



NAC-USA
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE

The Parable
of the Pearl

The Parable
of the
Dragnet

The Parable
of the Fig
Tree

MIDWEEK GUIDE

2019

February

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Session 1: The Parable of the Pearl

1. When you hear the word “parable,” what do you think of? How do parables help us to learn more about God?

2. What is something that is precious to you (i.e. a relationship, a possession, etc.)? What value does it add to your life? How do we recognize that something is valuable?

3. In the parable, the merchant was **actively** seeking pearls. How could this point from the story have relevance in your life?

4. What are some things in your life that are keeping you from going all-in for the kingdom of God? How can you go about getting past those obstacles? How can making the kingdom of God first in your life change you?

5. There is a big difference in knowing that we are rich in Christ and living a life that demonstrates that knowledge. How do we make evident the riches we have received from Jesus Christ?

Bible References

Matthew 13:10-17, 45-46

John 14:6

Philippians 3:7

Session 2: The Parable of the Dragnet

1. What is so special about a dragnet? What have you learned from the explanation of the word in the video?

2. How is the church a net for Jesus Christ?

3. What truth is this parable revealing to you about the kingdom of God?

4. Is there anyone with whom you would *not* be willing to share the gospel? If so, why? What would have to change for you to be able to share the love of Christ?

5. Reflecting on the analogy of the dragnet as the church of Christ, why is it important to be united with one another in our community and congregation?

6. What does this parable tell us about the final judgement? What does it tell us about judging others today?

7. What's the link between this parable and our church's Mission statement? *Our Mission is reaching out to all people in order to teach them the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to baptize them with water and the Holy Spirit. Providing soul care and cultivating a warm fellowship in which everyone shall experience the love of God and the joy of serving Him and others.*

Bible References

Matthew 13:47-50

Session 3: The Parable of the Fig Tree

1. How should our outward actions and behaviors connect to our inner feelings, thoughts, and motivations?

2. What does Jesus want to see when He draws near to us?

3. Is it possible to be in a continuous state of fruitfulness? If so, how?

4. What are some ways to foster the growth of spiritual fruit within your heart? What are some outward signs of this growth?

5. Why is self-examination of your behaviors and motivations necessary?

6. Besides what is mentioned in the video, what other kind of fruit is Jesus looking for in us?

7. Later in Mark 11, the lesson of the fig tree is further explained (Mark 11:20-24). Read these verses and discuss what Jesus is saying here. How might this teaching connect to the idea that we are to have a living faith and be fruitful? How has your understanding of “a living faith” evolved over time?

8. What have you learned about the kingdom of God from the parables of Jesus?

Bible References

Mark 11:13-14
Hebrews 11:6

Matthew 22:37
John 17:21

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

Small Group Theme for March: Transform your nature