

# The Kingdom of God

# Parables & Allegory's

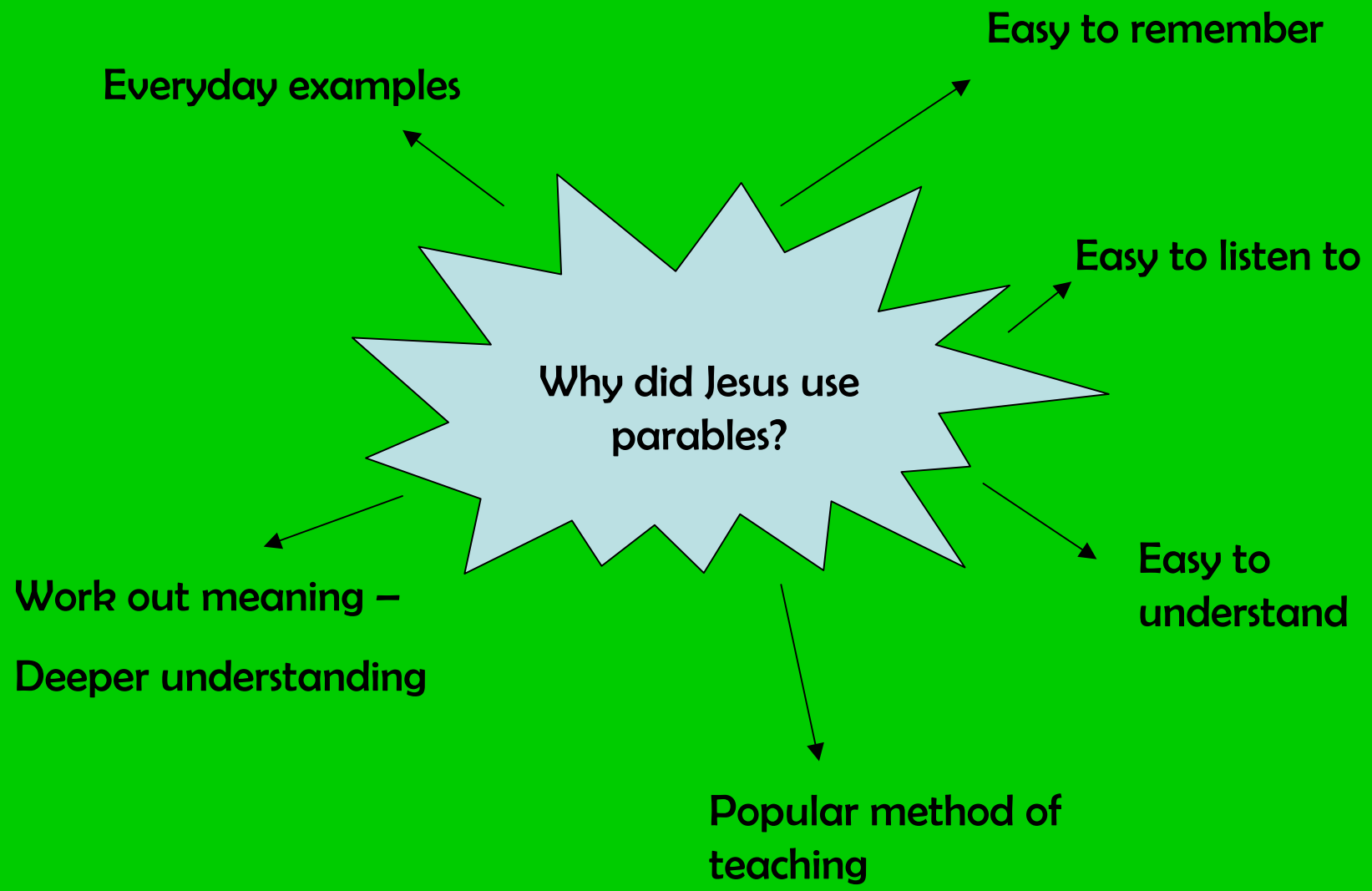
**Parable:** A single story with a single, simple meaning. A parable relates to real life. The meaning is not explained, it is left to the listener to work out for themselves.

**Allegory:** Every detail in the story has a meaning, the message is hidden in a type of code. It may describe a make believe world.

# Why did Jesus use parables?

## Mark's Reason (4:11-12)

- The disciples are given the secrets about the KoG through parables
- Those people who are outside the close circle of the disciples hear the story but don't understand it.
- Some scholars say that these were not Jesus' words. They believe that Mark added this story to explain how many people responded to Jesus and how others refused to work out the meaning of the parables.
- Some also say the purpose was to hide Jesus message from those who were against Christianity.



# The Parable of the Lamp (4:21-25)

## This means:

- Whatever is hidden will be brought out into the open.
- Even if the kingdom is difficult to see at the moment, it is on its way and Jesus' followers will see it.
- The truth about Jesus and the kingdom should not be hidden away.

## V. 24-25

- If I have some faith in Jesus and live in the KoG, God will give more faith to me. The KoG will increase and grow.
- Also, the way I judge others is the way I will be judged.

# The Child as the Model (10:13-16)

## This means:

- Jesus welcomes the children – the least important in society.
- Jesus thought the disciples should learn from the qualities that children have – eager to learn, trusting loving towards parents.
- The attitude that disciples should have towards God.
- The children symbolise the people of the Kingdom – the weak, the oppressed, the outcasts.
- The KoG 'belongs to such as these.'