What did Jesus teach?

Learning Objectives

- All: will be able to describe some of Jesus’ teachings
- Most: will be able to explain some of Jesus’ teachings
- Some: will be able to consider why Christians believe that Jesus’ teachings are so important
Key Words

• Parable
• Kingdom of God
• Kingdom of Heaven

Starter

• What makes a good story?
• Discuss this with a partner and try to come up with three points.

Be prepared to feedback to the class
Jesus’ teachings

- Jesus used parables (stories about everyday life which also had a religious meaning).

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”

(Matthew 7:24-27)

Jesus’ teachings

- Jesus called people to enter ‘the Kingdom of God’, to accept God’s rule and to live as God expected them to.

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear. But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come.

(Mark 4:26-29)
Jesus’ teachings

- He taught that God is a God of love and like a loving parent. He tried to stop people being afraid of God.

Now the tax collectors and “sinners” were all gathering round to hear him. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners, and eats with them.”

Then drew near unto him all the publicans and sinners for to hear him. And the Pharisees and scribes murmured, saying, This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them. And he spake this parable unto them, saying, What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it? And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost. I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

(Luke 15:1-7)

Jesus’ teachings

- He stressed that God is willing to forgive people who disobey Him providing they have a change of heart (repent) and seek His blessing.

And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner. And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is a son of Abraham: For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

(Luke 19:1-10)
Task

- You have read some of Jesus' teachings and have seen the way in which he taught.
- Your task is to write a parable of your own.
- Like Jesus' parables it should have a main teaching which is shown by the story.
- You do not need to make it a religious parable – it could just be about common sense.

Plenary

- Read your parable to your partner.
- What message do they think that it contains?