

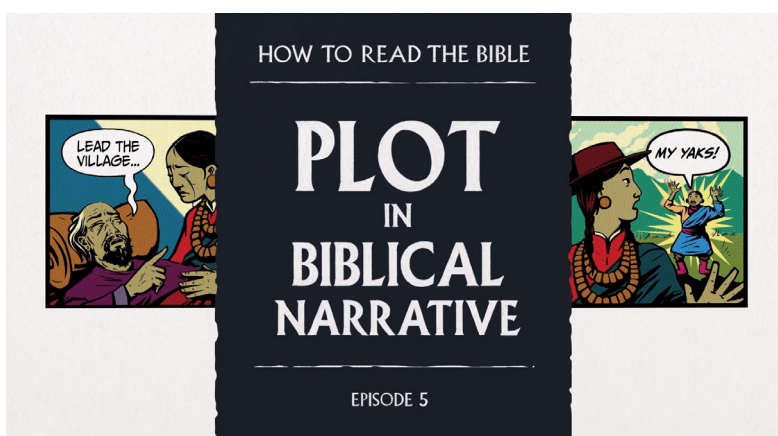


## OPENING QUESTION

Do you have any good stories from time with your family, friends or school?

LEVEL 1

VIDEO



### Plot in biblical narrative

by The Bible Project

#### Question:

Are there any stories in the bible that you don't understand/find odd? What do you think they're all about in the larger Biblical story?

LEVEL 2

BIBLE

### Matthew 25:14-30 (NRSVCE) The Parable of the Talents

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his stewards and entrusted his property to them; **15** to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. **16** The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. **17** In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. **18** But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. **19** After a long time the master of those stewards came and settled accounts with them. **20** Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' **21** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy steward; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'

**22** And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' **23** His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy steward; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' **24** Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; **25** so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' **26** But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy steward! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? **27** Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. **28** So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. **29** For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. **30** As for this worthless steward, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### Footnotes for group leader:

- A talent was worth more than fifteen years' wages of a labourer
- Our greatest talent and treasure is our ability to love, and in this enterprise the champion is the greatest risk taker, which means the one most willing to invest himself where the odds appear most against him. What meaning does the story take when we regard the talents as representing our ability to love and care for others?

### Question:

This parable can at first reading seem to portray God as a cold and hard ruler. Do you think this is a fair assessment? How do you think the story fits into the greater Biblical narrative which normally portrays Him as a loving father?

LEVEL 3

CATECHISM

### Is there more we need to know about salvation after Jesus?

In Jesus Christ, God himself came to earth. By listening to Him, all men of all times can know who God is and what is necessary for their salvation.

An old saying goes 'the New Testament lies hidden in the Old and the Old Testament is unveiled in the New'. In the bible, the story of salvation is revealed to us entirely. The Church is tasked to make the kingdom of God, which has already begun with Jesus, germinate and grow in all nations. It's reason for this is that the High priest and head of the Church is still now Jesus who guide us here on earth through the personage of the Holy Spirit.

Since the time of Jesus there have been many occasions where God has deeply impacted the world and there are many visionaries and mystics who, to this day receive profound 'private revelations'. Examples of this include the Shroud of Turin, Guadalupe in Mexico or Lourdes in France. These cannot improve on the Gospel of Christ but rather can help us to understand the Gospel better. (CCC 66-67, 129, 763-769,774-776,780)

### Question:

The Biblical story, life of Jesus and the mission we have as a Church now all call us to live life a certain way. In what ways do you feel God might be calling you to be counter cultural in today's society like the first Christians were in theirs?