

# British Bible School Syllabus

## Parables (NEW04)



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### Overview

Jesus' chosen method of teaching was the parable. But what is a parable and why did Jesus speak in parables? How were the parables understood by those who first heard them, and what do they have to say to us today? These are some of the questions we shall be answering in this module on the parables.

The parables of Jesus must be understood in their original context. This module sets out to understand them as they were intended, drawing important, practical lessons relevant to present day circumstances.

This is one of our New Testament Modules forming part of our *Applied Biblical Studies* course. Students working towards a British Bible School award will receive 5 Module Credits upon completion of all given assignments.

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### Module content

- In this module we shall look at the use of parables in the Bible and how they differ from other figures of speech.
- We shall see how parables have been interpreted in the past and how they ought to be interpreted today.
- We shall look at how Jesus used parables and why he chose this method of teaching.
- We shall note the original setting and context of Jesus' parables as we seek to understand their lessons for us today.

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### Module outline

Unit 1 – Understanding the Parables

Unit 2 – Characteristics of the Kingdom

Unit 3 – Entering the Kingdom

Unit 4 – The Wisdom of the Kingdom

Unit 5 – Living in the Kingdom

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### Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module the student will:

- be familiar with key terms and their meaning in relation to this subject
- be able to identify various figures of speech used in the Bible
- have developed a basic understanding of the history of the interpretation of the parables

- understand the importance of seeing the parables in their original setting and context
- be able to read the parables of Jesus with a greater understanding and insight

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## Student assignments and expectations

Students will be expected to:

- Attend all classes where possible
- Be familiar with using Zoom and actively/visibly engage with others online in the class
- Contribute to online discussions as appropriate
- Complete all additional assignments outside of class time

In order to complete all Learning outcomes and attain Module credit towards British Bible School certification, students are expected to complete all additional student assignments. These will be varied in nature, consisting of reading, analysis, commenting and short essays/articles.

Assignments will generally be issued on a weekly basis, with at least a week given to complete. The final assignment will be issued towards the end of the twelve week period, along with the agreed deadline for submission.

For further guidance, please consult the Student Handbook available on our website.

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## Learning and assessment

*Applicable to entire Module INT02 - including completion of additional assignments.*

Assignment	Time allocation	Outcome
Online class presentations/discussions	24 hours	12 x 2 hour sessions
Weekly assignments	12 hours	As assigned
Final project	14 hours	1,500 words
<b>Total</b>	<b>50 hours</b>	

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## Cost

The cost for the Module is £30 (waived for *Friends of the Bible School*). This should be paid online.

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## Details of Module

**Times:** Tuesday evenings, from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.

**Dates:** 27<sup>th</sup> April to 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 (with one week off mid-term, t.b.c.)

**Location:** Zoom – details will be made available to registered students

**Teacher:** John Griffiths

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## Class schedule (provisional)

### **I. Understanding the Parables**

- A. Lesson 1 – An Introduction to the Parables
- B. Lesson 2 – The Parable of the Sower and Why Jesus Taught in Parables

### **II. Characteristics of the Kingdom**

- A. Lesson 3 – The Parables of The Wheat and the Tares, The Mustard Seed, The Leaven
- B. Lesson 4 – The Parables of The Hidden Treasure, The Pearl, The Growing Grain

### **III. Entering the Kingdom**

- A. Lesson 5 – The Parables of The Lost Sheep, The Lost Coin, The Lost Son
- B. Lesson 6 – The Parables of The Workers in the Vineyard, The Invitation to a Banquet
- C. Lesson 7 – The Parables of The Sheep and the Goats, The Wicked Tenants

### **IV. The Wisdom of the Kingdom**

- A. Lesson 8 – The Parables of The Ten Virgins, The Rich Fool
- B. Lesson 9 – The Unrighteous Steward, The Rich Man and Lazarus

### **V. Living in the Kingdom**

- A. Lesson 10 – Parables on Counting the Cost, Prayer, Humility
- B. Lesson 11 – Parables on Forgiveness and Repentance
- C. Lesson 12 – The Parables of The Good Samaritan, The Talents

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## Additional notes