

John 6:47

In order to help earthlings understand heavenly things, God often describes spiritual truths using figures of speech, like parables. These teaching aids are earthly stories with a heavenly meanings.

One kind of short parable is called a *metaphor*. Metaphors help explain how one thing is like another thing, by saying that one thing is another thing. Metaphors are a type of figurative language, meaning that they're not literally true.

For example: "*Butch is a pig at the dinner table*". This figure of speech means Butch is like a pig when he eats dinner; he is a disgusting messy slob, whom no one wants to eat with. It does NOT mean Butch is actually a swine with short legs, hooves, bristly hair and a snout.

Jesus used metaphors many times to teach humans deeper truths. He said:

- "I am the bread of life"
 - "I am the light of the world"
 - "I am the door of the sheep"
 - "I am Alpha and Omega" (A and Z)
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(1)

Think about [John 6:47](#).

(Jesus said) Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

1. Why do you think Jesus says "*Truly, truly, I say to you,*" before he tells them what he says?
 2. Who has real life? When will their life end?
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(2)

Think about [John 6:40](#).

For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

1. What does one believe in order to have life without end?
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(3)

Think about [John 6:48-51](#).

(Jesus said) I am the bread of life. ... I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

1. How is Jesus like bread?
 2. How is eating bread like believing in Jesus?
 3. What is the bread that Jesus gives, that provides eternal life for the world?
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(4)

Let's think about *the flesh* of Jesus.

Think about [John 1:14](#).

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

1. What was Jesus' flesh?
 2. When did the Word of God become flesh and live among humans?
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Think about [Matthew 17:1-2](#).

... Jesus took with him Peter and James, and John ..., and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light.

1. How is Jesus' flesh different from other human bodies?
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Think about [1Peter 3:18](#).

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,

1. Did the flesh of Jesus die? Why?
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On the third day, after the body of Jesus died and was buried, his disciples found his tomb empty.

Think about [Luke 24:36-43](#).

As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate before them.

1. What did the apostles think they saw when Jesus appeared and spoke to them?
 2. How did Jesus prove to them that his flesh was alive?
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After Jesus died and became alive again, he showed himself to his students for 40 days, proving to them he was alive in the flesh. Then he was taken up into heaven.

Think about [Acts 1:9-11](#).

And ... as they (Jesus' apostles) were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

1. In the past, did the flesh of Jesus go up from earth to heaven?
2. In the future, will the flesh of Jesus come down from heaven to earth?
3. Where is the flesh of Jesus now?