



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES  
support | mentor | serve



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# foreword

The Bible is such an amazing book full of life lessons, practical living, and power to overcome in the face of adversity. This resource is provided for teens who are looking to advance their faith in a world where faithlessness seems all too common and unbelief is popular for so many.

*Power of the Parables* gives each teen the privilege to experience Christ on a fresh and breathtaking journey that is destined to be completed in a loving relationship with Jesus. We commissioned Drs. Toussaint & Lakeisha Williams with this project and it has been rewarding to see it come to life.

I am energized by the content and I know each of you will be as well, as you connect with Christ through this easy to read and amazingly far reaching look at the power found in the parables for today's teens. Enjoy the journey!

Vandean D. Griffin, D.Min.  
Associate Youth Director  
North American Division

# WELCOME TO ANOTHER JOURNEY...

**W**elcome to another journey through the Bible!

This time we will look at parables in the Bible and practical everyday ways to apply these principles to our lives. These lessons are written specifically for you to grow spiritually as a young person.

***Each lesson has five sections:***

## **Parable Scripture Reference and Summary**



This section will introduce (or help you to review) the parable for each lesson. Be sure to read each parable for yourself so that you can delve into a personal discovery of the Bible truths that God has just for you.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

This section provides a few points to take from the reading. It is a great way to summarize a few of the lessons that we can learn from the parable. Feel free to add your own points that you have gained while studying.



### What Does the Bible Say?

This section gives one or two additional Bible texts that relate to the parable. These can be used for memory texts or to provide a source for further reading and Bible study.

### ▶▶ ACTION STEPS:

This section helps you to make the lessons practical. It provides daily (sometimes weekly) activities that you can do to apply the lessons in your real-life experiences.

### Daily Affirmation:

This section provides “I” statements to remind you of the lessons you have learned. Feel free to write these affirmations down on cards to post where you will see them throughout the day or share them with a friend on your favorite social media site.

We pray that these lessons will provide you with one more way to make the Bible real in your life and give you the **MOMENTUM** to grow closer to God daily!

# CHECK YOUR SOIL

## ***Read the Parable of the Sower in Matthew 13:3-8.***

**F**ollowing Jesus was so cool! One day you could see a person in a wheelchair get up and leap for joy! The next day the seaside would be filled with hungry and exhausted people. Jesus would lift up a boy's lunch and say grace. The next thing you know, over five thousand people were at a buffet—with food left over. One time, a lady went by with her dead son in tow and Jesus simply touched the corner of the coffin and the little boy got up! It was crazy what you could see when Jesus was around. Unfortunately, that

was all some people wanted to do—see the actions of Jesus, rather than listen to the message He came to deliver.

Jesus told the story of the sower to illustrate what went on in the minds of His hearers after each presentation. One group just didn't care. They were too busy gawking at a miracle or just wanted to see what Jesus would do next. They didn't take the time to understand what He was teaching. The second group would absorb His teachings for a short time then would come into conflict or become embarrassed when others would talk about them for following the young

Teacher and they would turn away. The third group would be gung ho. They would leave Him on fire and would embrace the teachings with their whole heart, but like the second group would be distracted by life's challenges or the attempt to make money. The Word would always lose fire in the competition and eventually these fire walkers would walk away. Lastly, the fourth group embraced the teachings and in spite of the distractions (the worries of riches and the external attacks), they did everything they could to fully embrace what He taught. Each lesson was internalized, every nugget digested, and in time, their lives blossomed.

## PRACTICAL POINTS

1. Jesus allows everyone to come in contact with the Word. The Word has power to change our lives, but we have to choose to allow it to do so. The Word is there for everyone to benefit from.
2. Once the Word comes to us, we have a choice as to whether we will receive it or not. What we do with it, whether we grasp it from a song, a sermon, a podcast, or a lesson just like this one, determines the depth with which you will experience the power of God in your life.
3. Embracing the Word of God is the only real way our lives will have lasting meaning. Short stints happen. In fact, this is a reminder that we can't look to others to measure our spiritual growth. They may not be in it for the long haul. Each individual determines how long and how far they go.



### What Does the Bible Say?

Romans 12:2—  
And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Psalms 119:105—Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

## ▶▶ **ACTION STEPS:**

1. Start a God's Time journal. Everyday write down something you did to spend time with God that day and share what you learned. Begin with a 3-day commitment, then add days in small increments (7 days, 10 days, and 14 days).

2. Ideas of ways to spend time with God include participating in a service activity, reading your Bible or a daily devotional, texting a scripture or word of encouragement to a friend, or watch a YouTube video that provides a short spiritual message.

## **Daily Affirmation:**

- I can grow when I hear the Word of God.
- Growing spiritually is intentional and takes time.
- I will NOT allow difficulty and challenges to keep me from staying connected.