

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM



Bible Reference: **Matt. 13; Mark 4**

Date: **9/27/26**

Grade: **PreK /Kindergarten**

2nd Service

Memory Verse:

"Shine your light before others so they see your good works and give glory to God." **Matthew 5:16**

Big Picture Question:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Christ Connection

- Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

Schedule

- Welcome/ Intro Activity.....5 minutes
- **Kids Worship @ 11:00**.....15-20 minutes
- Circle Time and Bible Story.....10 minutes
- Movement Activity.....10 minutes
- Craft.....5-7 minutes
- Music.....5 minutes
- Friends from Afar.....5-7 minutes
- Prayer and Bible Verse.....10 minutes
- Snack/ Discussion Time.....5-7 minutes
- Additional Activities.....As Needed

Notes and Reminders

We are inviting you to join us on **October 18** from **12:30-2:00** for our **Fall Shepherd Lunch and Workshop**. We will be discussing ideas from the book 'Lead With Prayer' to grow more in our understanding of the influence prayer has on different roles we hold. Don't worry if you haven't read the book- we will have a guest speaker leading us!



SHEPHERD BIBLE STUDY

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.

JUNIOR SHEPHERD HIGHLIGHT

Over 100 years ago, some missionaries bought one-way tickets to go tell people about Jesus in far-off places – they didn't plan on ever coming back. They were so serious about it that they packed their stuff in a coffin, since they figured they'd die out there. They said goodbye to everything familiar because they believed following Jesus was worth it.

Jesus told two stories that explain why. In one, a guy digs up hidden treasure in a field. In the other, a merchant finally finds the one perfect pearl after searching his whole life. In both, the person sells everything they own to get what they found.

That sounds crazy — who sells everything for one thing? But here's the key: the guy sells it all "in his joy." He's not sad or forced into it — he's excited. Once you see how amazing what you found really is, giving up everything else feels like winning, not losing.

We often chase smaller stuff instead — being popular, comfortable, in control. But that stuff never satisfies; it always wants more and gives less back. When you really encounter Jesus, everything else shrinks down to its right size. Paul says it himself in Philippians 3:8 — everything else is basically garbage compared to knowing Jesus.

So this week: value Jesus more than anything else, and find your real joy in the one who gave up everything for you first.

As the kiddos continue to settle in to their new classes, we want to focus on growing the amount of trust we have with them. Each time you prove that you are reliable, you help that child to trust you a little more.

It's kind of like saving money in a piggy bank. If you put a few coins in it each day, its value grows. When something happens that you need a lot of money, you can go to your piggy bank and rely on the stored coins for what you need! When we are trying to prove ourselves trustworthy, we have to do it a little bit at a time. Maybe you show one of the kids that you are always willing to sit next to them during story time, or you show them how to build a taller tower with the blocks. They are learning to trust you. Then maybe they get into an argument with another child in your class. Because they trust you, they might ask you to help them solve the problem!

Everything we do around children helps them to see whether or not they can trust us. What can you do to add more to each child's piggy bank of trust?

OUTLINE



Welcome and Intro Activity

5 minutes

Welcome the children and mark them as present on the attendance sheet on the clipboard by the door.

- Lay a parachute on the ground. Guide each child to grab a handle on the parachute and pretend it is a fishing net. Lower the parachute together, and then lift it up. Each time you complete this motion, place toy fish or paper fish cutouts in the parachute. When there is a variety of fish in the parachute, encourage kids to put down the parachute and sort the fish by color, size, or shape.
- SAY Today we will learn about stories Jesus told called parables. Jesus told parables to teach about God and His kingdom. In one parables, there was a large net that caught all kinds of fish. We will learn how the fish were sorted in our Bible story.

Circle Time and Bible Story

10 minutes

Thinking Activity

- Gather the children on the circle time rug. Ask them to list some of their favorite stories. Share your favorite story from the Bible and ask the children to share any of the stories they remember from the Bible.
- SAY There are many different types of stories, aren't there? There are stories about animals, stories about people, true stories, pretend stories, happy stories, and sad stories. I like to tell and hear stories. Jesus liked stories, too. He often told stories to people to teach them about God and about God's kingdom. Today's Bible story has multiple short stories that Jesus told, called parables. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true. All the stories have something in common, though. All of them are about God's kingdom. Listen closely and see if you can remember them at the end when we will play a game.

Bible Story

- Jesus taught people about God's kingdom. He often told stories, or parables, to help them understand. One day, Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a man who planted good wheat seeds in his field. But an enemy came at night and planted some weed seeds. The wheat and the weeds grew together. The man said, 'Wait until harvest. Then we will gather the wheat and get rid of the weeds.'" Jesus told another story. He said, "God's kingdom is like a mustard seed—the tiniest seed. But when it is planted, it grows into a tree. Birds rest and build nests in its branches." Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like bread yeast. A woman mixed it into flour, and the whole batch of dough began to rise!" Later, Jesus explained: "The good seeds are people who belong to God. The weeds are people who do not follow Him. At the end, God will separate them. God's people will be with Him forever."





- Jesus told more stories. He said, “God’s kingdom is like treasure hidden in a field. A man sold everything he had to buy the field.” Jesus also said that God’s kingdom is like a pearl worth a lot of money. After a man found the pearl, he sold all he had to buy it. Lastly, Jesus said that God’s kingdom is like a large net catching all kinds of fish. Later, the good fish are kept and the bad are thrown away.”

Christ Connection

- Jesus is the King who came to bring God’s kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

Review Activity

- Print one copy of the “Parable Pictures” printable and cut apart the pictures. Ask children to tell which part of the Bible story the picture comes from. Use the Bible Story Picture Poster to help prompt children’s memories if needed and work together as a group to place the printable pictures in order using the SAY portion below.
- **SAY** Whew! That is a lot of stories Jesus told, isn’t it? The first story was about the enemy planting weeds in someone’s wheat field. The second was about the mustard seed that started tiny and grew into a tree big enough for birds to build nests in it. The next was about yeast in the bread making the dough rise. Then came the one about buried treasure in a field. After that came the one about the most valuable pearl. And the last one in our story today was about fishing with a net. But they all have something in common: All of Jesus’ stories show that being part of God’s kingdom is the most important thing in life. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true. Jesus is the King. When we trust in Him, we can be part of His kingdom forever.”

Movement Activity

10 minutes

Guide children to start small (squatted down) and “grow” taller as they say the key passage phrase with you. Leaders should join children in this activity as well. Do this several times as you practice the verse together.

SAY If you remember from our Bible story today, Jesus mentioned a mustard seed. Mustard seeds are very small—so small it is hard to see just one of them. But they can grow into a plant strong enough for birds to build their nests and live in it. The key passage phrase we have been learning tells us the Word of God remains forever, even after grass withers and flowers fade, including strong mustard plants.”





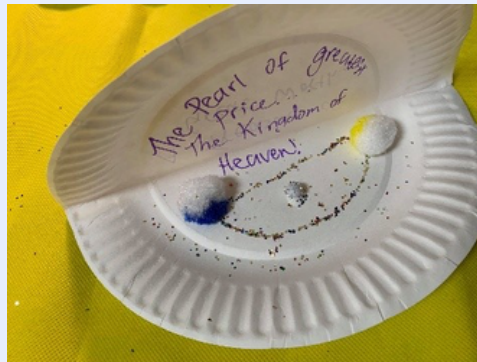
Craft

5-7 minutes

Paper Plate Oysters

Pass out paper plates to each child. Assist everyone in folding their paper plates in half. Allow children to color the outside of the paper plate. Assist children in sticking the “Kingdom of Heaven is like a pearl” labels on the inside of the plate and gluing a cotton ball ‘pearl’ inside as well.

SAY Jesus told a parable about a pearl. A pearl is very small, but it can be worth lots and lots of money! Jesus said God’s kingdom is like a tiny pearl. When a man found one he sold everything he owned so he could buy it. Do you remember who came to bring God’s kingdom? (Jesus) Because Jesus died and rose again, people can be part of His kingdom forever when they trust in Him.



Music

5 minutes

You will find music and other video resources on the USB which is already plugged into the TV. Feel free to play the videos in any order you like! You may distribute the Activity Page for the children to complete at this time, if they would prefer to sit and listen to the music.

Friends From Afar

5-7 minutes

You will find today’s activity for Friends from Afar in the Binder on the counter. The information for this month’s Global Partner family and an activity to learn about where they are serving are included.





Prayer and Bible Verse

10 minutes

Prayer (Use these words, or your own, to pray about today's Bible lesson. Take time to listen to prayer requests from the children and pray for them as well!)

- God, help (Say each child's and leader's name.) understand the stories Jesus taught, so we can know more about You and Your kingdom. Amen.

Bible Verse

- Write the Bible memory verse in big letters on your whiteboard. Find the flashlight in your bin, and dim the lights in your room. Shine the flashlight on each word as you say the verse as a group.
- SAY We have been learning that Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. Our Bible verse reminds us that when we follow Jesus, and do good works for His glory, others will see and give glory to God too!

Snack and Discussion Time

5-7 minutes

Have children sanitize their hands before passing out snacks and cups of water. During this time, you can connect with children and discuss questions regarding the lesson.

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (Answers will vary.)
2. What were some things in the Bible story that made you happy or sad? (Answers will vary.)
3. Who told a story about God's kingdom? (Jesus)
4. What did Jesus say God's kingdom is like? (a man who planted good seeds, a mustard seed, bread yeast, hidden treasure, a pearl)
5. Who can be part of God's kingdom? (Anyone who believes and trusts in King Jesus can be part of God's kingdom.)
6. Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

SAY Jesus told a story about a farmer who planted good wheat seeds and a person who came at night and planted bad seeds that caused weeds to grow. Jesus told another story about a tree that grew big and strong from a tiny seed, and another story about bread dough. Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. God rules with all power over the world He made. He wants people to follow Him and believe and trust in His Son, King Jesus.





Additional Activities

As Needed

Make a List

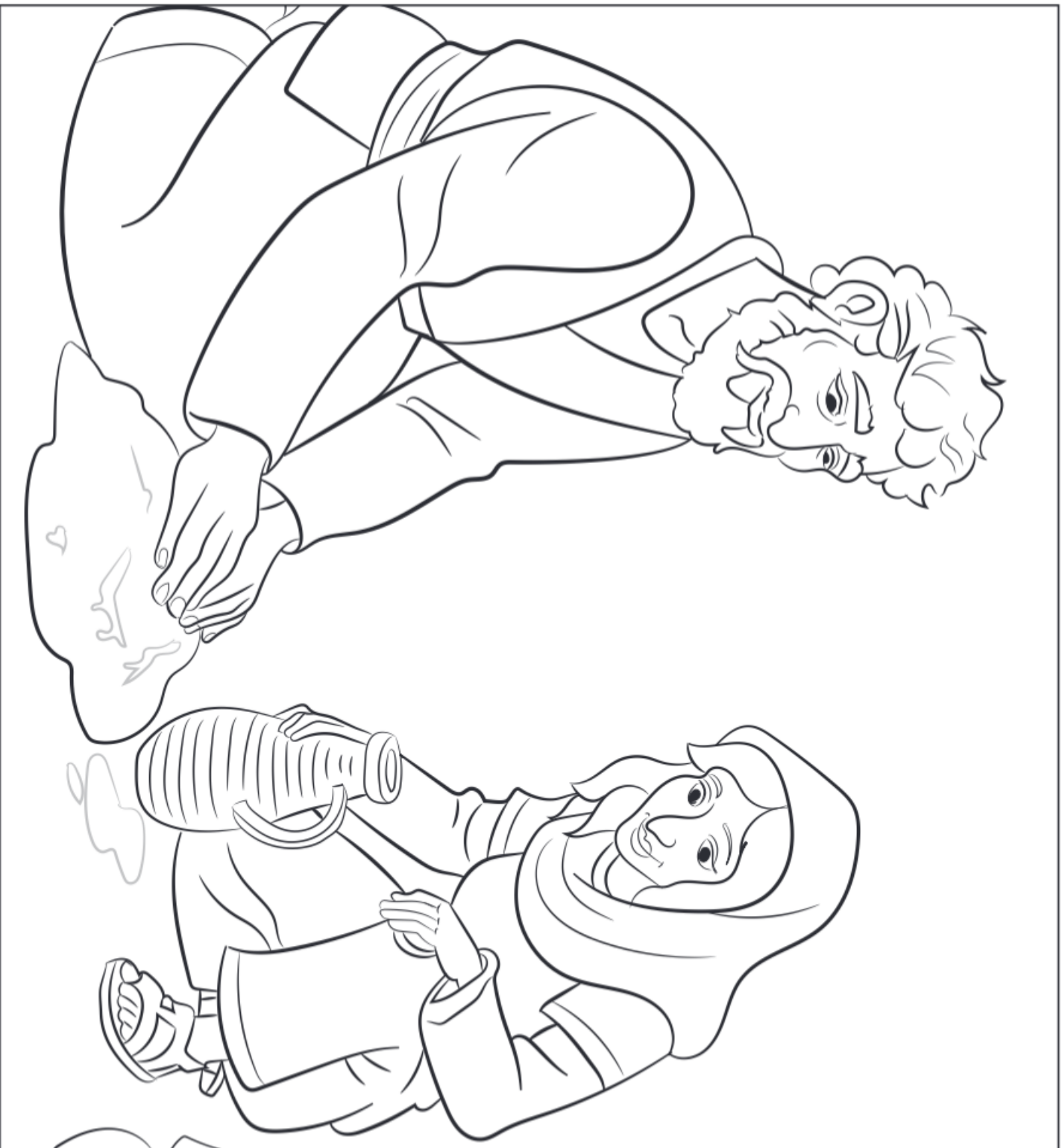
- Greet the children. On the whiteboard, encourage children to help you make a list of things Jesus did. Prompt when needed. The list can include things like making sick people well, feeding hungry people, and so on. Guide the conversation so that the last thing on the list is Jesus taught people about God's kingdom.
- **SAY** When Jesus lived on earth, he did so many amazing things! He healed people who were sick and hurt. He gave food to people who were hungry. He taught everyone! Today we learned how Jesus used parables (stories) to teach about God's kingdom. What parables did we learn about today? (Discuss together as a group.)

Draw on Paper

- Give each child a piece of paper and crayons or markers. Remind children of the portion of the Bible story where the man found treasure. Ask them to draw a picture of what they think the treasure might have looked like. Allow children to tell you about their pictures.
- **SAY** Jesus told a story about a man who found treasure buried in a field. It was so valuable, he sold everything he owned and bought the field so he could keep the treasure. Jesus told this story when He was teaching the people about God's kingdom. He was telling the people that being part of God's kingdom is the best thing anyone can do. Jesus is King. When we trust in Him, we can be part of His kingdom forever.



NAME: _____



Jesus Taught about the Kingdom

Matthew 13; Mark 4

STORY POINT:

Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom. Because Jesus died and rose again, we can be part of His kingdom forever when we trust in Him.

KEY PASSAGE:

Isaiah 40:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true.

Scan the QR code
for resources to
use at home!



Find the Birds in Their Nests

INSTRUCTIONS: Jesus told stories to teach what God's kingdom is like. Circle the hidden birds in their nests.

