

# Parables of the King

**Bible story:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

## **Questions to ask:**

Jesus said God's kingdom is like the tiniest of seeds that is planted and grows into the largest of trees so all the birds can make their nests there. Any ideas what that could mean?

Jesus also said God's kingdom is like a treasure and like a packet of yeast that makes bread rise. Any ideas about those parables?

What might it mean that God's kingdom is like a beautiful pearl?

Finally, Jesus said God's kingdom is like a fishnet that catches all different kinds of fish. What might that mean?

## **Why is this important?**

Jesus teaches with stories to communicate the feeling, sense, and impact of God's kingdom. He describes the kingdom of heaven as surprising (like a little seed that grows into a huge bush); subtle (like a pinch of yeast that leavens a whole batch of dough); precious (like discovering priceless treasure); and including judgment and discernment (as when fishermen separate the good catch from the garbage).

Kids may have an idea about what "heaven" is or looks like. These parables challenge assumptions. They don't include clouds, harp music, or finding deceased loved ones. Jesus is describing a coming kingdom: God's reclamation of and reunion with the world and its people. The stories provoke imagination about what life with God will look and feel like.

## **Interactive Lesson:**

In Today's scripture we read three parables. Before doing the interactive lesson for today take some time to explain what a parable is, and what its purpose is. Have a conversation with your kids and ask what they think the lessons were in the parables we read today. Encourage them to ask questions, and help guide them a bit if they aren't quite sure what the lesson is.

In one of the parables we read today, Jesus pointed out that size doesn't matter when it comes to God's kingdom. Use a magnifying glass to look at small things that make up the outdoors, your home, etc. Take this time to explore and appreciate all the little things that are a part of something larger.

Practice saying some small words with your kids that make a big difference, like love, sorry, and Amen.

## Art Ideas:

### Small words make a big difference:

In today's interactive lesson we talked about how words like "love" "sorry" and "Amen" can make a big difference. Write or print out one of these words on a piece of paper (you can use one of the examples or brainstorm other words with your kids) Have your kid(s) draw or color what they think of when they hear that word.

### Mustard tree:

Have kids paint or draw a mustard tree as a reminder of what they learned today :)



### Parable of the treasure and a pearl:

This is a cool idea for older kids

