

*Matthew 13:13 This is why I speak to them in parables: "Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. (NIV)*

SAINT PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH –SMALL GROUP AND BIBLE STUDY

STRUCTURE: The study will combine small group fellowship time with study of the Bible, in particular the parables of Jesus. There are, depending on how you count, some 37 unique parables (46 if you count several with duplication in another gospel or gospels) spread over the synoptic gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. We will discuss usually three each at each meeting over a 12-week session.

We will begin January 27 and plan to meet every week on Wednesday evenings, though we may skip two weeks in March. We will meet in the church hall at 6:00 for finger foods, snacks, coffee, tea, or other beverages and a time of fellowship for all who can attend in person. We will also open a Google or Zoom meeting at 6:30. The discussion time would be 6:30-7:30, during which we would have a Google or Zoom meeting open for folks who are not there in person. We will read the parables for that meeting together one by one and discuss them, with all views and questions welcomed and encouraged. To prepare it would be a good idea to read the parables for the week ahead of time. If you have a study Bible look at the notes, and there are also lots of good resources available on the Internet, e.g.,

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/parables-of-jesus/>  
<https://www.swapmeetdave.com/Bible/Parables/index.htm>  
<http://www.biblestudyguide.org/ebooks/jssmith/NT/ParablesOfJesus.pdf>

THEME: Jesus was the greatest storyteller of all and taught almost exclusively in stories and parables. The parables were meant for those who would follow him, those with ears to hear. We want to learn from them what Jesus has to teach us.

SCHEDULE:

Week One, intro - what is a parable? Matthew	The Lamp - Matthew 5:14-16; The Speck and The Log - Matthew 7:1-5; New Cloth on Old Garment - Matthew 9:16-17
2	The Divided Kingdom - Matthew 12:24-30; The Sower - Matthew 13:1-23; The Weeds Among the Wheat - Matthew 13:24-30
3	The Mustard Seed - Matthew 13:31-32; The Leaven - Matthew 13:33-34; Hidden Treasure - Matthew 13:44
4	Pearl of Great Price - Matthew 13:45-46; The Net - Matthew 13:47-50; The Heart of Man - Matthew 15:10-20
5	The Lost Sheep - Matthew 18:10-14; The Unforgiving Servant - Matthew 18:23-35; Laborers in the Vineyard - Matthew 20:1-16

6	The Tenant Farmers - Matthew 21:33-45; Marriage Feast or Great Banquet - Matthew 22:1-14; The Budding Fig Tree - Matthew 24:32-35
7	The Faithful vs. The Wicked Servant - Matthew 24:45-51; The Ten Virgins - Matthew 25:1-13; Ten Talents or Gold Coins - Matthew 25:14-30.
8 Switch to Mark	The Lamp - Mark 4:21-25; New Cloth on Old Garment - Mark 2:21-22; The Divided Kingdom - Mark 3:23-27; The Sower - Mark 4:1-20.
9 Cleanup Matthew and Mark	The Growing Seed - Mark 4:26-29; The Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-34; The Heart of Man - Mark 7:14-23; The Tenant Farmers - Mark 12:1-12; The Budding Fig Tree - Mark 13:28-33; The Faithful vs. The Wicked Servant - Mark 13:34-37
10 Parables Exclusive to Luke	The Good Samaritan - Luke 10:29-37; The Friend at Midnight - Luke 11:5-13; The Rich Fool - Luke 12:13-21
11	The Barren Fig Tree - Luke 13:6-9; The Invited Guests - Luke 14:7-14; The Lost Coin - Luke 15:8-10; The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:11-32.
12	The Rich Man and Lazarus - Luke 16:19-31; The Persistent Widow - Luke 18:1-8; The Pharisee and The Tax Collector - Luke 18:9-14