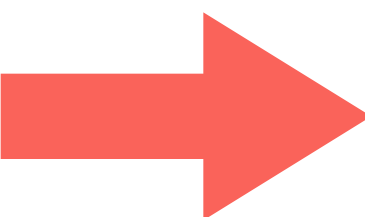


Stories of Christianity

Learning Objective:

To explore the parables of Jesus.





Which two Bible stories have we looked at in detail so far? What were they about?



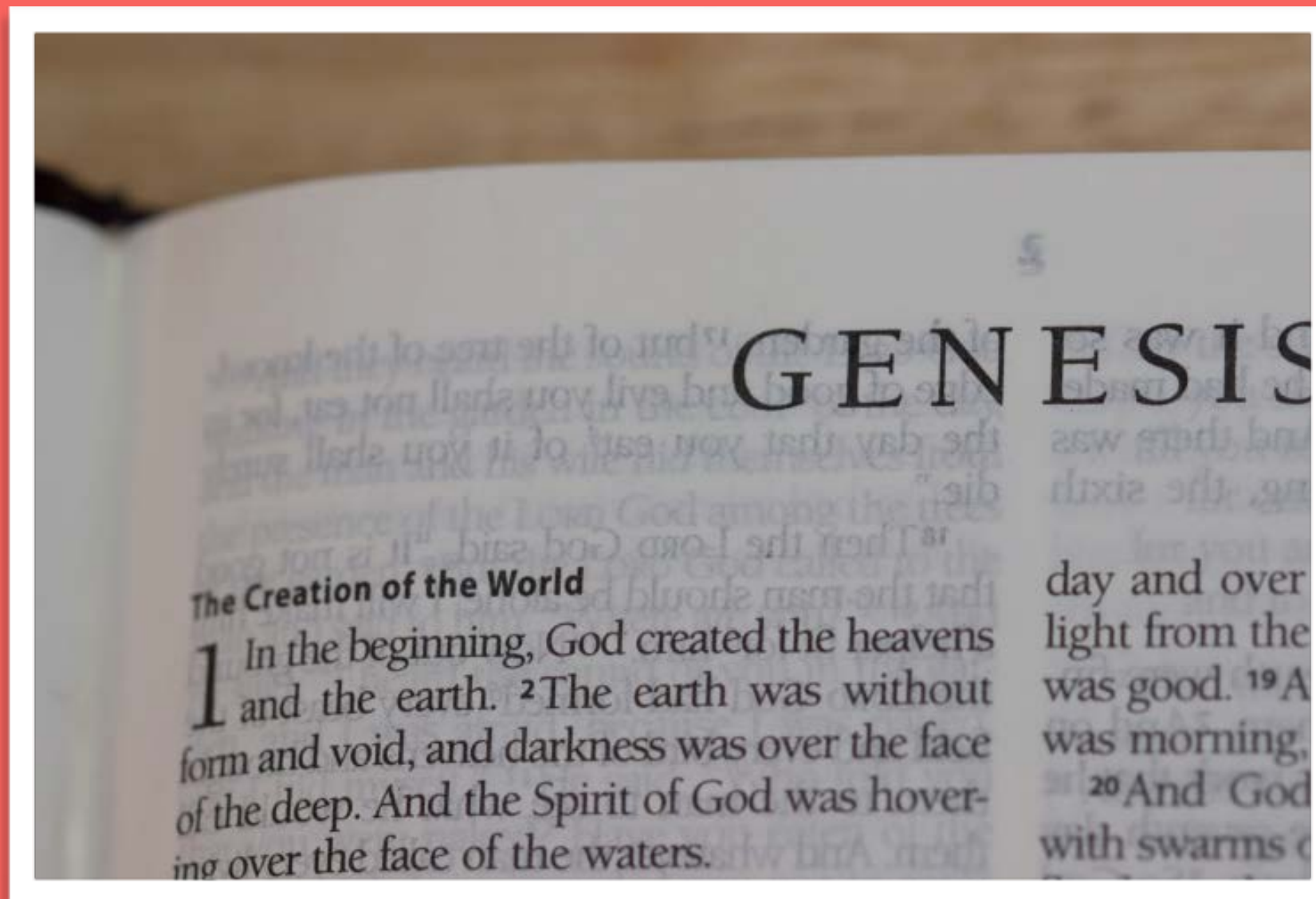
The stories of Ruth and Daniel that we have read are both Old Testament Bible stories. Today we are going to start looking at some stories in the New Testament.

What is the difference between the Old and New Testaments in the Bible?



The Old Testament of the Bible is the first part of the Bible. It tells the story from the very beginning when God created the world up to the time just before Jesus was born. The New Testament is the second part of the Bible which tells the story of the birth of Jesus and how the church began. The New Testament ends with the prediction of what will happen when Jesus comes to Earth again.

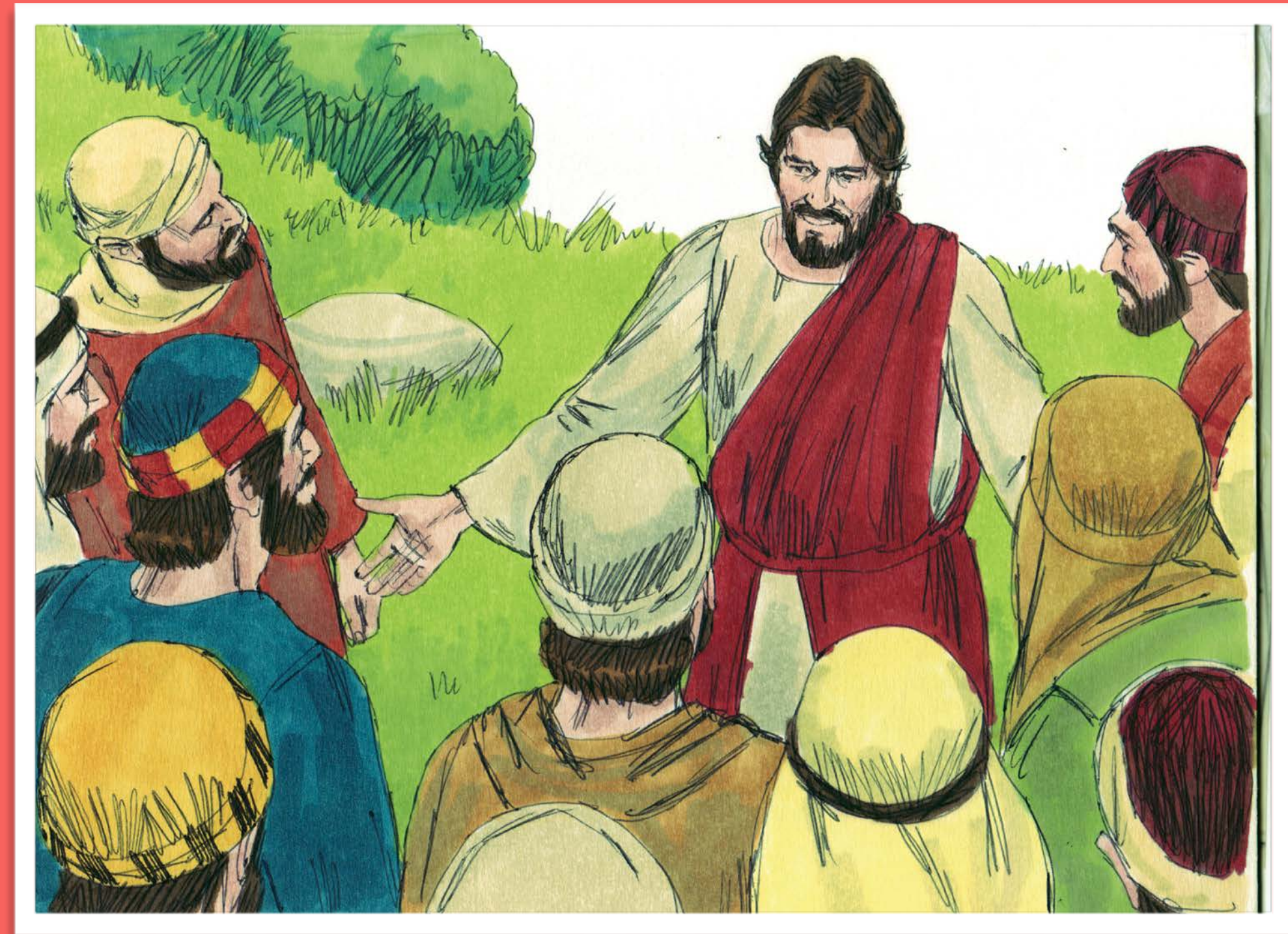
Genesis is the first book of the Old Testament.



Revelation is the last book of the New Testament.



The focal character of the New Testament is Jesus. The New Testament begins with four accounts of his life. These four books are known as the Gospels. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to Earth as a human being.



Jesus told lots of stories to his disciples and followers to teach them how he wanted them to live their lives. A lot of these stories he told in the form of a parable.



Do you know what a parable is?

A parable is a story that is told to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson. Parables don't have to be true stories - they can be stories that are made up to teach people something important.

Do you know any of the parables Jesus taught? Have you heard of any of these ones?



The Good Samaritan

The Lost Sheep

**The Wise and Foolish
Builders**

The Prodigal Son

The Great Banquet

Sowing Seeds

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Jesus spent a lot of his time talking with tax collectors (who were very unpopular) and people who were known as notorious sinners. He had meals with them and talked to them as friends. This made the Pharisees angry. Pharisees were teachers of the law who didn't like some of the things Jesus was teaching. They didn't like to associate with people who were known to be sinners. Jesus decided to tell them a story to help them understand...





“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the other ninety-nine in the open countryside and go and look for the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends

and neighbours together and says, ‘Rejoice with me! I have found my lost sheep!’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who do not need to repent.”

**Why do you think Jesus
told this parable?**



**What was he
trying to
teach
people?**



In the parable of the lost sheep, the sheep represent people and Jesus is represented by the shepherd. Jesus is using this analogy to show firstly that he loves and looks after his people, just as a shepherd looks after his sheep.

When the sheep gets lost, this represents when a person separates themselves from God by doing things that are wrong (sinning). The shepherd is really happy when he finds his lost sheep, in the same way that God is really happy when someone who lived a bad life comes back to him and lives a good life.

Jesus often used the analogy of being a shepherd. He said “I am the good shepherd.” A good shepherd guards his defenceless sheep from danger and watches over them.

