

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Share a memorable story or analogy that helped you understand a complex concept. How did the story make the idea more accessible?

### Understanding:

Why do you think Jesus chose to use stories from everyday life to teach spiritual truths?

How might parables have different impacts on believers and non-believers?

What does it mean that we are the new wineskins?

### Application:

In what ways can Jesus' use of parables inform how we communicate our faith to others?

### Next Steps:

Practice explaining a biblical concept using a modern-day analogy or story. Do this on your own or have your Gospel Community come up with one together. Share it with a friend or family member this week.

### Missional Living:

In what ways can we use relatable examples from our own lives to illustrate God's truths to those around us?

*Finally, what did this parable leave you to think about?*

# PARABLES

## ONE: INTRO - AGGADAH KINGDOM STORIES

### TODAY'S VERSES:

Matthew 13:34-35	Matthew 9:14-17
Matthew 6:28	Isaiah 53:8
Luke 12:27	Matthew 5:17
Matthew 5:48	2 Corinthians 5:17
Genesis 8:1	Hebrews 13:8
Genesis 30:22	
Mark 1:15	



# RECAP: INTRO - AGGADAH KINGDOM STORIES

Jesus didn't teach in parables because He couldn't figure out a better way to preach. These narrative form illustrations and stories have been used by rabbis for ages. The Jews called storytelling used to illustrate a message AGGADAH; it was creating word pictures to bring a deeper understanding of God and the world. Aggadah, to the Hebrews, were known as parables to the Greeks. Even a short statement by Jesus ["Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin..." (Luke 12:27)] was considered Aggadah.

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## **Much of what most people assume about the parables is wrong.**

Rabbis would help people to understand the character of God better by using parables. When the disciples didn't understand parables, Jesus explained them to them (usually in private). Misunderstanding what the Bible says can lead to bad theology, and therefore, practices that miss the mark of what God intends. The parables are meant to help grow our understanding of God so that our view of Him continually expands.

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The concept of God's Kingdom here and now is the most important one that Jesus ever preached about. If we think of God's Kingdom as only a future event, we are tempted to think that our lives here and now don't matter. The parables were a way of seeing that every day and everything can speak to the nature of our life in the Kingdom of God.

## **Wedding Guests and The Bridegroom – Read Matthew 9:14-17**

The wedding speaks of Jesus' redemptive mission, to save, redeem, and restore His people. That mission should bring joy. But to accomplish the task, there will be sorrow; in the Greek text, the word "IS" is written in a way that portends death. ...it means when the bridegroom is taken from them He will die.

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## **Old and New Wine**

Jesus, in speaking about old wine, is clearly talking about ancient Jewish faith and practices. John the Baptist's disciples and the Pharisees had "new fast days" and were encouraging people to identify with their movement rather than the God behind the movement (this is why many today are disillusioned with Christianity). Jesus says you must return to what is best...God's salvation of you! Christianity is what Judaism was meant to become and had been pointing to all along. Jesus is saying God wants FRESH wineskins for His new covenant with them, the covenant found in Jesus. Jesus desires to make us into new wineskins, a revitalized, regenerated, and restored people enjoying the fulfillment of the best old wine.

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