

Faith Formation Resource - Week of 6/21

Note: There is no Children's Church resource this summer. Instead, you are invited to check out our summer storytimes on Youtube!

This week's Faith Formation resource is about *parables*!

What is a parable, anyway?

A parable is a simple story, that carries a spiritual lesson with it. Jesus liked to teach using parables. I think he knew that we learn best by hearing stories! Most of Jesus' stories have to do with how God's vision of the world is different from ours. Many of them start, "The kingdom of God is like..." This week, we'll explore some of those stories.

Something to watch:

The Godly Play version of Jesus' parable of the Good Shepherd:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4l9GiHqIshU>

The parable of the Mustard Seed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlLiRsDKk7g>

Something to listen to:

A sung version of the parable of the Great Treasure: David Haas' "I Found a Treasure:"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GrQVuMnYiK0>

A song based on the story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids: "Keep your Lamps Trimmed and Burning:" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzkAF1S-m-g>

Something to do:

A coloring sheet based on the parable of the persistent widow:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B0RweH-3RyI0eWJfWk9Rb293Nmc/view>

Some "Messy Church" ways to explore the parable of the Wise and Foolish builders!

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2015/08/wise-and-foolish-builders-messy-church.html>

Something to read:

Tomie dePaola's beautifully illustrated "The Good Samaritan and other Parables"

<https://www.amazon.com/Good-Samaritan-Other-Parables-Gift/dp/0823438880>

"Parables: Stories Jesus Told" by Mary Hoffman and Jackie Morris:

<https://www.amazon.com/Parables-Stories-Jesus-Mary-Hoffman/dp/0803725604>

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Something to pray:

For the older among us, a devotional by Joyce Huggett called “Praying the Parables - A Journey through the Stories of Jesus:”

<https://www.amazon.com/Praying-Parables-Spiritual-Journey-Through/dp/0830813551>

And for the younger, a parable *about* prayer - the story of the friends at midnight:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=70&v=1fnEIIVTOrs&feature=emb_logo

A prayer practice to try: Prayers of Petition!

A prayer of petition is a prayer where we ask God for something.

At first glance, this is the easiest way to pray - the way that we pray most often, without even really thinking about it. We teach our youngest to pray, “God bless Mommy, and Daddy, and my sister, and me...” We lift up people we’re concerned about during our time of prayer as a church. We tell people, “I’ll pray for you...” We use the prayer of petition a LOT in our prayer lives!

So I don’t feel as though I have to explain much about this type of prayer. Jesus talks about this type of prayer in two of his parables that we’ve focused on above: the story of the persistent widow, and the tale of the friends at midnight. In both these parables, he reminds us that it’s right and good to keep asking God for things in prayer, and to keep it up until we get an answer!

There are many ways to do a prayer of petition. Sometimes we feel more focused on prayers of petition if we perform an action with the prayer. For example, you could light a candle for each person you lift up in prayer, like the bowl on the right.



You can pray with water and skittles:

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2019/10/skittles-prayer-bags-with-printable.html>

Or even pray with sandpaper!

<http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2019/03/rough-times-sandpaper-prayers.html>



Sometimes I write down the names of people and things I am praying for. A nice way to accomplish this is to have them as petals on a flower, or leaves on a tree. Some people write names on cloth or tags, and hang them on a real tree!

I hope you will think about these ideas, and find a way to renew your petition prayer practice this week!