

C I N E M A T I C T H E O L O G Y

MODERN
PARABLES[™]

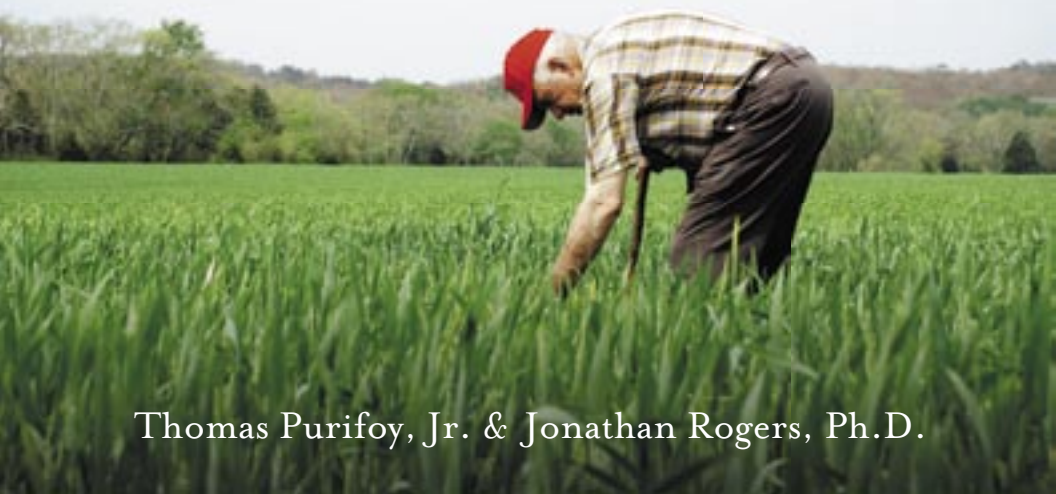
LIVING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD

V O L U M E I

Teacher's Guide

S A M P L E : L E S S O N 1

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Matthew 13:44

LESSON ONE

Hidden Treasure

UNDERSTANDING THE PARABLE

PREP BEFORE CLASS:

- **WATCH THE FILM *HIDDEN TREASURE***
(13 minutes)
- **REVIEW ALL OF LESSON 1 IN THIS GUIDE**
(Approx 10 minutes)
- **READ ALL OF LESSON 1 IN THE STUDENT BOOK**
(Approx 20 minutes)

WHAT TO DO DURING CLASS:



STEP 1: INTRODUCE MODERN PARABLES

(5 minutes)

Modern Parables is a new film-based Bible study curriculum. It consists of:

- 12 lessons that cover six parables.
- Each parable is addressed in two lessons. The first lesson is Understanding the Parable, the second lesson is Living the Parable.
- The goal of this class is to **Grow in your understanding of the Kingdom of God as explained through Jesus'**

parables, then live out the parables' teaching in your daily lives.

- There is a Student Book that goes with this material. Since we have limited time in class to study the parables, it provides much more extensive study materials in it. Copies can be purchased through www.modernparable.com. The study is setup so that you can read the accompanying chapter *after* you go to class that week.

Questions:

- **What happens if I miss the film?**
All of the material is built around the films. If you miss a film, we recommend that the teacher setup a catchup session for the class; or, if time permits, re-show the film before showing the application video the following week. The parables, however, do not build on each other, so you can enter at any point in the class.
- **Do I need the student book?**
You can take the class without the Student Book. However, if you do not use the Student Book, you will miss a lot of the Biblical study that is not covered in the lessons themselves. Student Books are available at www.modernparable.com
- **How long are the films?**
The films range in length from 13-21 minutes. The application videos are approximately 10 minutes each.



STEP 2: WATCH THE PARABLE FILM *HIDDEN TREASURE* (13 minutes)

Put in DVD 1. The first screen is a menu screen. Select either Play Stereo or Play Surround (5.1) under Lesson 1: Hidden Treasure. (Note: if you do not know for sure that you have Surround Sound, choose Play Stereo. It will sound better on a non-surround sound system.)



STEP 3: ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FILM (5 minutes)

Often comments and discussion points will arise out of

your audience naturally. However, if they do not, here are some questions that will help people to start thinking deeper about the film.

1. What does this film have to say about true value?
2. Can you see any comparisons in this story and the way we approach the kingdom of God?



STEP 4: TEACH ABOUT THE PARABLE

(20 minutes)

1. Read the Biblical Text: Matthew 13:44

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. MATT 13:44

2. Teach about the Parable

This is an outline that corresponds to the material in the Student Book and Teacher's Guide Overview chapters. It only hits the highlights of the material there.

- I. Jesus' parables are about the Kingdom of God.
 - I.1. The phrase 'kingdom of heaven' is the same as 'kingdom of God.' Matthew prefers to use it since he had a primarily Jewish audience. Luke and Mark use the phrase kingdom of God.
 - I.2. Many people think the parables are just nice, moral stories that teach universal moral lessons, but that is not accurate.
 - I.3. To Jesus, parables are comparisons between the natural and spiritual realms that teach His followers different aspects of the Kingdom of God.
 - I.3.1. He often begins His parables with "The kingdom of God is like..."
 - I.3.2. The comparisons are parallels between things in the story and things in the Kingdom of God.
2. Some important points about the Kingdom of God
 - 2.1. The Kingdom of God has both present and future aspects to it. Jesus liked to compare the kingdom to a seed that grows into a tree: it starts small but grows through different stages until it is a full-grown tree. We can see

this historically from the growth of the church in the 1st-century A.D. to the present day. It will continue to grow throughout the entire earth until the day of Jesus' return.

- 2.2. The Kingdom of God is now under the reign of Jesus Christ. Jesus started this reign when He ascended to heaven, and currently is extending His kingdom throughout the earth. His disciples are the ones who push the borders of His kingdom on a daily basis. In other words, Jesus is actively reigning through His church.
- 2.3. Members of the Kingdom of God are expected to play active, daily roles in His Kingdom. Entering Christ's Kingdom is not like buying a ticket to a cruise line. Rather, we are to be workers, servants, farmers, soldiers, and sons; in other words, those members of society from whom much work is expected.
3. What does the parable *Hidden Treasure* teach us about the kingdom? *The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field...*
 - 3.1. Today people put their treasures in banks; in the first-century A.D., a field was much safer.
 - 3.2. Sometimes people would die in wars leaving their treasures hidden and unknown.
 - 3.3. Comparison: the Kingdom = treasure in a field. It is so valuable that it can transform the lives of those possessing it.
4. *When a man found it...*
 - 4.1. The kind of man who digs in fields in the first-century: a laborer working in a field.
 - 4.2. Treasure reveals itself suddenly and so requires an immediate, life-changing decision.
5. *He hid it again...*
 - 5.1. The key of the parable: the man chooses to act to acquire the treasure. It requires quick, smart thinking.
 - 5.2. It is the owner's responsibility to know what he owns. If he legally sells it, then the person buying is doing nothing wrong.
 - 5.3. The 1st-century audience valued shrewdness as a key quality.

6. *Then in his joy...*
 - 6.1. The man's reaction shows us how we should react to the Kingdom.
 - 6.2. Possessing the kingdom is about radical life-change. The emotions that accompany it spring from the knowledge that everything is going to be better because of what the Kingdom makes possible.
7. *Went and sold all he had and bought that field.*
 - 7.1. Kingdom must be taken by forceful action. The Kingdom pushes people to make a decision about it.
 - 7.2. Selling everything - is it foolhardy to give up what's worthless for something that is priceless? Rather, this is true wisdom.
 - 7.3. He completes the transaction, ensuring that the treasure will be his.
8. Summary
 - 8.1. We have seen that the parable of the hidden treasure is primarily about the immediate action of the person who finds the Kingdom to gain it for himself, both in light of its value and in spite of its cost.
 - 8.2. Although it may appear to be an unwise decision from the world's eyes, it is the utmost wisdom to give up what is nearly worthless for something absolutely priceless.
 - 8.3. Such a situation demands quick thinking and even quicker action on the part of the potential disciple. After all, unless action is taken, it is possible that the treasure might be lost forever.



STEP 5: END WITH DISCUSSION/QUESTIONS

(5-10 minutes)

For the final part of the class, you can cover any questions that might come up or discuss an aspect of the parable that you feel is important to stress. Feel free to use the parallels chart on p.19 of the Student Book to assist in your discussion.

WHAT TO TELL THE CLASS BEFORE
NEXT WEEK:

Tell your students to read the Introduction and Lesson 1 in their Student Book. The material in that book will go into greater depth on the parable.

Next week: *Hidden Treasure* Application Video.