

PETE'S PARABLES

A 5-DAY JOURNEY INTO THE WILD WEST

TEACHER'S GUIDE



Catechism for Kids

www.catechismforkids.com

Pete's Parables: A 5-Day Journey into the Wild West

Teacher's Guide

Overview

Pete's Parables is a 5-Day overview of five parables of Christ. It is designed for use in a VBS program, summer Sunday School class, or other short-term children's program. Each lesson consists of two parts: (1) an introductory cowboy story and puzzle and (2) a discussion of a parable of Christ with an applicable lesson and memory verse.

The narrator for the cowboy stories is called Pete. Pete is a cowboy setting out on a cattle drive with his horse Chester. Pete loves to tell stories about his life as a cowboy, and he likes to talk about stories that he has read in the Bible.

To bring Pete's stories to life, you may wish to bring a cowboy hat to the class. When instructing young children, the teacher can wear the hat and narrate the stories as "Cowboy Pete." Older children may like to take a turn wearing the hat and reading the lesson as "Cowboy Pete."

Pete's stories illustrate the same lesson as the parable that follows in part two of each lesson. Parables are selected to convey the message of salvation step by step—from acknowledgment of our sinfulness to redemption in Christ. The parables are:

1. The Parable of the Lost Sheep (*Luke 15:1-7*) – Theme: Sin
2. The Parable of the Sower (*Luke 8:4-15*) – Theme: Scripture
3. The Parable of the Good Shepherd (*John 10:11-16*) – Theme: Jesus
4. The Parable of the Prodigal Son (*Luke 15:11-32*) – Theme: Repentance
5. The Parable of the House on the Rock (*Matthew 7:24-27*) – Theme: Perseverance

DAY 2 – Story: A Long Day / Parable: The Sower

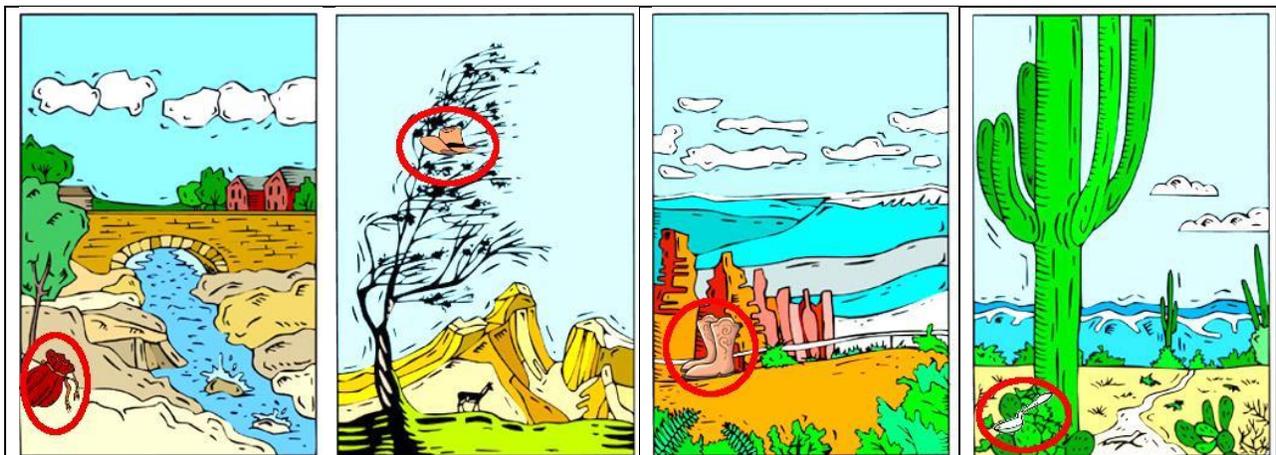
Briefly review the previous day’s lesson with the children, reminding them of the problem of sin in our lives and our need for God to save us from wandering in sin.

Today, the story of Cowboy Pete takes us on a long trek over a bridge, past a crooked tree and towering rocks, and then out into the desert. To make this story more fun for the children, you can take them on brief “journey” around the classroom. One child may wear a hat and act as “Cowboy Pete” while the others play the part of the cattle herd. The story ends when Cowboy Pete realizes that he has been dropping supplies from the back of his horse all day! He has to ride back to collect his gear. Help the children find one item belonging to Cowboy Pete in each of the pictures on the puzzle page.

After the children have helped Pete to collect all his supplies, move on to the next portion of the lesson – the Parable of the Sower. Read the story aloud. The theme of the day is **Scripture**. Explain how the parable describes the different reactions that people have to hearing God’s word: some reject it completely; others accept it at first but then forget it amid the cares of the world. Emphasize to the children that we must be like good soil—listening to the word of God and bearing fruit by applying it to our lives.

Briefly review the previous day’s memory verse with the children, and then introduce the new verse. Ask them to repeat it after you, and recite it together.

PUZZLE SOLUTION:



DAY 3 – Story: Coyotes, Snakes, and Scorpions / Parable: The Good Shepherd

Briefly review the previous lessons with the children, reminding them of the themes of the lessons—that we are sinners who need God, and that we can learn about God only when we accept Scripture as the word of God and apply it to our lives.

The story for today tells us about the dangers of the desert. Cowboy Pete and his fellow cowboys and cowgirls must watch over the herd at night to protect the cows from coyotes. The puzzle asks the children to find the coyotes among the herd. If you have sufficient time, you can play a game with the children similar to “Red Light, Green Light.” Three children are selected as “coyotes” who try to approach the “herd” (the rest of the children). One child is the “cowboy” or “cowgirl” who calls out, “Awake!” or “Asleep!” When the cowboy/cowgirl calls, “Asleep,” the coyotes can run toward the herd. When the cowboy/cowgirl calls, “Awake,” the coyotes must freeze in place. Any coyote that moves while the cowboy/cowgirl is “awake” is out.

The parable of the day tells us about **Christ**—that Jesus is our Good Shepherd. This is an important turning point in the series, because now the children begin to learn God’s plan of redemption. Talk to the children about who Christ is—that He is God, and that He came to earth as a man to save us from our sins.

Briefly review the previous days’ memory verses with the children, and then introduce the new verse. Ask them to repeat it after you, and recite it together.

PUZZLE SOLUTION:



DAY 4 – Story: A Wild Horse / Parable: The Prodigal Son

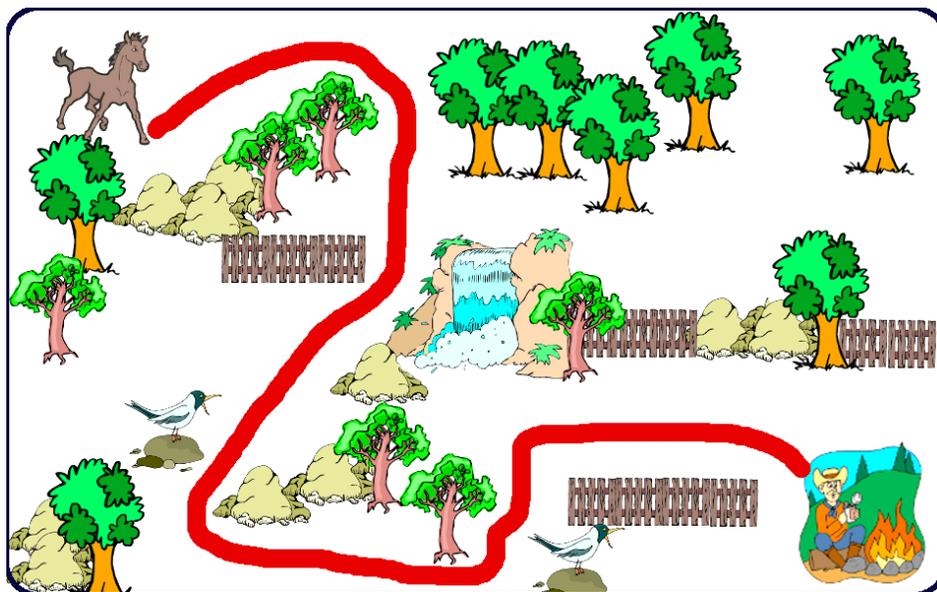
Briefly review the previous lessons with the children, reminding them of the themes of the lessons. Make sure they understand the lesson from Day 3—that Christ came to earth to save us from our sins. Today’s lesson will focus on **repentance**.

Cowboy Pete tells a story about his horse Chester. Pete says that Chester once ran away, but soon regretted his rebellion and returned. Pete welcomed his horse back, and the horse never ran away again. The puzzle asks the children to help Chester find his way back to Pete.

Today’s parable is the Prodigal Son. Read the parable with the children, and explain the concept of repentance. Remind them that we learned on Day 1 that we are sinners. We wander away from God. Remind them also the Christ is our Good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep. God requires faith and repentance. We must put our faith in God to save us and also turn away from sin to obedience to God. Ask the children how someone might act when he or she repents of sin. For example, a thief would stop stealing, work hard, and repay the money he or she has stolen. A liar would stop telling lies, tell the truth, and confess his or her sin. Emphasize to the children that God forgives us and accepts us as His children.

Briefly review the previous days’ memory verses with the children, and then introduce the new verse. Ask them to repeat it after you, and recite it together.

PUZZLE SOLUTION:



DAY 5 – Story: Mud or Good Pasture? / Parable: The House on the Rock

Briefly review the previous day's lessons with the children. Today, the last lesson will teach the importance of **perseverance** in faith, especially applying God's word to our lives.

The cattle herd is nearing its destination, and now must find green pasture for the cows. If they stop in the wrong place, they may get bogged down in mud! Take the children on a "search for pasture" around the room, and ask them to solve the puzzle to find it.

The parable today tells the story of the house on the rock and the house on the sand. Read the story with the children. Remind them of all the lessons they learned over the week, and emphasize the importance of listening to God's word and applying all its lessons to our lives. Give the children concrete ways they can continue in faith—attending church, reading the Bible, praying, and so on.

Briefly review the previous days' memory verses with the children, and then introduce the new verse. Ask them to repeat it after you, and recite it together.

PUZZLE SOLUTION:

GO NORTH NEAR THE BIG GREEN HILL