

Hevruta: Reading the Parables

Circle the passage assigned to you and your partner:

- Mark 4:1–9 (Parable of the Sower)
- Mark 4:26–29 (Parable of the Seed Growing by Itself)
- Matthew 13:24–30 (Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat)
- Matthew 13:44 (Parable of the Buried Treasure)
- Matthew 13:45–46 (Parable of the Pearl of Great Price)
- Luke 10:29–37 (Parable of the Good Samaritan)

The Steps of *Hevruta*:

1. Sit face-to-face with your partner.
2. Use a quiet voice that will ensure that your partner will hear you, but that will not disturb the rest of the class.
3. Read the assigned passage slowly and out loud. As you hear the words, silently note anything that jumps out at you: this could be a word or phrase you do not understand; something that seems problematic, disturbing, or inconsistent; something that moves you or touches you; or something you either agree or disagree with.
4. With your partner, take turns asking each other questions about the text out loud. Explore what answers to your questions the text provides, and what answers your partner may come up with. Some questions may not have easy answers, and some questions may not have answers at all—in *hevruta*, that's okay!
5. If you're stuck on what kinds of questions to ask, consider these three broad categories:
 - a. What does the text say? In other words, on a really basic level, what is this text about? How do you know? What words or ideas are repeated in this text?
 - b. What does the text mean? What is the deeper message that comes across in this text? Do you agree with this message? Why or why not? What metaphors or symbols do you see in the text?
 - c. What does the text mean to you? How does this text relate to your own life? What have you experienced that is similar to something you see in this text? What could this text teach you?
6. Take notes on your questions and answers in order to remember them and share them later with the class.

