

Assignment 3: Parables

SMALL GROUP PREPARATION WORKSHEET

Name: _____

Text: _____

INSTRUCTIONS: In your small group, you will have 5 minutes to present on each of your texts. For each of your assigned texts, please respond to the questions below and provide a **one-page handout** (10 copies) that will assist your group in offering productive feedback.

1. Outline the **structure** of the text in a way that represents the author's organization of the text. Please provide an outline that clearly indicates verse breaks for each unit and provide headings for each. [*Consider plot—setting, conflict, climax, resolution, and new setting—as well as characters, particularly the reactions of the disciples/other characters.*]
2. What **emphasis** does the structure reveal?
3. How does the immediate **context**—the closest passages on both sides of your text—inform the meaning of your text? [*Consider why this passage is in this place. Then, if relevant, consider any parallel texts in the other gospels if in a gospel or relevant epistles if in Acts.*]
4. Drawing on your work in structure, emphasis and context, state the central **theme** of the text in one complete sentence. [*A theme should reveal the author's big idea or primary teaching point in the passage.*]
5. What are a few ways that your text **relates to or anticipates the gospel** (i.e. the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, repentance, forgiveness of sins)? Which of these ways best fits your text? [*Consider Old Testament citations/allusions as well as different methods of connecting such as typology, analogy, promise-fulfillment, biblical theological themes, and others.*]
6. In once sentence, what is the **author's aim** for his audience in this text? Given that aim, what **implication(s) and/or application(s)** for your audience would you draw out in your sermon?

On the back of this page and for your own benefit, you can sketch out a homiletical outline that you might use for the text.

