



STORY TIME

Theme Resource Pack
October 2025
(5 October - 1 Nov)

Introduction

Jesus loves using stories.

In the Gospel of Luke he uses humour, irony, shock, surprise and sudden twists to invite people into the adventure that is following him, joining the Kingdom. He knew the deep, elemental power of stories, both to hook us in, and to work on a slow burn...

This month we are going to rediscover the parables of Jesus, relayed to us in the gospel of Doctor Luke, and reflect on the power of stories to help us understand our faith. We will re-read the parables, re-appreciate them, re-imagine them and re-contextualise them to celebrate their timeless power to stir us, challenge us, and invigorate us. Each week of our Daily Worship will be bookended by readings from the Old Testament as we remember how the stories of Jesus fit into the unfolding story of God's people.

Jesus **used** stories.

Jesus **uses** stories.

Jesus uses **our** stories...

Weekly Overview

- The power of a story
- A feast of stories
- Sensational headlines from a family saga
- Tuning into home

Format

Every month we have a God-given theme delving into different aspects and areas of faith. Over the course of 2025 these themes connect and take us on a faith journey out into the wonders of life with Jesus. Our themes shape our Daily Worship, live streams and all sorts of other creative things we get up to! Each week runs Sunday - Saturday and each has a series of daily Bible readings and prompts for reflection.

The power of a story (Week 1, 5 October)

Introduction: We are storytelling creatures. One of our most fundamental, essential qualities as humans is our ability to link events together and draw meaning from them. Stories are crucial to language, history, critical thinking, scientific experimentation and theological imagination. This first week of our theme we think about the power of stories to encourage us, inspire us, challenge us and change our mind.

Setting the scene: Sitting with Jesus in a coffeeshop as he tells us a story.

Seeds to sow: What's your favourite story? What do you like about it? What has it meant to you over the years?

1. **Lamentations 3: 19-26 Calling hope to mind.** The simple true story that 'whatever happens to me God will stick with me, keep loving me' is the most powerful story in the world. What stories of belonging help us to call hope to mind?
2. **Luke 5: 33-39 Up-cycling or recycling old wineskins...?** Are there times when we want to up-cycle something — make it fit for purpose — when God is inviting us to recycle and move on — a new wineskin for a new wine? How can this story challenge us today?
3. **Luke 6: 46-49 Urban regeneration, on what foundation?** What happens when we read this parable alongside the story of the three little pigs (who observed some pretty sketchy building standards themselves...)?
4. **Luke 7: 36-43 Making it to payday...?** Tell us a short story about hope inspired by this parable!
5. **Luke 7: 44-50 The power of a story.** How might this story have changed Simon's life?
6. **Luke 8: 16-18 No one puts a tarpaulin over a neon sign.** Imagine a church making a large welcome sign in huge neon letters.... and then covering it in a huge tarpaulin... Are our lights shining?
7. **Psalm 37: 1-9 Holding firm.** How do stories and parables help us to trust and delight in God, holding firm?

A feast of stories (Week 2, 12 October)

Introduction: This week stories about cultivation, food, and sustenance as we reflect on what we are planting, growing, and investing in...

Setting the scene: A table groaning with food at a feast.

Seeds to sow: What's the story behind the best meal you've ever had in your life?

1. **Jeremiah 29: 4-7 Build, plant, eat...** What are the stories we tell about our neighbourhood? How could changing the stories we tell help us to build, plant and eat together?
2. **Luke 13: 6-9 Fruitless endeavour...?** Tell us a short story about fruitfulness vs. fruitlessness inspired by this parable!
3. **Luke 13: 18-19 Jack and the... mustard seed?** What happens when we read the parable of the mustard seed alongside Jack and the beanstalk, that famous tale about a lad who gets more than he bargained for?
4. **Luke 13: 20-21 So it takes time and a lot of work?** Tell us a true story about rolling sleeves up and 'putting the work in' inspired by this parable.
5. **Luke 14: 7-14 Wedding of the year?** Tell us a short story about hospitality inspired by this parable!
6. **Luke 14: 15-24 Five yoke of oxen cancelled your dinner plans?** Tell us a short story about a feast inspired by this parable!
7. **Psalms 66 Learning to tell our own story...** How can we learn to tell our own stories, of how we have been tested like silver, like fig trees, and mustard seeds?

Sensational headlines from a family saga (Week 3, 19 October)

Introduction: This week we pull some sensational headlines from the ongoing family saga of the Prodigal Son...

Setting the scene: A busy news room packed with journalists tracking down the scoop.

Seeds to sow: Jesus didn't sit and wait for people to come to him to listen to his stories — he went out and about sharing them. How can we carry our stories with us, ready to share?

1. **Genesis 32: 22-31 An earlier prodigal son?** The fictional prodigal son from Jesus's story we will be reading about this week was likely partly inspired by this ancestor of our faith Jacob, a younger son who had a wild ride and wrestled with God...
2. **Luke 15: 11-13 Wild Son Absconds With Family Fortune.** Imagine a 24hr news cycle was reporting this tale of a wild son's wild antics... how would they cover it?
3. **Luke 15: 14-16 Wild Son Getting By In A PIGSTY.** New exclusive just in!
4. **Luke 15: 17-19 Wild Son Wake Up Moment!** Patching things up with pa?
5. **Luke 15: 20-24 Wild Son Wildly Welcomed.** Shocker! How would this have been heard in the first century? How do we hear it in the 21st century?
6. **Luke 15: 25-32 Wild Family Feud in Reunion Bust-up.** The twists keep coming!
7. **Psalm 121 It's a wild ride, but God is always with us...** How does reclaiming our inheritance, our place in the family, our story (like the prodigal son reclaimed his) help us to trust God in this wild ride of life?

Tuning into home (Week 4, 26 October)

Introduction: Dreaming dreams and seeing visions as we tune into home.

Setting the scene: Setting the dial on the radio to the right frequency.

Seeds to sow: What does it mean to 'tune in' to God, and what helps you to 'tune in'?

1. **Joel 2: 28 Dreaming dreams and seeing visions!** How do our stories shape the dreams we have how do our dreams influence the stories we tell?
2. **Luke 16: 19-31 Lazarus and some nameless rich guy?** It's striking in this parable that Lazarus is named and the rich man isn't. What's going on?
3. **Luke 18: 1-8 Don't cross this widow!** What happens when we read this parable alongside the tale of Goldilocks and the three bears, that famous tale about a persistent character unwilling to compromise?
4. **Luke 18: 9-14 Gratitude with attitude vs. a humble mumble.** Tell us a short story about humility inspired by this parable!
5. **Luke 19: 11-27 Active or passive, invested or abstracted....?** How can this story challenge Christians today?
6. **Luke 21: 29-33 Checking the weather app, what season is it?** Tell us a short story about seasons changing and reading the signs inspired by this parable!
7. **Psalms 84 Homing instinct!** How do stories help us tune our 'homing instinct' to rediscover God?