

THE PARABLES AND MIRACLES of JESUS

Kathryn Robinson



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The Parables and Miracles of Jesus

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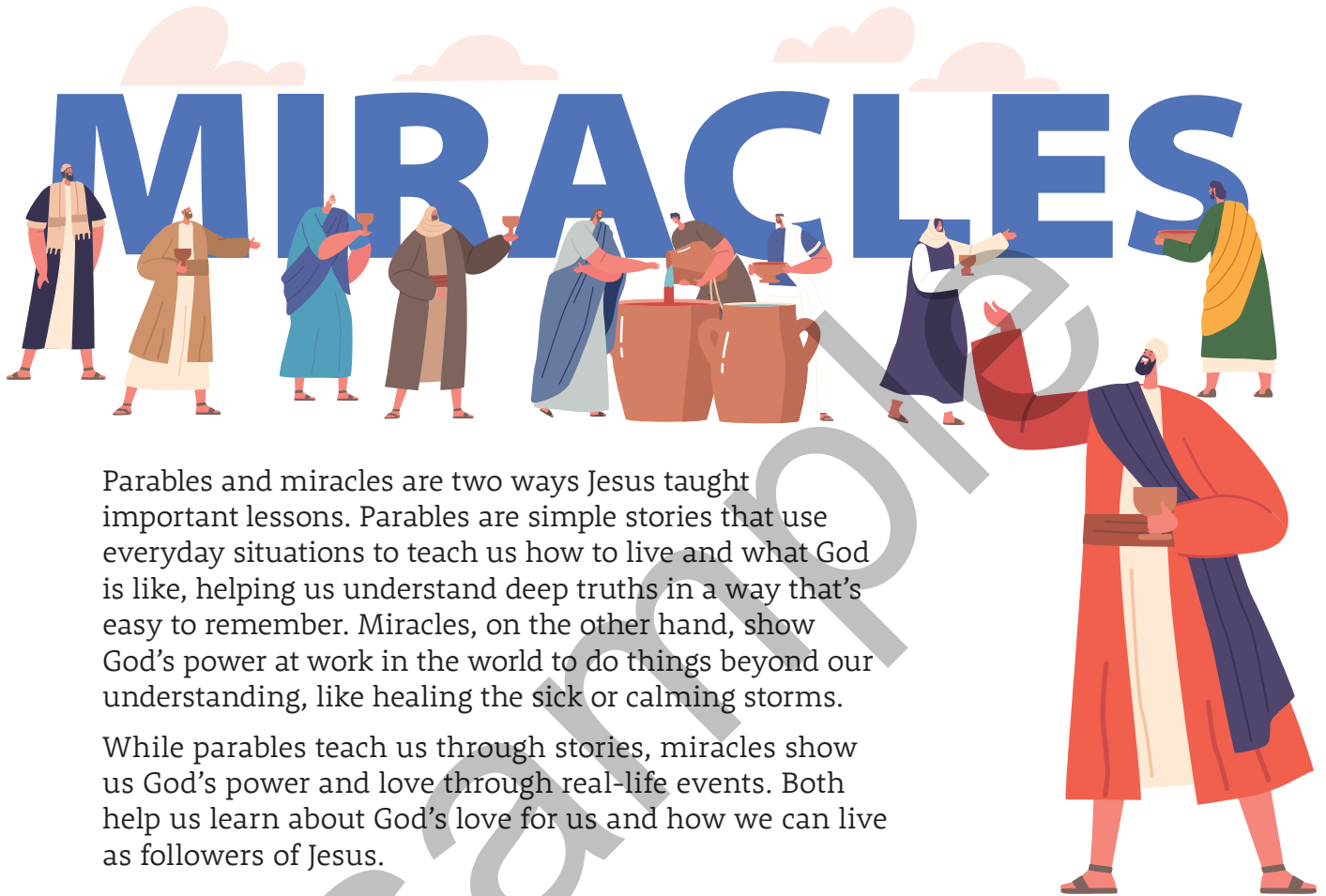
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INTRODUCTION
WHAT ARE THE PARABLES
AND MIRACLES OF JESUS?

Sample

What are the Parables and Miracles of Jesus?



Parables and miracles are two ways Jesus taught important lessons. Parables are simple stories that use everyday situations to teach us how to live and what God is like, helping us understand deep truths in a way that's easy to remember. Miracles, on the other hand, show God's power at work in the world to do things beyond our understanding, like healing the sick or calming storms.

While parables teach us through stories, miracles show us God's power and love through real-life events. Both help us learn about God's love for us and how we can live as followers of Jesus.

Q: Where can we find parables and miracles of Jesus?

When reading the Gospels, remember that these are ancient texts that come to us from an oral history. That means the stories about Jesus were first shared aloud by word of mouth, passed from person to person before being written down. Back then there were no iPhones – no one followed Jesus around recording everything he said.

These texts present the stories and teachings of Jesus that have been collected and shared within the faith communities of the Gospel writers. They were written by people of faith who believed in Jesus, for others who believed in him too.

Q: Where can we find these stories?

The parables and miracles of Jesus are found in the first **FOUR** books of the New Testament in the Bible. They were written after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.

The New Testament begins with **four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John**, although this is not the order in which they were first written.



Q: Who are the authors of the Gospels?

We don't know for sure who the authors of the Gospels were. We know that they were influenced by the apostles and their teachings but were not necessarily the apostles themselves. Many believe the Gospel of Matthew is written by the apostle Matthew, who was known as a tax collector.

Q: When were these texts written?

These texts were written **after** the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus, around 33 CE (Common Era).

Gospel of Mark

Written between **60 CE and 70 CE** – about 30–40 years after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Written around **80 CE**. Both Matthew and Luke drew on Mark's Gospel in their accounts. They expanded on Mark's Gospel while including material that is found only in their Gospels.

Gospel of John

Written later, around **95–100 CE**.

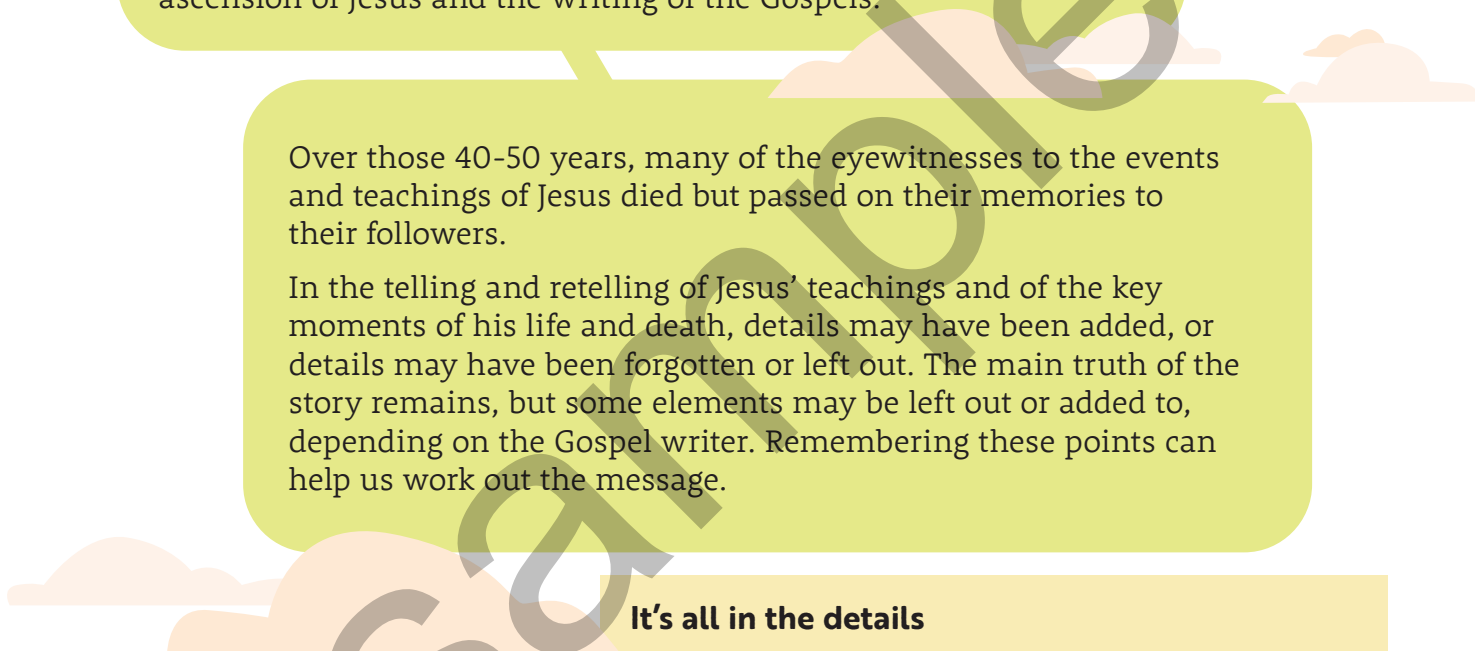
Mark, Matthew and Luke's Gospels are called the **Synoptic Gospels** because they are very similar in the events they share telling us of Jesus' life, his teachings, his death and his resurrection.



Q: Why is it important to know when they were written?

Knowing when the different Gospels were written can help us understand why there are similarities and differences between the events that are recorded. We can look at the same event recorded in each of the Gospels and find that they are not identical.

They can differ in when it happened, how it happened, where it took place and the onlookers present. This is because these texts come to us from an oral history, and about 40 or 50 years passed between the defining events of the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus and the writing of the Gospels.



Over those 40-50 years, many of the eyewitnesses to the events and teachings of Jesus died but passed on their memories to their followers.

In the telling and retelling of Jesus' teachings and of the key moments of his life and death, details may have been added, or details may have been forgotten or left out. The main truth of the story remains, but some elements may be left out or added to, depending on the Gospel writer. Remembering these points can help us work out the message.

It's all in the details

Each Gospel tells the truth — but from different angles. That's how memory works. Everyone remembered the miracles, but not always the details. That's how stories grow, and why we need or use the four Gospels to piece them together. It's a bit like a jigsaw, with each Gospel giving us one piece of the picture. We need all four Gospels coming together to give us a full picture of who Jesus was and his teachings.

Stories might have been remembered differently or misheard over time, but the big takeaway was that something amazing happened!



AMAZING!

The four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are called **Canonical Gospels** and are recognised by the Church as the most reliable accounts of Jesus' teachings.

Non-canonical Gospels are a collection of ancient texts that were not included in the New Testament. Some of these are:

- The Gospel of Thomas
- The Gospel of Mary Magdalene
- The Gospel of Philip
- The Gospel of Judas
- The Gospel of Peter

As a witness to the resurrection, was it Mary Magdalene who was alone? Or with the other Mary? Or Joanna? Or Salome? Or all of them? Or none of them? So, who was there?

Wait ... were there five loaves and two fish? Or two loaves and five fish?

Was it Galilee or Jerusalem where Jesus appeared first after the resurrection?

