



The Teacher Robert Morris

Focus Jesus is referred to as a “teacher” 48 times in the gospels. Many people believe Jesus was the greatest teacher who ever lived. Great crowds followed Jesus all the time, even into deserted places where there was no food, just to hear Him teach. Multitudes were always astonished whenever Jesus would teach, and today, people are still astonished at His teachings.

Fun Did you have a favorite teacher growing up? Share one of your fondest or funniest memories from your school days.

Review Key Scripture: Matthew 7:28–29, 13:54, 22:33

- **Jesus taught authoritatively.**
Jesus taught as one having authority, unlike the scribes. Jesus taught the people God’s Word in a way that was alive and fresh. Jesus was full of grace and truth. He spoke truth with authority, and the people heard it, loved it, and then responded to it. Jesus is the greatest teacher.
- **Jesus taught practically.**
Jesus never spoke religious nonsense. Further, Jesus answered life’s most complicated questions in simplistic ways because it was truth, and He did it in a way that a simple person could understand. Jesus’ teachings were practical.
- **Jesus taught graphically.**

Jesus never spoke the truth in a dull or boring lecture. He painted pictures and told stories. Jesus knew that using visuals and illustrations would help the people learn and retain what He was teaching them. Jesus was a master teacher.

Group Dynamics Idea As the group leader, you can create a safe environment for your group that will also help foster organic community by communicating with openness, setting the expectation that the group is a safe environment, and being sincere and exemplifying vulnerability.

Discuss

1. What do you think would be people's response if Jesus were among us, teaching today? Would we be shocked by His teaching? Why or why not?
2. In Christ's day, the teachings and the sermons from the Pharisees were boring and more like a list of endless rules. Instead of preaching something new, they would just preach more rules. Have you ever been in a church like this? If yes, what was it like?
3. Great multitudes followed Jesus to hear His teachings. What was so amazing about His sermons?
4. Some people believe that Jesus was only a good teacher or a prophet but not the Son of God or the savior of the world. How would you respond to someone who believed this way?
5. How can we hear Jesus' teachings today in a way that is fresh, alive, and relevant?
6. How important is it for us to read the Bible to learn Christ's teachings? What are some practical ways we can be better stewards of Jesus' teachings? What would this look like in our lives?

Take Home

As we conclude, remember the following:

- Jesus taught with authority.
- Jesus taught in ways that were practical.
- Jesus taught by painting pictures and telling stories.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to teach us, empower us, and die for our sins. Please help us to not only be “hearers” of Jesus’ teachings but “doers” of His teachings. We ask that in all things You would help us build our lives on the rock of Jesus Christ. Shine Your light on in our lives and help us to be more like Christ each and every day. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

New Leader Tip Read Acts 2:42–47. The most successful group leaders are those who are led by the Holy Spirit in all they do. It is good stewardship to have a plan for your group, but it’s also important to know when to set your plan aside for the Holy Spirit to lead your group in another direction. Surrender your leadership to the Holy Spirit’s leadership and be ready to experience greater community and fruitfulness in your small group!