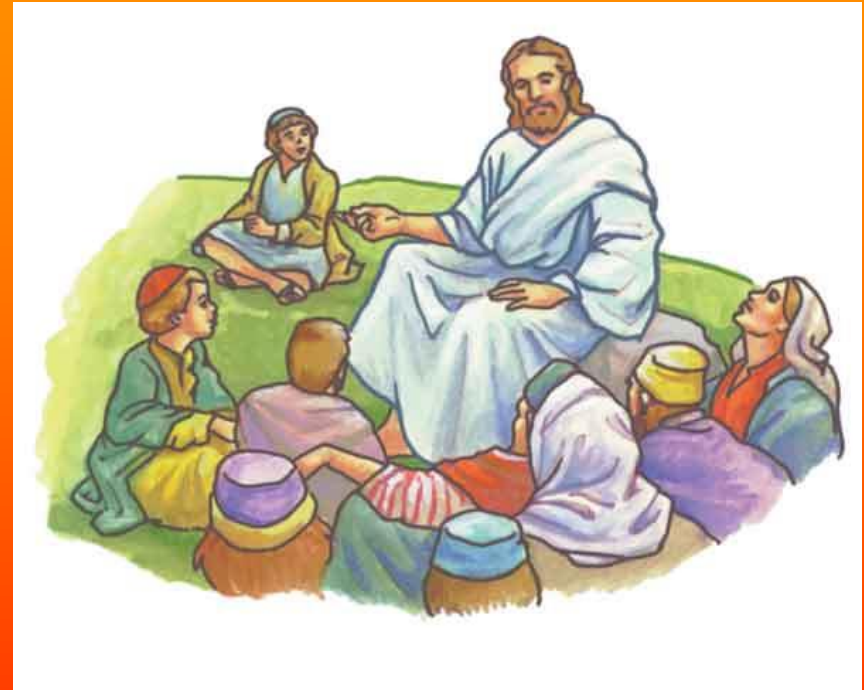


Jesus' Parables



Jesus told stories called Parables.

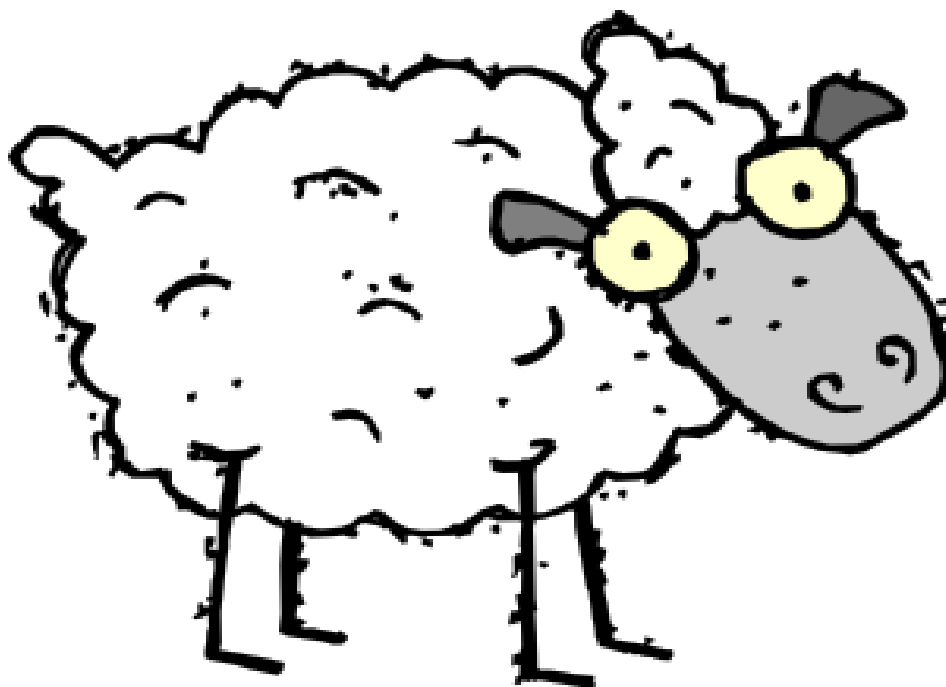
Parables are stories about...



every day life
with a hidden, deeper meaning

Look at more of Jesus' Parables.

Parable of the Lost Sheep

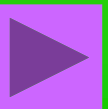




Some people told Jesus
he shouldn't care about
'bad' people.



So he told a story about a lost sheep.



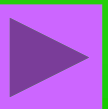


Once there was a shepherd
with a hundred sheep.

He cared for them
very well.

He took them to
fresh grass every day
and gave them water.

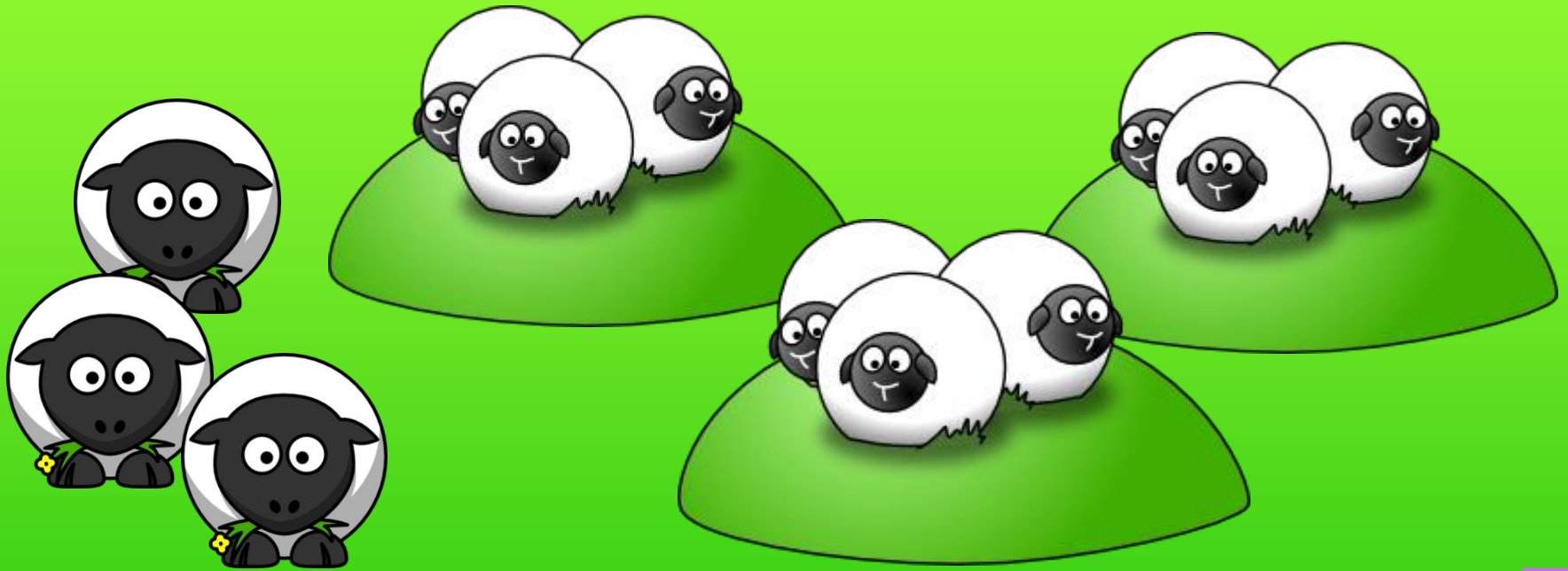
At night he would count
them into the sheep pen
so they were safe.



One evening after a tiring day on the hillside he started to count his sheep back.

1, 2, 3....

...97, 98, 99!



But where was the hundredth?



There was one missing! He knew which one - it was little Simoney that didn't seem to listen.



The shepherd and the sheep looked everywhere!

Then the shepherd left the 99 safely in the pen and went to search for the lost one.

It was getting dark and wolves began to howl but still he carried on.

He went up cliffs and scrambled over rocks.





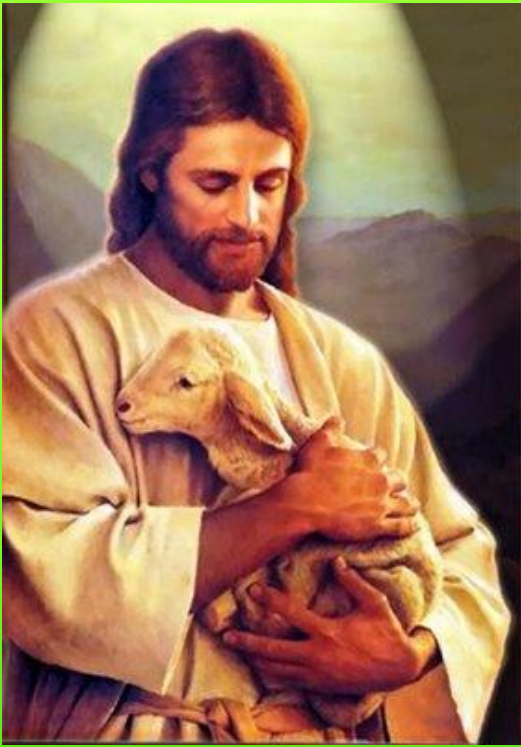
Then he heard the tiniest of bleats.

Simoney had fallen down a cliff face.



The shepherd climbed down to rescue him.





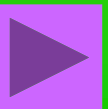
The shepherd gently
lifted him and took
him back.



Simoney the sheep was safe at last!



The shepherd and his sheep
friends were very pleased too!





Jesus was trying to get the people to think of a deeper meaning in the story.

It means that God is like a good shepherd that looks after us and cares about everyone of us .

Because he loves us so much, there is rejoicing in heaven when someone says they are sorry and turns to God.



The Two Builders Parable



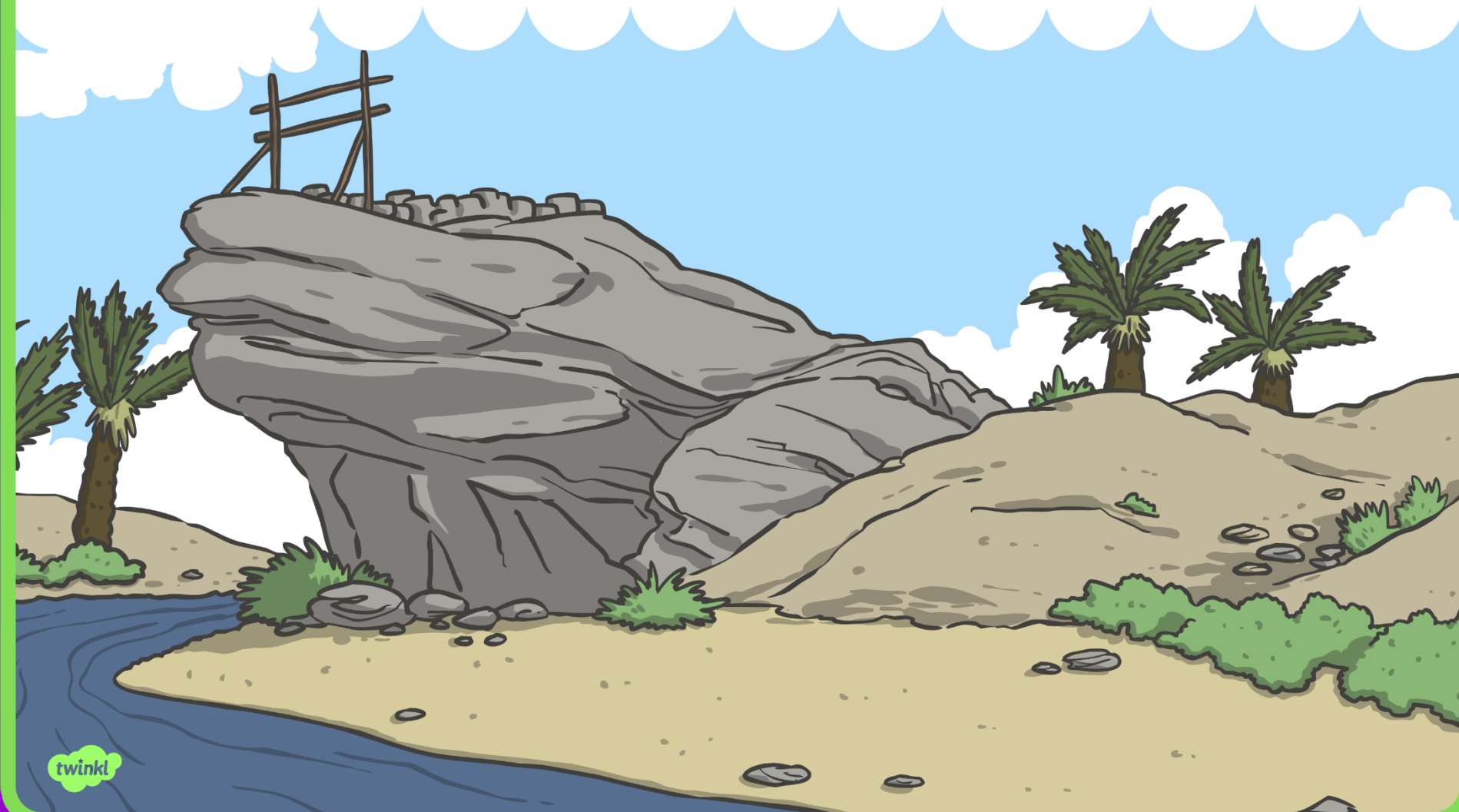
While Jesus was preaching and teaching, there were many people who said they would follow Jesus. They called themselves his disciples but they did not practise what Jesus preached, like loving others and changing their attitude.



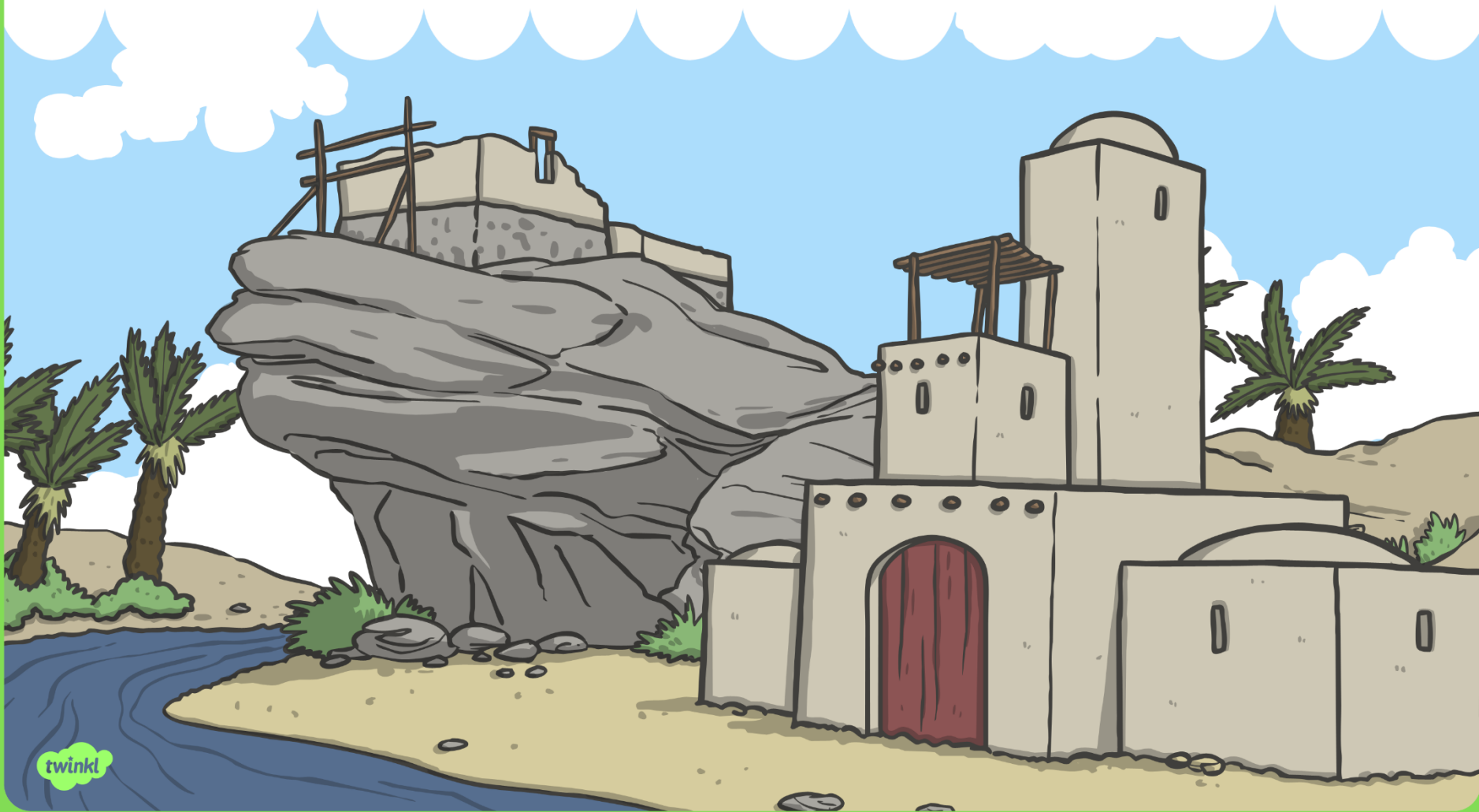
So Jesus decided to tell them a story of how two men built their homes. It is called the parable of the two builders. Here is his parable:



All those who listen to my words and do something about them are like a wise man who builds his house on a rock. The man laid a strong foundation by digging deep into the earth. Then he worked carefully and slowly, making sure the building was strong and secure on the rock.



While the wise man was building his strong house, his neighbour didn't have the same outlook. The person who hears my words and does nothing with them is like a stupid or foolish man who built his house on the sand. This man did not build a strong deep foundation and built his house very quickly. His tall house was built fast and he moved in feeling safe.



Soon, the rain and floods came and the wind blew, beating against the houses. The tall house without a strong foundation just couldn't stand up to the flooding and winds and it cracked and the whole house collapsed. The house that had a strong foundation was sturdy and secure and could withstand the storm.



The crowds were surprised at Jesus' story. Jesus warned them that if the people did not build their life on a deep foundation and follow his teachings then they too would find that their house had fallen down.



Questions to think about

- Do you know any other stories that have important, hidden messages? These might be other religious stories, or something different.
- Why do you think Jesus chose to tell these stories, rather than just telling people what the hidden meaning was?

Task

- Draw a scene from one of these stories and label it. Underneath, write what the hidden meaning of the story was.