



# P A R A B L E S

STORIES THAT *MESSED UP* RELIGIOUS PEOPLE

## **Series Summary**

For hundreds of years, religious people assumed they had the inside track. Their knowledge gave them access to God and privileges with people. But one day a new teacher took the stage. His stories confused the religious but made sense to the simple. Singlehandedly, this young teacher turned the religious world upside down, never to be the same again. Join us as we study some of his most famous stories that inspired the simple and confounded the wise.

**Sermon summary:** Jesus told stories to hide his message from the hard and make it accessible to the humble. One day he told a story without a story, writing his audience into the script. His vivid illustration captured the heart of his message and the essence of his people's mission. His movement hinged on their ability to grasp and live this profound hidden parable.

**Big Idea:** Keeping the Good News to yourself is absurd and selfish.

**Icebreaker:** *What was the most confusing class you ever took and why?*

## **Discussion:**

1. What about Matthew 5:13-16 is like and unlike a parable?
2. In these sentences, Jesus' wrote his audience into a story, in essence making them the parable. Do you think they understood the implications of this?
3. How had Israel repeatedly failed to be a blessing to all people?
4. What was perfect about the timing of Jesus coming to earth in allowing his message to go global? (think Roman roads and koine Greek) What's perfect about living at this time in history now? (think internet and English)
5. Why did Jesus want his followers not only to know and believe in him, but also to live and share Him with others? What's the danger of only knowing & believing?
6. What's the significance of Jesus calling his followers salt and light? What's the result of being salt and light? (see vs. 16)
7. Respond to this statement: Keeping the Good News to yourself is selfish and absurd.
8. What changes do I need to make to be better salt and light to those around me?

**Know:** It's not enough to know and believe the truth

**Be:** Salt and Light

**Do:** Live and share Jesus

# WEEK 2