

S.P.Y. Parables

Reviewed by Marvin McLennon

S.P.Y. Parables: Snapshot



[S.P.Y. Parables](#) is a fun, interactive Vacation Bible School curriculum that immerses participants in a spy-themed adventure to uncover the meaning behind Jesus's parables. Designed to be adaptable for various parish settings, this three-session program encourages creativity and can be expanded into a full week of content. Each lesson ties into a key biblical teaching with hands-on service components and engaging activities.

S.P.Y. Parables: The Basics

- **Theme:** Parables of Jesus
- **Publisher & date:** [Leader Resources](#), 2010 ([The Episcopal Church](#))
- **Intended ages/grades:** pre-K – grade 5
- **Format:** onsite
- **Number of sessions:** 3
- **Types of activities:** music, arts and crafts, service projects
- **Cost:** \$39.95

S.P.Y. Parables: Scope & Sequence

- **Day 1: The Seed**
Matthew 13:31–33, Parable of the Mustard Seed
- **Day 2: The Pearl of Great Price**
Matthew 13:45–46, Parable of the Pearl
- **Day 3: The Yeast**
Matthew 13:33, Parable of the Yeast/Leaven

S.P.Y. Parables: Where It Shines

Adaptability

The program is fairly short and was created in the author's parish context. Knowing that, it gives the you as a leader a chance to get creative and not only adapt the program to your context, but an opportunity to add fun spy-themed elements to other parables if you choose to stretch the 3 sessions out to a full week of content.

Engaging theme

The excitement the creators have for the theme is a constant throughout the material available. The spy-themed approach offers a creative and interactive way for participants to explore Jesus's parables and apply them to daily life.

S.P.Y. Parables: Where It Shines

Service oriented

Each day's service component aligns well with the lesson's theme and "word of the day," reinforcing key takeaways.

Budget-friendly

The cost of the program is budget friendly and flexible, making it easy for someone to adapt it to their parish context with as much or as little items as they would like.

S.P.Y. Parables: What We Miss

More content for extended lessons

It's a short curriculum, which makes it convenient. However, it feels like there could be more added to each lesson and more materials provided, such as suggested games and discussion questions.

More resources for leaders

While there are pictures included about items purchased for the theme, there aren't any example pictures of the crafts, which would be helpful for volunteers to use for reference.

More contemporary cultural references

Originally published in 2010, some references (e.g., *Kim Possible*, *Spy Kids*, *Nancy Drew*) feel outdated. Updating these could make the content more relevant for today's participants.

**S.P.Y.
Parables:
Overall
Assessment**

While needing fresher references, S.P.Y. is a unique, fun, adaptable, and budget-friendly curriculum