another, Not 'Fix' One Another

Jesus does the 'fixing'. Give encouragement, speak truth, and point to Jesus. Don't try to solve or fix each other.

We Commit To Confidentiality

What is said in the group should stay in the group unless permission is given to share it elsewhere. This is not to create a dysfunctional group that keeps unhealthy secrets. Instead, it is to create a culture of safety where everyone feels safe to share thoughts and feelings and knows that others will not find out.

We Do Not Crosstalk

Crosstalk is a conversation during discussion time that leaves others out and can be hurtful. Each person should be free to express his or her feelings without interruptions.

Your group needs to agree with one another that you are committed to providing a safe place to be encouraged and challenged by the word of God and to let Him do a healing, sanctifying work in your lives.

If you have any concerns, you should speak to your group leader or get in contact with our Maturity Leaders (stephen@oasischurch.com.au or lochy@oasischurch.com.au).

Life Groups

At Oasis, we believe that following Jesus was never meant to be done alone. God has designed us to grow best in community—walking with others, sharing life together, and encouraging one another in faith. One of the key ways we do this as a church is through Life Groups.

Life Groups are small gatherings of people who meet regularly in homes or at church. They're a space where you can slow down in the busyness of life and truly connect—with God, with His Word, and with each other. In these groups, people read the Bible together, pray for one another, share meals, laugh, serve, and build genuine friendships. Over time, Life Groups become like extended family—people who walk with you through the joys and challenges of life.

Whether you've been part of Oasis for years or you're just beginning to make it your home, joining a Life Group is one of the best next steps you can take. In a big church family, Life Groups make sure no one slips through the cracks. They are places where you can belong, be known, and be encouraged to keep growing as a disciple of Jesus.

We'd love for everyone at Oasis to be part of a Life Group. If you're not yet connected, why not make this the year you step in? There's a group waiting to welcome you.

To find out more or to register your interest, simply scan the QR code below and we'll help you find the right group for you.

Let's walk together as we follow Christ.

Want to join a Life Group?

email: office@oasischurch.com.au



Or scan the
QR Code

Four-Week Challenge

Jesus' parables are more than memorable stories—they invite us to see things differently and put his teaching into action. Each week during our Storyteller series, you'll be encouraged to take on a simple, practical challenge inspired by the parable we are exploring.

These challenges will invite us to love beyond our usual circles, live generously, notice people who are easily overlooked and faithfully use what God has entrusted to us. As you complete each challenge, take time to reflect on what God is showing you and how he may be shaping your everyday life through the stories of Jesus.

Week 1: Love Beyond Your Circle

The Good Samaritan
Luke 10:25–37

Look for an opportunity to show practical kindness to someone outside your usual circle. It may be a stranger, a neighbour, someone you find difficult or a person you might normally overlook. Choose to notice their need and respond with compassion.

Week 3: Notice the Overlooked

The Man at the Gate
Luke 16:19–31

Slow down and pay attention to the people around you, especially those whose needs can be easily missed. Take time to listen, offer encouragement or provide practical help to someone who may feel unseen or forgotten.

Week 2: Live Generously

The Rich Fool
Luke 12:13–21

Choose something God has given you—your time, money, possessions or abilities—and use it to bless someone else. Consider what you may be holding onto too tightly and take one practical step towards being rich toward God.

Week 4: Use Your Gifts

The King's Business
Luke 19:11–27

Think about the gifts, opportunities, resources and responsibilities God has entrusted to you. Choose one and use it intentionally this week to serve another person, strengthen the church or contribute to God's kingdom.

The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵ On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

²⁶ "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

²⁷ He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

²⁸ "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

²⁹ But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

³⁰ In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹ A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. ³² So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. ³⁴ He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. ³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii[c] and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.'

³⁶ "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

³⁷ The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him."

Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

Notes



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The Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37



Context

Jesus has just sent out the 72 (Lk 10:1-24) to go and preach the gospel, sending them out as 'sheep among wolves' (10:3). The Jews were the first mission field of the gospel: people who belonged to God and were children of the promise, those who should have recognised their God when they saw Him. And yet, these are the wolves which Jesus is sending out His sheep. When a Jewish teacher asks Jesus what he must do to inherit eternal life, Jesus quotes two well-known Old Testament verses, and, seeking to make himself look good, he asked Jesus how these verses apply. Jesus replied with the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

Objective

Jesus warns His listeners that while you inherit the promises of God as members of His covenant community, you do not inherit salvation. The Jews were relying on their ancestry and still turning away from God, neglecting their covenant promises and duties. Likewise, as Christians, just because you were born into a Christian household or call yourself a Christian, that doesn't mean that you are right with God (Eph 2:8-10; Ja 2:14).

Share Together

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

Pray Together

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

Pursue God

- 1 Have you ever helped a stranger in distress or been helped by a stranger? What happened?

Read Luke 10:25-37

- 2 "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (v.25) Have you ever asked this question? How would you answer this question?
- 3 How does the 'expert in the law' (teacher) answer his own question (v.27 – see Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Leviticus 19:11-19 for further context)?
- 4 Does Jesus' response to this man's answer surprise you? Why or why not? (v.28)
- 5 This expert in the law "wanted to justify himself" (v.29). He is trying to lower God's standards down to a place where they could be cleared by means of human effort. Are you tempted to do this? How do you do this?
- 6 What stands out to you about this parable that Jesus tells? (v.30-35)
- 7 How does this parable answer the question, "And who is my neighbour?" (v.29)
- 8 What is Jesus teaching us (and his Jewish listeners) by casting a Samaritan (enemies of the Jewish people) as the 'hero' of the story?

Live it Out

- 9 Who do you identify with the most in this story?
- 10 As you read the parable with yourself in the role of passer-by, how are you challenged?
- 11 As you read the parable with yourself in the role of the injured man and Jesus as the Samaritan, how are you thrilled?
- 12 A way we can know that we have received God's love is the way that we show love to others (John 13:35). How does this parable encourage you or challenge you? What changes would you like to make in your life considering its message?

Pray

Father God, You are the God who created the universe and everything in it. You drew near to us and made us Your people! What a glorious thought that is! Yet, our lives can lack evidence of that reality. Help us, O God, to put our faith into practice: help us to love You with all our heart, soul, strength and mind, and to love our neighbour as ourselves. We ask that you would make our faith would touch every area of our lives and that Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

FOUR-WEEK CHALLENGE

Week 1: Love Beyond Your Circle

The Good Samaritan Luke 10:25-37

Look for an opportunity to show practical kindness to someone outside your usual circle. It may be a stranger, a neighbour, someone you find difficult or a person you might normally overlook. Choose to notice their need and respond with compassion.

The Parable of the Rich Fool

Luke 10:13-21

¹³ Someone in the crowd said to him, 'Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.'

¹⁴ Jesus replied, 'Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?' ¹⁵ Then he said to them, 'Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.'

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: 'The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest.

¹⁷ He thought to himself, "What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops."

¹⁸ 'Then he said, "This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'"

²⁰ 'But God said to him, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?"

²¹ 'This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich towards God.'

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The Rich Fool

Luke 12:13-21



Context

Jesus has been teaching a crowd (Lk 11:1-12:12) about the kingdom of heaven, when someone pipes up and asks Jesus to settle a civil matter between him and his brother. Like many of the people who ask questions of Jesus, this man seems to have a very small view of the coming kingdom and treats Jesus as merely a wise teacher (how many people do this today!). Jesus responds by reiterating that the kingdom is not of this world but consists of something much more real and something that doesn't waste away.

Objective

The fact that Jesus is our King means that even the most minute details of our lives should be lived in subjection to him (even our inheritance divisions!), but this world is not all there is. There will be a day when God calls us out of this world, and we will have to leave everything behind. This applies in two ways: 1) how we steward our finances and means in light of the coming kingdom, and 2) what we are depending on for our assurance of salvation (i.e. works or grace).

Share Together

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

Pray Together

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

Pursue God

- 1 What is your attitude towards money? Are you more of a spender or a saver or a hoarder or a giver?

Read Luke 12:13-21

- 2 How does this man seem to view Jesus (v.13)? Do we still relate to Jesus in the same way today? How might you do this?
- 3 Why does Jesus give such a strong reaction and a stark warning? (v.14-15)
- 4 Greed can often be hard to identify in our materialistic culture. How might we know if we are struggling with greed? What are some ways we can guard ourselves against greed?
- 5 What stands out to you from the parable? (v.16-20)
- 6 Verse 16 notes that "the ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest." Who actually caused the harvest to grow? How did the rich man misinterpret a blessing from God as a personal achievement? How are we tempted to do the same thing?
- 7 Read the rich man's internal dialogue closely (v.16-18). Count how many times he says "I" or "my". What does his vocabulary reveal about who he thinks owns his wealth and who he thinks he is accountable to?
- 8 How pervasive is the attitude, "Take life easy; eat, drink, and be merry" (v.19) in our society? How can this attitude affect your relationship with God?
- 9 How should the reality of our certain and impending death change the way we view money and possessions (v.20)? What might this look like practically?
- 10 God calls the man a "fool." In Scripture, a fool isn't someone lacking intelligence, but someone who ignores God (if you have time, read Psalm 14). In what specific ways did this man live as if God didn't exist?

- 11** Which is more hazardous to our spiritual health: pain and suffering or prosperity and wealth? Consider Deuteronomy 8:11–14; 1 Timothy 6:9–10; Revelation 3:17; Job 2:9–10; Psalm 73:2–3, 12–14; Exodus 6:9 and Proverbs 30:8–9. Discuss.
- 12** What does it mean to be rich toward God (v.21)? How is it different to being rich in this world?

Live it Out

- 13** If God demanded your life from you tonight, would you be comfortable with the way you are managing the money that God has entrusted to you? What changes would you like to make?
- 14** Read 2 Corinthians 8:9 and reflect on God's generosity to you in Christ.

Pray

Father God, You are mighty and awesome. We look upon what You have done for us and the promises You have made to us, and we ought to live in light of these things. Yet, we often find ourselves living lives that don't reflect our faith, in the way we steward our time, money, gifts and everything else! Would you help us to centre our lives on You, and work that Your name might be made known more and more, that more people would find life in Jesus. Thank you that, because of Jesus, we know that we are saved by Your grace alone, and not by our good works or our failings. Help us to be rich toward God and increase our faith. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

FOUR-WEEK CHALLENGE

Week 2: Live Generously

The Rich Fool Luke 12:13–21

Choose something God has given you—your time, money, possessions or abilities—and use it to bless someone else. Consider what you may be holding onto too tightly and take one practical step towards being rich toward God.

The Rich Man and Lazarus

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹ "There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. ²⁰ At his gate was laid a beggar named Lazarus, covered with sores ²¹ and longing to eat what fell from the rich man's table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

²² "The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ So he called to him, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.'

²⁵ "But Abraham replied, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. ²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.'

²⁷ "He answered, 'Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, ²⁸ for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.'

²⁹ "Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.'

³⁰ "'No, father Abraham,' he said, 'but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

³¹ "He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

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The Man at the Gate

Luke 16:19-31



Context

Jesus tells this parable while addressing the Pharisees, who loved money and justified themselves before others (Luke 16:14-15). Through the contrast between a rich man and Lazarus, Jesus exposes the dangers of self-centred wealth, spiritual blindness, and ignoring God's call to justice, repentance, and compassion for the needy.

Objective

To help Life Group members examine their attitudes towards wealth, people in need, and eternal priorities. Participants will reflect on God's heart for the vulnerable, recognise the danger of spiritual complacency, and respond with compassionate action, faithful stewardship, and a deeper commitment to living in light of eternity.

Share Together

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

Pray Together

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

Pursue God

- 1 What is something you have that you probably take for granted, but someone else might consider a great luxury?
- 2 What makes it difficult for us to notice or respond to the needs of others?

Read Luke 16:19-31

- 3 Read James 2:1-9. How does James' warning against favouritism help us understand the contrast between the rich man and Lazarus? What does it suggest about the way we judge people's circumstances?
- 4 The rich man is not described as committing a specific act of violence or theft. What, then, does the passage suggest is wrong with his life? How does this challenge a narrow understanding of sin?
- 5 How does the rich man's response to Lazarus after death reveal what he understood about his relationship with Lazarus during life (v.27-28)? What has changed, and what has not?
- 6 Abraham says that the rich man had already received good things during his lifetime (v.25). How should we understand this statement without concluding that poverty automatically earns salvation or wealth automatically earns condemnation?
- 7 Read 1 John 3:16-18. John connects genuine love with practical action towards those in need. How does this help us understand what the rich man's treatment of Lazarus reveals about his life? What is the difference between noticing someone's need and responding to it?

- 8 Why does Abraham point the rich man's brothers back to "Moses and the Prophets" (i.e., the Old Testament) rather than simply giving them a more convincing warning (v.29)? What does this suggest about the authority and sufficiency of God's word?
- 9 The rich man believes that a resurrection would persuade his brothers, but Abraham disagrees. What does this reveal about the relationship between evidence, repentance, and the human heart? How does this connect with Jesus' own resurrection?

Live it Out

- 10 Who are the "people at the gate" in our lives—people whose needs or circumstances we might easily overlook? What might it look like to notice and respond to them?
- 11 In what ways can comfort, possessions, or financial security compete with our dependence on God and our willingness to love others?
- 12 What is this passage challenging you personally to change about the way you use your time, money, possessions, or attention?

Pray

Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us your Word and showing us the way of life through Jesus. Forgive us for the times we have been distracted by comfort, wealth, or our own concerns. Give us eyes to see those in need around us and hearts that respond with generosity and compassion. Help us to listen to your Word, trust you, and live faithfully for eternity. Amen.

FOUR-WEEK CHALLENGE

Week 3:
Notice the
Overlooked

The Man at the Gate Luke 16:19-31

Slow down and pay attention to the people around you, especially those whose needs can be easily missed. Take time to listen, offer encouragement or provide practical help to someone who may feel unseen or forgotten.

The Parable of the Ten Minas

Luke 19:11-27

¹¹ While they were listening to this, he went on to tell them a parable, because he was near Jerusalem and the people thought that the kingdom of God was going to appear at once. ¹² He said: 'A man of noble birth went to a distant country to have himself appointed king and then to return. ¹³ So he called ten of his servants and gave them ten minas. "Put this money to work," he said, "until I come back."

¹⁴ 'But his subjects hated him and sent a delegation after him to say, "We don't want this man to be our king."

¹⁵ 'He was made king, however, and returned home. Then he sent for the servants to whom he had given the money, in order to find out what they had gained with it.

¹⁶ 'The first one came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned ten more."

¹⁷ '"Well done, my good servant!" his master replied. "Because you have been trustworthy in a very small matter, take charge of ten cities."

¹⁸ 'The second came and said, "Sir, your mina has earned five more."

¹⁹ 'His master answered, "You take charge of five cities."

²⁰ 'Then another servant came and said, "Sir, here is your mina; I have kept it laid away in a piece of cloth. ²¹ I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow."

²² 'His master replied, "I will judge you by your own words, you wicked servant! You knew, did you, that I am a hard man, taking out what I did not put in, and reaping what I did not sow? ²³ Why then didn't you put my money on deposit, so that when I came back, I could have collected it with interest?"

²⁴ 'Then he said to those standing by, "Take his mina away from him and give it to the one who has ten minas."

²⁵ '"Sir," they said, "he already has ten!"

²⁶ 'He replied, "I tell you that to everyone who has, more will be given, but as for the one who has nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ²⁷ But those enemies of mine who did not want me to be king over them - bring them here and kill them in front of me.'"

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The King's Business

Luke 19:11-27



Context

Jesus tells this parable near Jerusalem because many expected God's kingdom to appear immediately (Luke 19:11). Through the story of a nobleman who becomes king and later returns, Jesus teaches about faithful stewardship, accountability, and obedience during the period between His departure and His return as King.

Objective

To encourage Life Group members to recognise that every believer has been entrusted with responsibilities, gifts, opportunities, and resources for God's purposes. Participants will explore what faithful stewardship looks like, embrace accountability to Christ, and commit to serving His kingdom diligently while awaiting His return.

Share Together

Check in with each other. Discuss some or all of the following questions:

- What has God been teaching you lately?
- How has God been stretching you?
- Where have you seen God working in your life?

Pray Together

Before you begin your discussion, spend time in prayer together. While catching up you may have identified some prayer points you should include. Be sure to pray that God makes you more like Jesus through this discussion.

Pursue God

- 1 Have you ever been given something valuable to look after? How did it make you feel? How did you handle the responsibility?

Read Luke 19:11-27

- 2 Read Matthew 25:14-30. What do these two parables teach us about what Jesus expects from his servants?
- 3 Why did Jesus tell this parable when the crowd expected God's kingdom to come immediately? What misunderstanding was he correcting? (v.11)
- 4 What does the nobleman's journey to receive his kingdom teach us about Jesus' kingship and return? (v.12-15)
- 5 The servants are given the same instruction but respond differently. What does this teach us about what Jesus has entrusted to us and what he expects from us? (v.13, 16-24)
- 6 Why does the third servant describe the king as harsh? How does his view of the king shape his actions? (v.20-21)
- 7 Read 1 Corinthians 15:58. Why does Jesus reward faithful service, even when the results may seem small?
- 8 What do the hostile citizens teach us about the difference between serving the king and recognising the king? (v.14, 27)

Live it Out

- 9 What has Jesus entrusted to you—your time, abilities, relationships, money, opportunities, influence, or spiritual gifts—and how are you currently using these things for his kingdom?
- 10 Which of the servants do you most identify with at the moment, and why? What might faithfulness to Jesus look like in your present circumstances?
- 11 How does knowing that Jesus will return and that we will give an account of our lives affect the way you approach ordinary work, relationships, and ministry?

Pray

Lord Jesus, thank you that you are our King and that you have entrusted each of us with opportunities to serve you. Forgive us when fear, comfort, or self-interest causes us to hide what you have given us. Help us to be faithful servants, using our time, gifts, relationships, and resources for your kingdom. Keep us faithful as we wait for your return. Amen.

FOUR-WEEK CHALLENGE

Week 4: Use Your Gifts

The King's Business Luke 19:11-27

Think about the gifts, opportunities, resources and responsibilities God has entrusted to you.

Choose one and use it intentionally this week to serve another person, strengthen the church or contribute to God's kingdom.

