

Parables Overview

Parables are used to teach one main point.

They are oral illustrations.

They pull stories from everyday life.

Some follow a pattern – similar to “once upon a time...” or “in a land faraway....”

All rabbis used parables.

During the days of Jesus, rabbi was another name for a teacher.

Rabbis trained up disciples. A disciple’s job was to imitate every aspect of the rabbi.

Rabbis spoke in the authority of another rabbi.

Rabbis travel around the region teaching and visiting synagogues.

Rabbis had a celebrity status. It was an honor to have a rabbi stay your home.

Cultural Notes

It’s an oral culture.

Scrolls were expensive.

Memories are long in that region.

