



Parables as theatre – Jesus' stories today

AT A GLANCE



Place

Indoors or outdoors with some space



Key idea

Bringing Jesus' parables into today's world and acting them out as short theatre scenes



Effort

Materials 10 min · Preparation 15 min



90 minutes



groups of 4–5



12–16 years



acting and discussion



Materials

- ☐ Bibles or printed texts of the four parables
- ☐ paper and pens for the script
- ☐ box of simple props (cloths, hats, bags, a dummy phone)
- ☐ optional: phone for filming



Schedule

0–15'

Warm-up – Improv games: “freeze frame” – the leader calls out a word (quarrel, joy, search) and everyone freezes in a matching pose.

15–25'

Handing out parables – Each group gets a parable: the lost sheep (Luke 15:4–7), the mustard seed (Mark 4:30–32), the treasure in the field (Matthew 13:44), the house on the rock (Matthew 7:24–27).

25–55'

Developing the scene – Read, write down the main message in one sentence and transfer the story into everyday life: school, sports club, social media. Rehearse a scene of 2–3 minutes.

55–75'

Performance – All groups perform. The audience guesses which parable is behind it.

75–90'

Devotion – Matthew 13:34: Jesus spoke in parables. He told of sheep, seeds and houses – things everyone knew. That way God became tangible. Which scene spoke to you most today?



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How it works – simply explained

- 1 Find the main message: what does Jesus want to say about God or about us with the story?
- 2 Transfer: who or what would be the sheep, the treasure, the mustard seed today?
- 3 Share roles: everyone takes part – small roles or sound effects count too.
- 4 Keep it short: beginning, problem, turning point, end – a scene needs no more.
- 5 Stay respectful: no one is made fun of, not even as a joke.

 **Example:** "Instead of a shepherd with a hundred sheep, our scene has a coach looking for the one player who no longer comes to training – and she is overjoyed when he comes back."

Safety

- Enough space to act; clear away trip hazards and furniture.
- Do not force anyone to perform; whoever does not want to act takes on directing or props.
- Film only with everyone's consent and without publishing.

Variations

- Shadow theatre: act the scenes behind a lit bed sheet.
- Church service contribution: perform the best scene in a family service.

Something to think about

If Jesus told a parable about your life today – what would it be about?