# Companion Class

**Parables- Jesus Teaching Methods**

**SECTION 1**

Jesus used a variety of teaching methods when on this earth.

1. **Parables**- which are stories that teach a very important truth. Jesus used the life situations of people he spoke to create a story that would impact them. At the end of the parable he explains the summary of the story.
2. **Object Lessons.** Jesus used object lessons all the time, using objects or acting out the lesson so people could see.
3. **Dialogue.** Jesus would ask and answer questions. He wanted the persons to think through the answers.
4. And many more…

Parables: A Sower Went Out to Sow – Matthew 13:3-9

* Sow - plant seeds
* Sower - someone who plants seeds

**Lesson**

**Matthew 13:3-9** And he spoke to them many things in parables, saying, Behold, the sower went forth to sow; and as he sowed, some [seeds] fell by the way side, and the birds came and devoured them: and others fell upon the rocky places, where they had not much earth: and straightway they sprang up, because they had no deepness of earth: and when the sun was risen, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. And others fell upon the thorns; and the thorns grew up and choked them: and others fell upon the good ground, and yielded fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He that hath ears, let him hear.

**Matthew 13:18-23** Hear then ye the parable of the sower. When any one hears the word of the kingdom, and understands it not, [then] cometh the evil [one], and snatches away that which hath been sown in his heart. This is he that was sown by the way side. And he that was sown upon the rocky places, this is he that hears the word, and straightway with joy receives it; yet hath he not root in himself, but endures for a while; and when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, straightway he stumbles. And he that was sown among the thorns, this is he that hears the word; and the care of the world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful. And he that was sown upon the good ground, this is he that hears the word, and understands it; who verily bears fruit, and brings forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

*There's more to growing plants than just dropping seeds in the ground. A farmer prepares his soil if he wants all the seeds to grow. If there are rocks or weeds in the soil, the plant will not be healthy. If the soil is tough, the seed will be eaten by birds. Only in clear, loose soil will a seed have the opportunity to grow. All the seeds are good seeds, but they can only grow in good soil.*

*Jesus explains that our hearts are like soils and the truth is like a seed. If our hearts are hard, and don't care about Jesus, the truth can't get to us. If our hearts have trouble enduring hard times, it's like stony ground. If we let the cares of this world distract us from Jesus, it's like the seed in thorny ground. But if we open our hearts to Jesus, trust in Him to care for us, and accept His word as truth, we will be able to grow like beautiful flowers and do many things for Jesus.*

**SECTION 2**

 Questions

1. Who is a sower?

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1. What is the seed?

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1. Who picks up the seed from the pathway?

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1. What are the "cares of this world"?

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1. What can crowd out Jesus in our life (weeds and thorns)?

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1. How do we keep weeds out of our heart?

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**SECTION 3- Group discussion**

Read the following scenarios and identify the type of soil for each one.

* 1. Jason has been visiting church for a month and listening to the word of God.

Jason’s friends from school had been playing football on Sabbath mornings. They always asked Jason to come along, so he finally decided to go one Saturday. It was very fun, and soon enough, he began going with them more and more, while attending church services less and less. Having fun with his friends seemed more important than studying the truth. Eventually, he stopped coming to church altogether.

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* 1. Jane loves coming to church and learning about the Bible. He enjoys having fellowship with brothers and sisters, too. After several months, he decided to get baptized and was very eager to start helping with holy work.

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* 1. The rest of Matthew’s family is Buddhist. Although he came to church on one occasion to listen to the Truth, he was doubtful about it. The rest of his family pressured him into trying Buddhism instead. In the end, he didn’t return, but rather went on to study other religions.

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* 1. Laverne had been coming to church regularly for a year. He believed in the truth and was eventually baptized, but during this time he started a business. It began to get very stressful and hectic, so he decided to attend only afternoon services, so he could continue working in the mornings. Then, he decided to stay home all day and listen to online sermons, but then eventually, he stopped doing even that.

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**SECTION 4**

 Design a comic strip (using the papers given) to demonstrate one of Jesus’ parables- You can use the story of the sower and the seeds.