

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 - What's the Sauce
- ☐ Starter Activity - Guess Who Charades



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 - Bean Bag Toss
- ☐ 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:

Other than the gospel, what is the greatest story someone has ever shared with you?

Invite kids to complete the "What's the Sauce" activity page.

Nice job deciphering the code to reveal the message! In today's story, we'll learn how Jesus told another parable to reveal what God's kingdom is like.

WELCOME

What's the Sauce?

- Activity page
- Markers
- Pencils



STARTER

Guess Who Charades

- Cards with mystery people

Group the kids into two teams.

Pick one volunteer to go first. Have him or her stand at the front of the room, pick a card, and act out a mystery person without talking.

Examples include:

- police officer, parent, teacher, firefighter, soccer player, cook, runner,

His or her teammates must attempt to guess the person. Once the team guesses correctly, the next team will take a turn. Each time the team guesses correctly, they get a point. The team with the most points wins.

SAY: You guys did a great job guessing who your teammates were pretending to be. But we don't have to guess what God's kingdom is like! Jesus used different stories and examples to help teach the crowds. Today we will see that JESUS TAUGHT WHAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS LIKE USING PARABLES.



ACTIVE MINDS

Taught by the Bible Teacher:

INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

(Quick 1 minute review!)

9:20 – 9:35

K – 3rd 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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Blank paper, Bible
Story coloring
page, colored
pencils/crayons

In small groups (or as a large group), use the coloring page (on the other side of the worksheet) and have children color while you talk through these questions.

Jesus continued to point people to God's kingdom through sharing parables. Who did the wheat and the weeds represent in the story? [Allow responses.] Jesus explained that the wheat are those who believe in God and the weeds are those who have rejected Him. Just like the wheat and the weeds, or the fish in the net, both believers and unbelievers live alongside each other in this world. God calls believers to share the gospel with those around them until His return!

How do you think the yeast in the story compares to the kingdom of God? [Allow responses.] Yeast causes bread to slowly rise, even when we can't fully see the reaction taking place. God's kingdom may not be visible at first, because it starts with an inward change of our hearts. But when we turn from sin and turn to Jesus, His work in our lives becomes visible as we share it with others. Jesus also reminded the crowd that God's kingdom requires sacrifice.

What did the man do when he found the treasure in the field? [Allow responses.] God's kingdom may cost us everything, but He promises that what He has to offer is far greater than anything we could give up. He offers salvation and eternal life to all who turn to Him! 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, He gives us His righteousness so that we become the good seed in His field—we belong to Him, we grow in Him, and we will be with Him forever.

Additional Questions:



Reflection and Prayer

Have children use a blank sheet of paper to draw a picture as you 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 1” 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:

Bean Bag Pass

- Key Passage Poster
- Bean Bag

SAY: Jesus shared that though things in this world pass away, God’s kingdom is forever. We can trust that His Word is true and will never lead us wrong. Let’s review our key passage together.

Instruct kids to sit in a circle. Play music (on the TV or off your phone).

Hand a kid a bean bag or small ball. Encourage him or her to say the first word of the key passage and pass the ball to the person on his or her left. He or she must say the next word and then pass it again.

Continuing passing until the music stops. Whoever is holding the ball when the music stops is out. Play until the group has recited the entire key passage.



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.