Powerfully Teaching
Your Children
Gospel Principles

Lesson Plan: “Listen with Your Heart”

Objectives:

- Emphasize the importance of the parables of Christ.
- Talk about how we can use parables as an effective teaching tool.

Each lesson contains 5 timed activities:

(Choose the activities that fit your family’s schedule. Additional resources are provided as extra time may be available.)

Reverence Time: Song, prayer, scripture and video clip
Lesson Time: Lesson summary and points to ponder
Story Time: Story
Activity Time: Object lesson or activity
Treat Time: Prayer, theme related recipe & music video

Reinforces Principles of:

- Parables

Parables

Emphasize the importance of the parables of Christ.
Talk about how we can use parables as an effective teaching tool.
Sing Together:  Children’s Songbook #57 “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus” verse #1.
If you wish to have an online music file to accompany you visit:
http://www.lds.org/churchmusic
(Note: Navigate to the Interactive Church Music Player where you can listen to and print Church hymns and children’s songs.)

Prayer:

Scripture Time:  Matthew 13: 13-16

13. Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.
14. And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:
15. For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.
16. But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Video Clip:  Watch chapter 2 from the animated Complete Learning System, *The Parables of Jesus* DVD. (Video clip is also provided for viewing online.)
Lesson Summary:

(For younger children, it may be helpful to summarize the following ideas):

“There is nothing in all literature equal to the parables of Christ.
His teachings were as impressive to his listeners then as they are today to those who read his words. They are so simple a child can understand, yet profound enough for the sage and philosopher. The similitudes he used were taken from pictures of human life and commonplace incidents that could be understood by every listener.” Howard W. Hunter, Ensign, May 1984, © 2006 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.

What is a parable?
The word parable comes from the Greek word paraballo, which means to compare. A parable is a simple story which compares common experiences to divine truths. Jesus often taught in parables because a parable conveys to it’s listener religious truth exactly in proportion to his faith. If you do not listen with your heart it is merely a story. If you do listen with your heart it reveals important principles such as compassion, integrity, work, and repentance. By living by these important principles we will become closer to Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ.

The parable is a helpful teaching method.
“One sees his own weaknesses better by viewing others who display the same weaknesses. Could this be applied in the home, where family members might participate in evaluating “outside” situations rather than being discouraged by withering personal criticism?...An effective method is to use third-person examples that hit close to home....It avoids one-sided scorn that too often triggers the self-defense reflexes and helps induce desired self-analysis instead. Richard Lloyd Anderson, Ensign, Sept. 1974, © 2006 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
Points to Ponder:

What book of scriptures contains the Savior’s’ parables?
(The New Testament. Explain that the New Testament is the final portion of the Bible.)

What important principles did you learn from watching the video clip of *The Parable of the Two Sons*?
(Honoring parents, obedience, repentance, hard worker, etc...Emphasize the principle that your family might need to work on the most)

How was the first son, who refused to help but later apologized to his father, rewarded?
(He inherited his father’s vineyard.)

What are the eternal rewards we can obtain by repenting and being obedient to Heavenly Father’s commandments?
(The Kingdom of Heaven, Exaltation, Eternal Life, Eternal Families, etc....)

Quote:

“Each of the parables spoken by the Savior seems to teach a principle or give an admonition regarding the attributes necessary to qualify for exaltation.” Howard W. Hunter, Ensign, May 1984, © 2006 Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.
There once were two friends who were in the same class in school.

At the end of their first school year the two friends were given a reading test. The first friend did very well on the test, while the second friend didn’t do very well.

During summer break the first friend played outside from sunrise to sunset, while the second friend went inside early each day to read.

The first friend bragged that he could play all day and didn’t have to read because he was smarter. The second friend would sometimes resent having to stay in the house and read, but his mother always made sure that he had fun books to read. Once a week she would take him to the library where he would checkout the books he wanted to read that week and once a month she would take him to the bookstore to buy a book to keep for his very own.

Soon the second friend became a better reader. Once he became a better reader, he began to like reading. There were days he chose to read for longer than an hour. The more he read the better reader he became. By the end of the summer he had read over one hundred books.

When school started again in the fall the two friends were given another reading test. The first friend had forgotten a lot of what he had learned the year before, while the second friend had improved over the summer.

The first friend looked on the second friend’s paper for the answers. Each friend scored 100% on the test. The second friend didn’t know that his friend had cheated.

Even though the first friend had cheated, he bragged to the second friend that he got 100% on the reading test without having to read during the summer. The second friend didn’t let his friends bragging bother him. He was just happy that reading during the summer had helped him do better on the reading test.

One day the friends’ school class had a spelling bee. The first friend misspelled the first word he was given, while the second friend spelled every word right and won the spelling bee.

When the second friend went home that night he gave his mother a kiss and a hug. He thanked her for helping him become a better reader, because being a better reader made him a better speller.

by Margie Nauta Lee © Living Scriptures, Inc. 2006
What you need: A copy of “My Parable” stationery (artwork included with this lesson) and pen, pencil or crayons for each family member.

Preparation 1. Print out the artwork.

Activity: (Younger children will need help from an older sibling or parent.)
1. Ask: What important principles can our family learn from the new Parable of the Two Friends? (Honesty, hard work, gratitude, sacrifice, etc...)
2. Ask: What important principles do you need to work on doing better?
3. Tell your family to think about situations that they have evaluated in their lives or the lives of others that could help illustrate these principles.
4. Give each person a piece of “My Parable” stationery and a pen, pencil, or crayons and have them write their own parable. Help younger children with their idea (show and read example of the illustrated parable) and then let them draw their parable. Have an older sibling or parent write captions for their pictures.
Two friends took a reading test

One friend got 100%

The other friend didn’t do very well

Mother bought him books

He read 100 books during the summer

One played all day

The other read for one hour a day

The two friends took another test

The friend who played all day cheated

The two friends both got 100% on the second test

The friend who read more spelled all his words right and won the Spelling Bee

The friend who learned to read better learned to spell better

He hugged his mom and said “Thank You”
My Parable
The second son promises to help his father, but breaks his promise.  Matthew 21:30
The first son changes his mind and goes to help with the harvest.  Matthew 21:28–29
IT’S ALL IN A NAME

Jesus told stories to help people understand his teachings. These stories are known as parables.

How many words can you make from the letters found in the word “Parables.” (Hint: The word parable doesn’t count.)

PARABLES

1. _______ 11. _______ 21. _______ 31. _______
2. _______ 12. _______ 22. _______ 32. _______
3. _______ 13. _______ 23. _______ 33. _______
4. _______ 14. _______ 24. _______ 34. _______
5. _______ 15. _______ 25. _______ 35. _______
6. _______ 16. _______ 26. _______ 36. _______
7. _______ 17. _______ 27. _______ 37. _______
8. _______ 18. _______ 28. _______ 38. _______
9. _______ 19. _______ 29. _______ 39. _______
10. _______ 20. _______ 30. _______ 40. _______

☆ Try timing yourself for one minute!

If you spelled 10 words - fair
20 words - good
30 words - excellent
40 words - MAGNIFICENT!
Ice Cream Bibles
(Ice Cream Sandwiches)

Prep Time: 15 minutes
Bake Time: 14 minutes

8 oz. semi-sweet baking chocolate
3/4 c. firmly packed brown sugar
1/3 stick butter or margarine
2 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
1/2 c. flour
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 c. chocolate chips (optional)
1/2 gallon vanilla ice cream

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly coat a 13” x 18” jelly roll pan with cooking spray.
Melt baking chocolate on high in microwave for 2 minutes.
Cream together brown sugar, butter, eggs, and vanilla.
Slowly add melted chocolate.
Fold in flour, baking powder and salt and mix until smooth. Spread into pan (it will be a very thin layer).
Bake for 14 minutes.
Chill in refrigerator until completely cooled.
Cut into twenty 3” x 3” squares and ten 1/2” x 3” rectangles (see diagram).
Cut the ice cream with a hot knife into 3” squares.

Treat Time: Let children help assemble their ice cream bibles by placing an ice cream square (the book pages) on top of a cookie square (book back cover). Place another cookie square (the book back cover) on top of the ice cream. Place a 1/2” rectangle (the book spine) on one side, between the two cookies.
(Optional: Use decorator frosting to write Holy Bible on cover.)

Closing Prayer and blessing on the food.

Video Clip: Watch the New Testament Music Video Listen with Your Heart DVD (also provided online), while you eat your Ice cream Bibles.