

## Jesus Taught about the Kingdom

Matthew 13; Mark 4

## What did Jesus teach when He was on earth?

Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.  
Matthew 5:16

### Story Point:

Jesus taught what God's kingdom is like using parables.



### PREPARE HEARTS

- ☐ Welcome - A-Mazing Wheat
- ☐ Starter Activity - Treasure Hunters



### ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ 9:20 - Bible Lesson in LG2
- ☐ Review and discuss the Bible Story
- ☐ Reflection and Prayer
- ☐ Questions from Kids Video



### ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Key Passage Activity - Verse Scramble
- ☐ Group Activity - Growing in God's Word
- ☐ Group Activity - Spreading God's Word

## SHEPHERD GUIDE

More than 100 years ago, a group of missionaries developed a unique way to illustrate the idea of committing everything to the kingdom of God. These Christians were known as one-way missionaries because they would buy one-way tickets to their mission destinations with no intention to return.

They were so confident they would never return to their homes that they would pack all their belongings in a coffin that would be used to "bury" them when they died on the mission field. As they traveled to the ends of the earth, they said goodbye to everyone and everything they had ever known, all for the kingdom of God.

Jesus' parables about the hidden treasure and the priceless pearl represent an encounter that changes everything. In one, a man stumbles upon treasure buried in a field. In the other, a merchant who has searched his entire life for fine pearls suddenly discovers one so valuable nothing else compares. In both cases, these men sell everything to obtain what they've found.

From a worldly perspective, selling everything to obtain one thing seems reckless and unwise. And yet, the man sells all he owns "in his joy." This isn't about grim duty or forced giving—it's about overwhelming delight. When you truly see the worth of the kingdom, sacrificing everything you have for it doesn't feel like loss. Rather, it brings great gain.

Many times, we find ourselves chasing a thousand smaller treasures, such as comfort, reputation, and control. But none of those treasures ultimately satisfy. They demand more and give less. But when we encounter Jesus, the true treasure, everything else finds its proper place. Paul echoes this in Philippians 3:8: "I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."

This week, lead your kids to value Jesus above all and seek their deepest joy in the one who gave everything for us.

REMINDER: Our VIP meeting is from 8:30-8:40 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.

## MAIN TAKEAWAYS: We want our kids to:

- \*KNOW that God's Kingdom is where the greatest treasure is found!
- \*TREASURE Jesus above all else.
- \*GROW in God's Word and sharing the good news of Jesus with others.

*As children arrive - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the other children.*

*Use this time to get to know your kids - ask them about their week, about their likes and dislikes and about their school, family and friends.*

*Ways to connect - Play a game from the closet, color or draw together, build with legos/blocks, etc.*

*When most kids have arrived for first service (by 9:05ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.*

*\*Pen Pal Kit!!*



## PREPARE HEARTS

### OPENING QUESTIONS:

Have you ever had something so valuable that you wouldn't trade or give it up for anything else? What was it?

Invite kids to complete the "A-Mazing Wheat" activity page.

Today we will read more parables about what God's kingdom is like. Jesus shared that God's kingdom is more valuable than anything else we can find.

## WELCOME

### A-Mazing Wheat

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils



## STARTER Treasure Hunters

- 2 clue sheets
- Coins - hidden before class
- Scotch tape (do not use on walls)

**\*\*Before class!\*\*** Hide two sets of coins in different places around the classroom. Use scotch tape to hold them in place if needed. Each location needs 2 coins - just place them in different areas of the same place - one for each team.

- 1<sup>st</sup> set - 1- Under a table, 2- crayon or colored pencil case, 3- under the clock (tucked into the door frame), 4- Bookcase (in closet) 5- Whiteboard, 6- Snack under cabinet

Group the kids into two teams. Give each team a set of riddles to show where each coin is hidden for each team.

Encourage the kids to work together to find all the coins from their riddles before a three minute time limit. The team that finds all of their coins before time is up wins.

SAY: What things do you consider treasure? [Allow responses.] Jesus used many words and ideas to describe God's kingdom, including treasure. Today we will learn that JESUS TAUGHT WHAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS LIKE USING PARABLES.

#### Clue 1

I have four legs but never run,  
I hold your work until you are done.  
Look beneath me, low and near—  
Your first coin may be hiding here.

#### Clue 2

I'm not a treasure chest, but I hold things you need.  
I'm full of colors, ready to help you create and read.  
Find the place these things might stay,  
Your next coin is tucked away.

#### Clue 3

I have a face but never smile,  
I help us know the time and the while.  
Look where the classroom watches time,  
Your next coin may be nearby.

#### Clue 4

I'm full of stories, but I cannot speak,  
I'm opened by those who want to seek.  
Find the place where books are kept,  
Your next coin may be near.

#### Clue 5

I hold no water, though my name says I might.  
I'm covered in words, then wiped clean and white.  
I help tell the story of what we will do—  
Your next coin is where the teacher writes a clue.

#### Clue 6

I'm not a kitchen, but treats may appear.  
I'm where hungry explorers find a reason to cheer.  
Before you can eat, you may need to be looking -  
Your final coin is waiting - your cookin'!



## ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

### INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade in LG2

### BIBLE STORY:

#### Jesus Taught about the Kingdom

Bibles, Powerpoint slides

Quick Review of where we are in the Big Story of the Bible and Big Picture Question:

**What did Jesus teach when He was here on earth?** Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. He taught that all scripture is about Him.

Open your Bible to Matthew 13 and/or Mark 4.

#### STORYTELLING OPTIONS / TIPS:

**Picture it:** Before you start, invite the kids to close their eyes and form a picture in their mind of their most treasured possession. Once you share the story, have the kids share what they were thinking. Remind kids that God's kingdom is more valuable than anything we own!

**Use hand motions:** As you share the story, encourage the kids to listen for the words God's kingdom. Each time they hear it, encourage them to place their hands above their heads to form the roof of a castle or house.

Wherever Jesus went, He told people about God's kingdom. Many times, He used parables—stories with a special meaning—to help people understand.

One day, Jesus told the crowd, “God’s kingdom is like a man who planted good wheat seeds in his field. But while he slept, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat. When the plants grew, the servants saw both wheat and weeds. They asked the man if they should pull the weeds out, but the man said, ‘No. If you pull them out now, you might pull out the wheat too. Wait until harvest. Then I will have the wheat gathered into my barn, and the weeds burned.’”

Jesus told another story. He said, “God’s kingdom is like a mustard seed—the tiniest of all seeds. But when it is planted, it grows into the largest garden plant. It becomes a tree, and birds come and rest in its branches.”

Then He said, “God’s kingdom is like yeast. A woman mixed it into a huge bowl of flour, and soon the whole batch of dough was rising!”

Jesus’ friends asked Him to explain the first story. Jesus said, “The good seed are the people who belong to God. The weeds are people who reject Him. At the end of the age, God will separate those who follow Him from those who reject Him. Those who belong to Him will be with Him forever.”

Jesus told more stories. He said, “God’s kingdom is like treasure buried in a field. A man found it, hid it again, and joyfully sold everything he had to buy that field.”

Jesus also said God’s kingdom is like a valuable pearl that a merchant was searching for. When he found the pearl, the merchant sold everything he had to buy it.

Lastly, Jesus said that God’s kingdom is like a big net cast into the sea. It catches all kinds of fish, but later the good fish are kept and the bad ones thrown away.”

## CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom to earth. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made the way for people to be part of God's kingdom. When we trust in Jesus, we are like the good seed in His field—we belong to Him, we grow in Him, and we will be with Him forever.



### REVIEW AND DISCUSS

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Allow time to have the children think and process - however this works best for your class. We want our kids to feel known and heard!

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**In small groups (or as a large group), talk through these questions.**

As He traveled, Jesus continued teaching about God's kingdom through parables. The first parable Jesus shared compared God's kingdom to wheat and weeds. **Who did Jesus say the wheat and weeds represent?** [Read Matthew 13:37-40. Allow responses.] The wheat represents those who accept Jesus, while the weeds are those who reject Him. When Jesus returns to earth one day, He will separate those who know Him from those who have rejected His teaching and refuse to call Him Lord.

Jesus also described God's kingdom as a seed. **What kind of seed did Jesus use in the parable?** [Read Mark 4:30-32. Allow responses.] Many believed that God's kingdom would come suddenly. But like a mustard seed, God's kingdom would start in a small way through the Messiah, Jesus. And like yeast causes bread to rise, God's kingdom grows as Jesus changes the hearts of those who follow Him. God's kingdom continues to grow through His church, and one day it will reach its fullness when Jesus returns!

Jesus taught that God's kingdom is more valuable than any treasure we can gain in this world. Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom to earth. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made the way for people to be part of God's kingdom. When we trust in Jesus, we are like the good seed in His field—we belong to Him, we grow in Him, and we will be with Him forever.



## Reflection and Prayer

Journal Page

Have children use a blank sheet of paper. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions. Or, just talk about it together.

### What does this story teach me about God?

*God is always with us. He has the whole world in His hands and He sees, hears, knows and cares.*

God is present and involved in His creation. He is at work in this world, bringing about restoration and healing. God uses us to participate in His kingdom, sharing the gospel and our faith with others and pointing them to the goodness and love of God.

### What does this story teach me about myself?

*God wants me to be a part of His kingdom by sharing the good news of Jesus, by loving others and by loving God.*

**Pray together:** *God, thank You for showing us that Your kingdom and Your Word are the greatest treasure we can find! Give us courage to live in obedience to Your Word in this broken world. Amen.*



## Questions from Kids Video

USB on TV

Show the “Unit 25, Session 2” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

- What if someone doesn’t hear about Jesus before they die?
- Have you joined God’s kingdom by putting your trust in Jesus?



## ENGAGE HEARTS

Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Matthew 5:16

### Key Passage Activity:

#### Verse Scramble

- Key Passage Poster

Write the key passage on a large dry erase board.

Erase four words and rewrite the letters of each word in a scrambled order.

Go around the room and invite the kids to take turns trying to unscramble each of the missing words from the key passage.

Invite them to erase the scrambled word and write the corrected word on the board. Once complete, instruct the kids to recite the key passage aloud with you.



## Growing in God's Word

- Containers with variety of seeds/beans
- Magnifying glasses
- Video - on TV

Divide the class into groups of 4. Give each group a container filled with a variety of seeds/beans. Have them work together to sort them by seed and try to guess which each seed/bean is. Give each group a magnifying glass to examine each one more closely. Challenge them to figure out which one is a mustard seed!



Show the class how tiny a little mustard seed really is! Have each of them find one from their container and examine it.

Then, show them the short video of a mustard seed growing from seed to plant in only 37 days!

- Click [here](https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ex4rpYGvBcU) to watch it ahead of time: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/Ex4rpYGvBcU>

Talk about how the mustard seed plant would keep growing and growing and eventually turn into a big tree! Mustard trees in biblical times could grow up to 20 feet tall! That's as tall as 3 giraffes standing on top of one another! Or 2 basketball hoops stacked on top of each other! And it all starts with such a little seed!

Share that just as water and sunlight will cause a plant to grow, being connected to God through listening or reading the Bible and through talking to God every day allows our faith to grow!

**SAY:** Jesus said that those who trust in Him are like the good seed. We will grow in knowledge as we learn more about His Word and talk to Him. This will help us to become more like Him. Those who trust in Jesus will be with Him forever.



## Spreading God's Word

- World Map
- Dot stickers

Gather the children around a table or the floor. Spread out a world map for all the children to see.

Show how the Gospel has spread globally since Jesus' day, just like the growth of the mustard seed into a large tree.

- Mark the starting point of the Gospel (Good News!) in Jerusalem with a dot sticker.
- Let the children place stickers in various parts of the world they know, or where they know people who are working to spread the good news of Jesus.

Discuss how the small beginnings of Jesus' teachings have spread all around the world! Ask: How far does the Bible tell us the good news of Jesus will one day spread?

- To every tribe and nation. Jesus wants everyone - from every part of the world to hear about Him and have the choice to believe in Him before He comes back!
- He also tells us in Revelation that when He does come back, people from every tribe and nation, people and language will worship Him! What an exciting day that will be!

\*Spend some time in prayer - pray for Global Partners who are sharing the gospel to the ends of the earth - pray for each boy and girl as they also shine the light of Jesus to those around them at school and in their family. Pray that our faith would continue to grow like a mustard seed.