**Ely Diocese Collective Worship Theme Plan Exemplar – Parables -18 Weeks**

**Week by Week Template**

1. What is a parable?
2. The Lost Sheep
3. The Lost Son (Prodigal)
4. The Lost Coin
5. The Good Samaritan
6. The Pharisee and the Tax Collector
7. The Sower
8. The Mustard Seed
9. The Farmer with a barn
10. The Wise and Foolish Builders
11. The Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids
12. The Midnight Friend
13. The Persistent Widower
14. The Unforgiving Servant
15. The Talents
16. The Lamp
17. The Great Feast
18. The Precious Pearl

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| **Week** | **Parable** | **Suggested Choral Worship** | **Core Story** | **Meaning of Parable** | **Church Values** | **Bible stories****Things to note** |
| 1 | What is a parable? | **Psalms Proverbs and Parables Too** **Hillsong Kids** | Stories have always been a great way to get secret messages across without the reader/listener fully knowing it. Stories were not always told in books, they were told by word of mouth, with small parts changed and adapted by different people telling them to make it suitable to the people listening. Many of the stories we know today started as stories told around a campfire or before bed. Start the CW by telling a simple well-known fairy-tale story such as Goldilocks, 3 Billy Goats or Little Red Hen – these stories are multi-layered, they have a basic story and a hidden message underneath. Stories such as these were told as a way of delivering a message – don’t go into strangers houses, having courage when facing danger, support friends and you’ll be rewarded. In the same way, Jesus wanted to teach his followers about God and he often choose to tell parables. These are stories with a hidden message about God or spiritual truth. Over the next few weeks we will be learning about the parables that Jesus taught and what he was teaching about God.  | The term ‘Parable’ (Greek parabolē – παραβολή) means comparison, analogy or illustration. |  | ‘The Messiah will speak in parables’ was a prophecy spoken by Isaiah and the Psalms. Jesus speaking in parables made more people believe he was indeed the Messiah.  |
| 2 | The Lost SheepLuke 15Matthew 18 | **Lost is Found****FBC Kids Music** | A farmer has 100 sheep, he counts them several times a day. 1,2,3…,97,98,99,100! Then one day, he counts them 1,2,3…87,98,99! One is missing. A dilemma presents itself – should he stayed and look after the 99 sheep who are where they need to be, or should he go and search for the missing one? The farmer chooses to search for the missing sheep. He finds him and returns him home to the flock. The farmers tell everyone he meets “The sheep was lost, but now he is found, woo-who!”.  | Jesus wanted his followers to know that God loves us always but even more so when a sinner turns back to His love.In these stories, the lost sheep, son and coin = humans. The shepherd, Father and old woman = God.The party = Heaven | Compassion ResilienceResponsibilityLoveHopeFaith  | UC KS1 Core Unit God |
| 3 | The Prodigal Son | A father has two sons, he loves them both equally. One day the younger son asks his father for his inheritance, which equates to half of everything his father owns. The father gives him everything he would be due upon his death. The son goes away, he parties, has lots of fun, buys friends drinks and food, he is the life and soul of the party scene. Until he runs out, then his friends leave him and he cannot buy food or drink, he is alone with no where to go or anyone to love him. He gets a job on a farm, working in the pig pen. He lives outside, he eats what he is given and sleeps with the pigs. But he is so hungry he wants to eat the pigs food! He becomes sad and lonely, he regrets his actions and decides to return home to say sorry and ask for forgiveness. Upon returning home, his Father welcomes him with open arms telling him “Son, you was lost but now you are found!” He throws him a party to celebrate his returning.  |
| 4 | The Lost Coin | An old woman had 10 shiny coins. She would count them daily and make sure she had them all. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9… oh no, one day she counted them and found one had gone missing! She was devastated, she searched everywhere, high, low, in between, under and above everything she owned. She kept looking, and looking and looking until suddenly out of nowhere the coin appeared. She was overjoyed, she couldn’t express her happiness so she ran outside and told everyone about the coin she had lost, that she didn’t stop searching for and how she felt now it had been found – woo-who! |
| 5 | The Good SamaritanLuke 10:25-37 | **Every Move****Hillsong Kids** | A Jew is beaten up alongside the roadside by robbers and thieves. He is beaten up really bad. A Jewish Priest walks by, seeing the man, scurries away, leaving the man in pain and suffering, A Jewish Levite walks by, also seeing the man, runs past him following the same footsteps as the priest before him, leaving the man in pain and suffering. Finally, a third man from Samaria walks towards the man, seeing him suffering and in pain he offers help. He wraps his wounds, dresses his cuts and helps to get him to safety. He offers a hotel money to look after the man until is he well and fit again. He promises to returns and if more is owed he will pay him then. Jews and Samaritans are not friends, in fact, they are enemies.  | Jesus teaches this parable to emphasise his Greatest Commandment – “Love your neighbour as yourself and do to others as you have them do to you” | CompassionLovePeaceGenerosity ServiceHopeKindness Humility  | Greatest CommandmentUC LKS2 Digging Deeper Gospel |
| 6 | The Pharisee and Tax CollectorLuke 18:9-14 |  | A member of the Pharisee and a tax collector enter the temple to talk to God. The Pharisee were very special people who knew all about God and the Religious Laws. He decides to stand in the middle of the temple, boasting, raising his arms, thanking God for making him better than others, telling God what makes him so great and comparing himself to the tax collector who in his eyes is not worthy of God. Meanwhile, the tax collector who works for the Romans, collecting taxes from the Jews and keeping an amount for himself as wages, goes to the darkened edges of the temple, beats his chest, refuses to look up to Heaven, and admits to God he knows he is a sinner, asking God for forgiveness and mercy.  | Jesus teaches that the one who went into the temple with humility and honesty would be held higher in God’s praises than the one who does it for appearances and personal gain.  | HumilityHonestyLoveGenuityForgivenessMercy  | Greatest CommandmentUC LKS2 Digging Deeper Gospel |
| 7 | The Sower | **Its Time to Grow – Parables, Praise and Promises****MooKidCity****Faith as small as a mustard seed****Doug Horley** | The farmer sows his seeds across his land and they fall on 4 different types of ground. Some of the seeds would be lost by forces of nature, hard ground, birds, lack of rain and weeds. But, some of the seeds would land in the good soil, they would grow and the famer would see some crops before the end of the season. The first type of ground was hard, so the seed could not sprout or grow at all and were snatched up instantly by the birds. The second type of ground was stony; the seed was able to plant at the surface and began to grow, however, it could not grow deep roots and soon withered in the sun. The third type of ground was on thorny soil; the seed was successfully planted and began to grow, but the seed could not compete with the amount of thorns that overpower it. The fourth ground was good soil that allowed the seed to successfully plant deep, grow strong and produce fruit. | Jesus teaches that not everyone will hear and understand the word of God. Some will turn their backs and not even attempt to hear. Some will listen and then go away. Some will begin to follow but then something happens and they are distracted and turn away. But, some will listen and thrive and they will grow in God’s love and become part of His family. These are the good seeds.  | FaithPatienceHope  | These parables are often shared during Harvest however they can be used at other times in the year.  |
| 8 | The Mustard SeedMark 4:30-32Matthew 13:31–32Luke 13:18–19 | Look at the size of the mustard seed – they are so very tiny. Jesus tells his followers that Heaven is like the mustard seed. It will start as somewhere very small but it will grow just like the mustard seed grows into a plant, becomes a tree and the birds of the air made nests in its branches.  | Jesus teaches that although the Kingdom of God started small, it would grow and spread across the world to unlimited numbers of followers. | FaithTrustHope Heaven |
| 9 | The Farmer with a barnLuke 12:16-21 | A farmer has a good crop, he decides to build a small barn. But, soon this barn is too small, so he builds a bigger barn. Then a bigger barn is needed so he goes bigger. He became richer and richer. He then says to himself, I have everything I need for many years, I no longer need anything as I have everything. But, God says he is a fool because he longer cares for the gifts God gave him.  | Jesus teaches that the things we have are blessings from God, we should show our thanks through stewardship and prayers. We should not sit back on our laurels when we have success, we should share it with others.  | Wisdom  |
| 10 | The Wise and Foolish Builder | **Don’t build your house****Peter Powers****You Are The Rock - Parables, Praise, and Promises****Mookidcity** | Two people decide to build a house. One decides to build their house on a rock as it gives a solid foundation. This is the wise man. One decides to build their house upon the sandy land. This is the foolish man.  | Jesus teaches you should build your ‘house’ LIFE on the ‘rock’ GOD because that will give you firm foundations for your life.  | FaithTrustWisdomHope  | UC Core Unit UKS2 Gospel |
| 11 | The Wise and Foolish Bridesmaids | Ten bridesmaids are waiting to meet the bridegroom. They all have lamps to light their way. But, five of them were foolish because they had their lamps and lit them whilst waiting but they didn't bring any extra oil to put in their lamps. So, when it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were out of oil. The other five were very wise and well-prepared. They had brought plenty of oil for their lamps and some spare in bottles. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready and could see their way. | Jesus teaches about the importance of being prepared and ready for action. If Jesus=lights and humans=bridesmaid, we need to be like the wise ones and be ready to meet him with our hearts open. | FaithTrustWisdomHopeResilience Open heartedPrepared  |  |
| 12 | The Midnight Friend Luke 11:5-9 | **Ask, Seek, Find****Hillsong Kids** | One dark night, a family had settled down and all had fallen asleep. Everything was quiet. Until suddenly, there was a loud banging at the door. The Father awoke to the banging and the screaming of his children. Angrily, he answered the door to find his neighbour. “Can you help me please? I have a visitor and no food to feed them. Can I have some bread and I will return the favour in the morning?” The Father was furious “No, you cannot, my family are in bed, sleeping, go away!” He slammed the door in his neighbour’s face and returns to bed. But, the neighbour is relentless, she continued to knock and the Father continued to answer the door, hear her plea and slammed the door in her face. However, she did not stop knocking. Eventually, it became totally ridiculous and the Father gave his neighbour a loaf of bread. Then the door knocking stopped, the adventure backwards and forwards to the door stopped and the family settled down and fell back to sleep.  | Jesus teaches that God is like the Father, he is always there and ready to give us what we need. It may not be the first time, we may need to keep knocking and asking but God will always answer the door and help us when we ask. He won’t be angry like the Father though, He wants us to keep praying and talking to Him.  | FaithTrustResilienceCourage Gifts  | UC Digging Deeper KS1 Gospel  |
| 13 | The Persistent Widower | **The Lord's Prayer****Father's Heart Kidz** | Once there was an old widow, she needed some help from a judge because her neighbours were making her life difficult. The judge was not a nice man, he refused to help her. He told her to go away and leave him alone. But, she was resilient, she kept going back him, day after day, after day asking the same thing, again and again. Each day he gave her the same answer “No, go away, I am not interested in your problems”. But, she still came back the next day and the day after. Eventually, after all her repeated demands for help, the judge could not take anymore. He gave up, relented and helped her with her neighbours. The woman found a new level of happiness because she had finally been listened to and the judge did what was right.  | Jesus teaches you should never give up praying and talking to God. He hears you and will give you what you need.  | FaithResiliencePerseverance Humility Hope  |  |
| 14 | The Unforgiving Servant | One day a King decides to ask for all the money owed in his Kingdom to him to be repaid. There was a lot of debt owed to him so he felt it was only right to ask for the repayments. Most of his people paid him back quickly but if they couldn’t they would face a punishment. One man was very poor told the King he couldn’t pay what he owed. He begged for forgiveness and more time to raise the money. The King initially refused telling the man his family would be made slaves. But, he begged and begged for mercy, “Please I will find the money” and the King decided that he would indeed show him mercy and forgave him for his massive debts. The man felt relieved and went off feeling happy. He then decided that he would actually like to call in his own debts, so he visited his friend and demanded the money he was owed. His friend could not repay him, he was in the same position. But, the man decided this was unacceptable and had his friend arrested. When the King heard of this, he was furious, he found the man and put him in jail for being so unforgiving and unmerciful when he had been in that position himself but was shown compassion, forgiveness and kindness by the King.  | We should forgive others as Jesus has forgiven us for our sins.  | Forgiveness MercyFaithJusticeRespectCompassionGenerosity Hope  |  |
| 15 | The Talents | **We All Have Gifts to Share****Allsaints Church** | A rich man has 3 servants and he gives them bags of gold to look after while he goes travelling. 2 of them invest wisely and expand their riches, taking care of the money reaping the reward. 1 buries the gold to keep it safe, hide it in fear. When the rich man returns he is happy with the two servants who have built his riches and saddened by the one who chose to hide it away.  | Jesus teaches us that God gives each of us talents and wants us to use them. Our gifts are to be tools and we are entrusted with building others up through our blessings. | Friendship HopeAppreciation Responsibility  |  |
| 16 | The Lamp | **My Lighthouse****REND Collective Kids** | Jesus tells his followers they are like a light in the world. He tells them that a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. He tells them that people do not light a lamp and hide it under a blanket. Jesus says that they should be like a lamp on the lampstand – they should stand tall, let others see their light, witness their good work for God, so they can show their love of God in Heaven. | Jesus teaches his followers to stand out, to be an example and not to hide away. | Responsibility FriendshipService  |  |
| 17 | The Great Feast | **Waymaker****Allstars Kids Worship** | One day a rich man decided to hold a feast. He ordered his servant to go out and invite people from the neighbourhood. He did as he was ordered, but the people made excuses and reasons not to come to the party. They had more important things to be doing. The man continued with his plans, everything was ready and the feast began, but no one turned up. The rich man was angry, what a waste of time, effort, money, food and wine. So, he asked his servant to go out again, this time asking the poor, hungry, homeless and sick if they would like to come to the feast, each of them said yes. This was one of the best times had by all who attended.  | Jesus teaches us that God’s house is open to all, all that accept the invitation and put Him first otherwise we might miss out.  | FriendshipPeaceThankfulness Appreciation KoinoniaServiceResponsibility Sharing |  |
| 18 | The Precious Pearl | **Heaven is our home****Hillsong Kids** | Once there was a pearl merchant. He loved pearls and could recognise ones which were more valuable than others. When it came to buying pearls, if he knew one was worth more money he would buy them at a cheaper price and then sell them later for a higher price to make more money. This meant he was always looking for the best pearls. One day, he found the most expensive and beautiful pearl he had ever seen. He just had to buy it but he did not have enough money – even after all of his dealings. So, he only had one option – to sell absolutely everything he owned so he could have that one pearl which is what he did. | Jesus teaches us that the value of the kingdom of heaven is so great, that it is more valuable than anything else around us; and to experience the great joy of this gift if we give everything we have for God | WisdomHope |  |