

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

- ☐ Starter Activity - Welcome and Question of the Day
- ☐ 11:00 - Kids Worship



ACTIVATE HEARTS

- ☐ Lesson Review - Jesus Taught about the Kingdom
- ☐ Discussion Questions
- ☐ Group Demonstration: Yeast Demonstration



ENGAGE HEARTS

- ☐ Group Game: Seed Sorting Relay
- ☐ Share and Care Prayer Time
- ☐ Group Activity: Lasting Kingdom

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 10:20 - 10:30 in C1. Your supply bin will be in your classroom.



GRADES 3-4

KNOW + LOVE + FOLLOW + SHARE

Sept. 27, 2026
2nd Service

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 you arrive and children come and go - Welcome them by name and invite them to play with you and the others. 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 2nd service (by 10:50ish), ask them to clean up the toys and find a seat at one of the tables to begin the class.

**Option - Pen Pal Kit!!*



PREPARE HEARTS

Question of the Day:

Starter Activity

Welcome and
Question of the
Day

What is something small that is very special to you? Maybe you have a special piece of jewelry or a coin someone gave you. Or maybe you have a shell you found on a beach vacation or a small toy figurine you enjoy playing with. [Allow responses.]

There are no shells or toys in our story today, but there were some very tiny, very meaningful objects. We'll hear a story about stories! Jesus told special stories called parables. They were simple stories that had a deeper meaning. JESUS TAUGHT WHAT GOD'S KINGDOM IS LIKE USING PARABLES.

When you hear the word 'kingdom' you might think of a castle and a king or queen. God's kingdom is a bit different. God's kingdom is about God fixing and healing His good world, which has been broken by our sin. God's kingdom isn't just in one place. It's wherever people have put their faith in Jesus. We'll discover more from the New Testament Gospels of Matthew and Mark.



KIDS
WORSHIP

11:00

Kids Worship for Pre-K - 4th Grade in LG2.



ACTIVE MINDS

You can use the REVIEW VIDEO on your TV and / or use this lesson as a review of what was taught 1st service.

Jesus Taught about the Kingdom

Bibles,
Review Video –
Bible story on TV

Open your Bible to Matthew 13 and/or Mark 4. You can use the Kids Sermon Outline as you go through the story.

KIDS SERMON OUTLINE:

God's kingdom starts small but grows powerfully. (Matt. 13:31-33): Jesus compared the kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast— both tiny, but with huge impact. God's kingdom may begin in small ways in a person's heart, but it grows, spreads, and transforms lives.

God's kingdom is incredibly valuable— worth giving up everything for. (Matt. 13:44-46): Jesus said the kingdom is like hidden treasure and a priceless pearl. When someone understands the beauty of knowing God, they realize nothing is more important than belonging to Him.

Jesus is the King who brings God's kingdom and invites us in. (Mark 1:14-15): Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus made the only way for people to enter God's kingdom. Those who trust in Him are like the seed that fell on good soil— they grow in Him, belong to Him, and will be with Him forever.

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.

Jesus taught what God's kingdom is like using parables. A parable is a simple story that has a deeper meaning. People who were interested in learning from Jesus would be able to understand that meaning, but people who didn't care what Jesus had to say would miss it. God's kingdom is all about God fixing and healing His good world that has been broken by sin. God is also fixing and healing our hearts when we surrender our lives to Jesus. 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.

God's kingdom isn't just about going to heaven when we die. God's kingdom is also here and now during our lifetime. When we are part of God's kingdom, we follow Jesus—our true King—who shows us how to live as God's children. 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. Being part of God's kingdom means saying "yes" to Jesus. It means believing that Jesus is the Son of God who lived a perfect life, died for our sin, and was raised to life again. Jesus has defeated death and promises that everyone who follows Him will know God and have life forever!



Discussion

Discussion
questions listed
here

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

How do we fit into God's plan for His kingdom? Remind kids that God desires a relationship with us and, despite our sin, has made the way for that relationship to be restored. When we repent of our sin and trust Jesus as Lord, we are promised life in God's kingdom forever. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ephesians 1:3-6.)

What does God's judgement at the end of this age teach us about His character? Explain that God is just, which means He is fair and must punish sin. But God graciously gives people the opportunity to enter into His kingdom through His Son, Jesus. In both salvation and judgment, God shows His justice and mercy. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isaiah 30:18.)

If some people are going to reject Jesus, why share the gospel? Explain that Jesus commanded His followers to go out and make disciples of all nations. While not everyone will accept Jesus, we can trust that He has chosen to use His followers as a way to make Himself known to the world. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Matthew 28:18-20.)



Yeast Demonstration

- Tortilla
- Slice of bread
- Yeast packet
- Baggie with sugar
- Plastic bowl
- Plastic spoon
- Paper towel

Hold up two types of bread, one flat (pita, tortilla, or matzah) and one yeasted. Ask the kids to describe them.

- How are they alike? How are they different?
- What makes the difference in the size of the bread?

Hold up a small packet of yeast. Explain that just a small amount of yeast makes a whole batch of dough rise.

Take the yeast and pour it into a small bowl. Add a Tbsp. of sugar to the bowl.

Using your classroom sink - make the water as hot as possible (let it run for a few minutes if needed to get it hot!) Eyeball about $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of water and add it to the bowl. Cover it with a paper towel and let it sit for a few minutes while you discuss the following as a class:

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

Read Matthew 13:32. What did Jesus compare God's kingdom to? [Allow responses.] Jesus said God's kingdom is like a tiny seed and yeast. These are both very small, but they have a big impact. A seed grows into a large tree, and a small amount of yeast makes dough rise. God's kingdom grows and expands, and it changes the world—one person at a time!

Read Matthew 13:44-46. Jesus said God's kingdom is like hidden treasure and a pearl. What do you think He meant by this? [Allow responses.] God's kingdom is valuable because it is how we find healing from our sin and true life with God. Like the men in the stories who sold all they had to get the treasure and pearl, when people learn about God's kingdom, they should be willing to give up everything else to be part of it!

Read Matthew 13:47-48. This parable was about fishermen and their net. The net was full of fish, but then the fishermen separated the good fish from the bad fish. Not everyone will enter God's kingdom. Everyone who trusts in Jesus will enter, but anyone who has rejected Jesus will not be allowed in.

Jesus wanted people to learn that God's kingdom had come and was beginning to grow. Being part of God's kingdom is a priceless gift, one worth giving up everything to get. We can pray that God will give us hearts to understand His Word and gladly accept His invitation to life in His kingdom.

After at least 5 minutes - have the children lift the paper towel and see what happened to the yeast. It will (or should be!) bubbly! Explain again how the yeast isn't able to be separated anymore, it's growing and as soon as you add flour, it will make the flour rise too. You only need a small amount to make a whole loaf of bread rise.

Pray together as a class. Ask God to help us all grow like the yeast and the seed - in love, in kindness and in grace.



Seed Sorting Relay

- 2 baskets with plastic eggs
- 4 empty baskets

Before the session, cut small slips of paper in two colors: green for grain and brown for weeds. Fold each slip like an accordion so it fits neatly inside a plastic egg or "seed." Fill enough seeds so each team has a full basket of mixed slips. (This will be done for you!)

Set up the full baskets at the start line and a finish line with two sorting baskets, labeled Grain and Weeds.

Teams will take turns sending one child at a time from the start line to the sorting baskets, carrying a "seed."

The child opens the seed, checks the slip inside, and places it in the correct basket before running back to tag the next teammate. Continue until all seeds are sorted.

Continued...

SAY: In Jesus' parable, there were good seeds and bad seeds. As they grew, the farmer could see that some grew into grain while others were weeds. The farmer didn't pull up the weeds because he might also uproot the grain. He waited until harvest time to pull up both. Then he separated the grain from the weeds.

This story is about something deeper. Jesus taught that not all people would accept Him, and those who didn't would not enter God's kingdom. When people choose to reject Jesus, they remain guilty of their sin. They choose their own way rather than God's way, and they will face the punishment their sin deserves. God's forgiveness is a gift, and we are wise to say 'yes' to Jesus' invitation to be part of God's kingdom!



Share and Care Prayer

Spend some time as a class sharing about:

- Our Global Partner Family of the Month (**The Saragih Family**)
- Specific prayer requests from any of the kids about something going on in their own lives.

Have the class sit in a circle as you share and care for one another's needs. Ask for and share requests with one another. Review and follow up with any prayer requests from the chain made the week before. Use the Global Partner of the Month spotlight sheet (In the Pen Pal Kit) to talk about prayer requests from the Saragih Family



Lasting Kingdom

- Playdough
- Craft sticks
- Rocks

Place the kids into groups of 3 or 4. Provide each group with playdough, craft sticks, and rocks.

Explain that the groups will have 5 minutes to work together to build a castle using the materials given.

Encourage the kids to create unique castle designs and constructions. When the time is up, each group must stop working and present their castle.

Test each castle to see how well they stand. Place the castles on a table and shake the table back and forth like an earthquake. Then, see if they can support the weight of a book.

SAY: God's kingdom is not like a castle made of playdough. When the Bible talks about the kingdom, it doesn't mean a country with borders, castles, or armies. the word "kingdom" really means God's reign - God being the true King and His rule bringing life, justice and rescue.

Jesus showed that this kingdom has already begun, but it is not finished yet. God's reign is already changing hearts and lives now, but one day Jesus will return and make everything right in the whole world.

You can think of it like a sunrise. When the sun first appears, the light has started, but the whole sky isn't bright yet. The light keeps spreading until the day is fully here.

In the same way, when Jesus came, God's kingdom began breaking into the world. God is rescuing people, changing hearts, and gathering a new people who follow the King.

So when we trust in Jesus, we are living under the loving rule of the true King, and we get to be part of the good work He is doing in the world.