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Chapter 4. Once again Jesus began teaching by the lakeshore. A very large crowd soon gathered around him, so he got into a boat. Then he sat in the boat while all the people remained on the shore. Verse 2. He taught them by telling many stories in the form of parables, such as this one:

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


































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Verse 3. "Listen! A farmer went out to plant some seed. Verse 4. As he scattered it across his field, some of the seed fell on a footpath, and the birds came and ate it. Verse 5. Other seed fell on shallow soil with underlying rock.

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55 The seed sprouted quickly because the soil was shallow. Verse 6. But the plant soon wilted under the hot sun, and since it didn't have deep roots, it died. Verse 7. Other seed fell among thorns that grew up NLT

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Verse 10. Later, when Jesus was alone with the twelve disciples and with the others who were gathered around, they asked him what the parables meant. Verse 11. He replied, "You are permitted to understand the secret of the Kingdom of God. But I use parables for everything I say to outsiders,"

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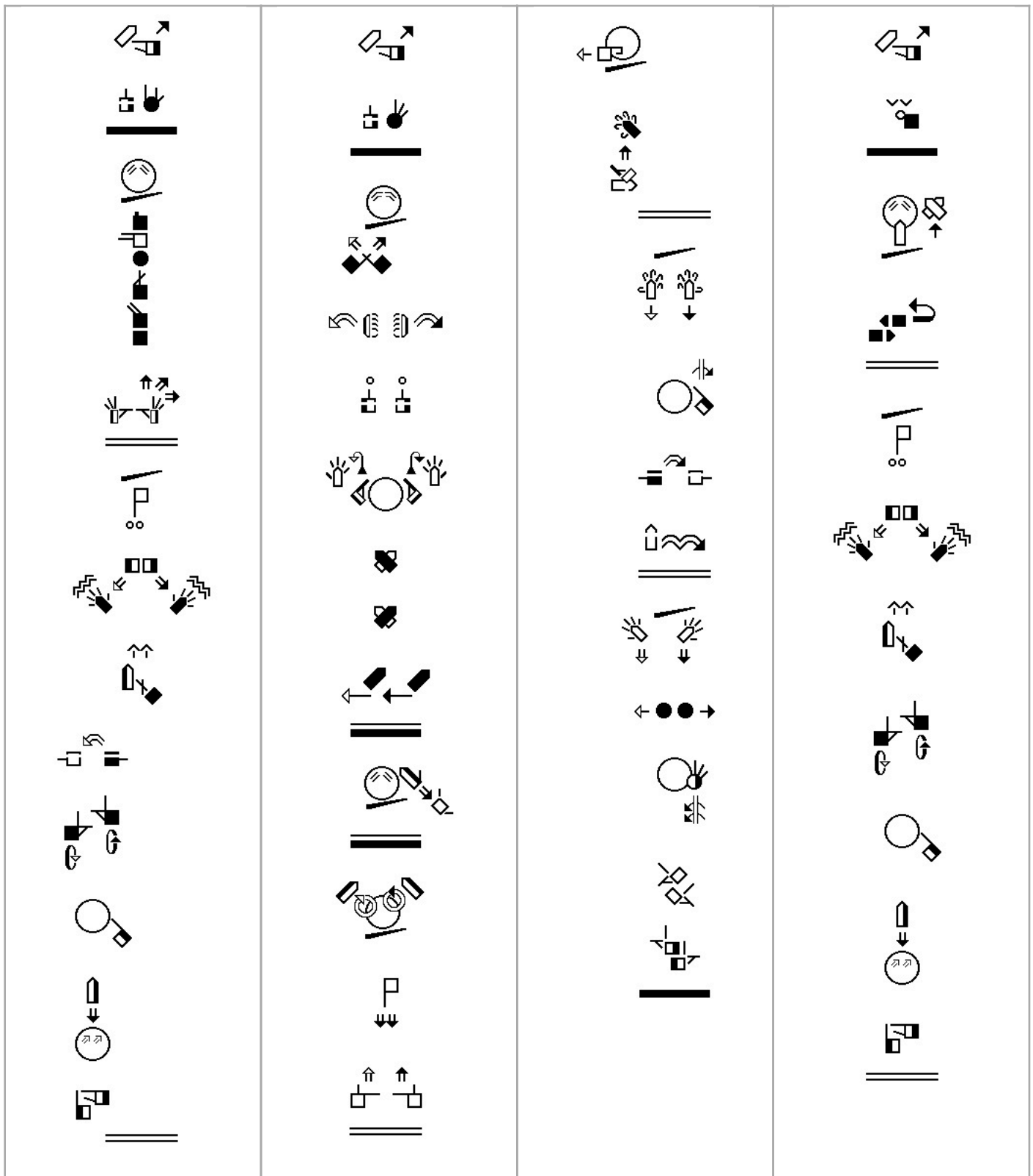
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Verse 12. so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled: "When they see what I do, they will learn nothing. When they hear what I say, they will not understand. Otherwise, they will turn to me and be forgiven." Verse 13. Then Jesus said to them, "If you

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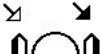
































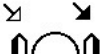







Verse 18. The seed that fell among the thorns represents others who hear God's word, Verse 19. but all too quickly the message is crowded out by the worries of this life, the lure of wealth, and the desire for other things, so no fruit is produced. Verse 20. And the seed that fell on good soil represents those who hear

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and accept God's word and produce a harvest of thirty, sixty, or even a hundred times as much as had been planted!" Verse 21. Then Jesus asked them, "Would anyone light a lamp and then put it under a basket or under a bed? Of course not! A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light will shine. Verse 22. For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light.


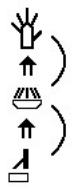



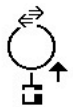


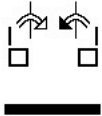







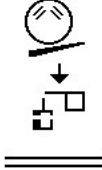












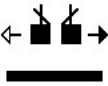



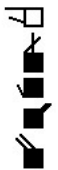




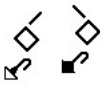

          	          	          	          
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Verse 23. Anyone with ears to hear should listen and understand." Verse 24. Then he added, "Pay close attention to what you hear. The closer you listen, the more understanding you will be given -- and you will receive even more. Verse 25. To those who listen to my teaching, more understanding will be given. NLT

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But for those who are not listening, even what little understanding they have will be taken away from them." Verse 26. Jesus also said, "The Kingdom of God is like a farmer who scatters seed on the ground. Verse 27. Night and day, while he's asleep or awake, the seed

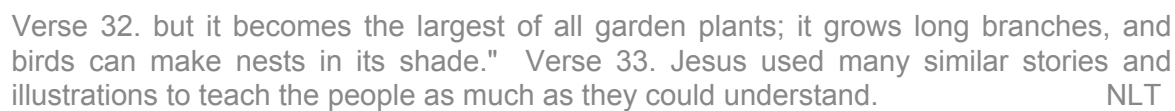
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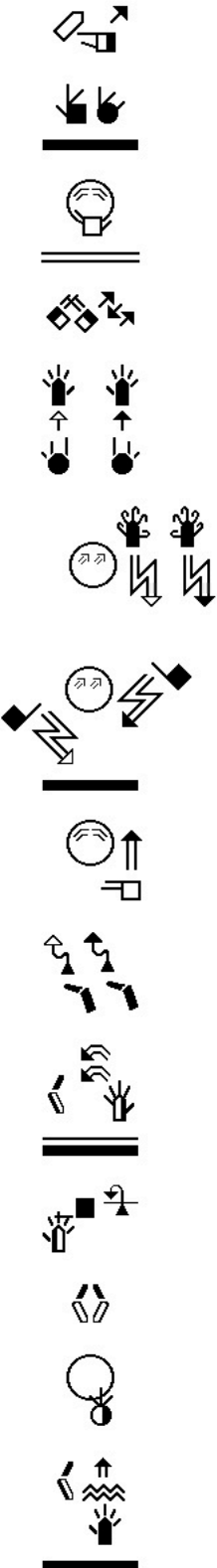

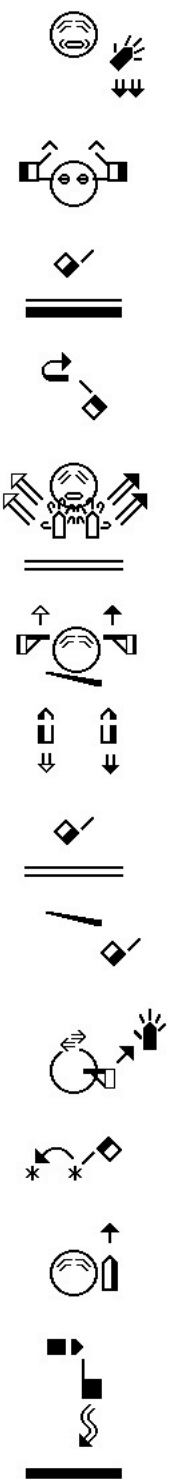
sprouts and grows, but he does not understand how it happens. Verse 28. The earth produces the crops on its own. First a leaf blade pushes through, then the heads of wheat are formed, and finally the grain ripens. Verse 29. And as soon as the grain is ready, the farmer comes and harvests it

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with a sickle, for the harvest time has come." Verse 30. Jesus said, "How can I describe the Kingdom of God? What story should I use to illustrate it? Verse 31. It is like a mustard seed planted in the ground. It is the smallest of all seeds,

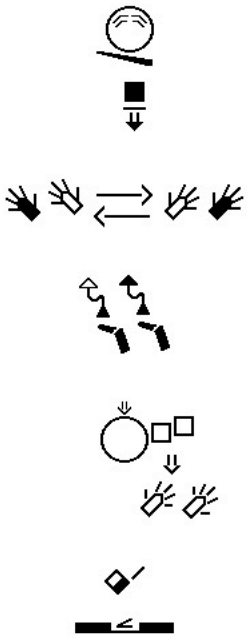


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leaving the crowds behind (although other boats followed). Verse 37. But soon a fierce storm came up. High waves were breaking into the boat, and it began to fill with water. Verse 38. Jesus was sleeping at the back of the boat with his head on a cushion. The disciples woke him up, shouting, "Teacher, don't you care that we're going to drown?" NLT

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