
Matthew Chapter 13

1. Warm-up (5-10 min)

Choose one:

- a. How do you learn best? By reading, or listening to facts, or by listening to stories, or some other way? Explain.

- b. What kind of stories are your favorite: Scary ones, silly ones, mysterious ones or some other kind? Why?

2. Engaging the Chapter (15-20 min)

In this chapter we see Jesus beginning to teach in parables. So far in the book of Matthew Jesus has given lots of straight-forward teachings, including in the sermon on the mount, and in other places as well. In some instances He has used illustrations about people being light and salt, etc.—but no parables.

What is the difference between a parable and another kind of story?

Why do you think Jesus waited until now to use parables?

Why do you think Jesus used parables at all? Why did He say He used them when His disciples asked?

Why do you think Jesus told parables about farmers, shepherds and fishermen instead of about Scribes, Pharisees and Sadducees?

Do you know how Jesus' parables differed from the ones the Pharisees told? (consult you Andrews Study Bible if you are not sure. See on verse 3).

3. Applying the Chapter to Your Life (5-10 min)

Write a parable that will help people to understand something about you or your life that they don't understand very well now. Ask your friends to help give you some ideas. Write it down so that you don't forget the details. Share your finished parable with your friends and ask them if it makes sense and also ask how you could make it better

4. Prayer Time (3-5 min)

Pray for Jesus to help you understand the teachings of the parables clearly. Ask Jesus to help you learn to use everyday illustrations to help you communicate the gospel to the people you meet and talk to—including your friends and family members.