

First Look | July 5

Today's Bible Story: The Story of the Farmer • Matthew 13:1-23

God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Key Question: Who teaches you about God's kingdom?

Bottom Line: Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom.

Memory Verse: "Put God's kingdom first." • Matthew 6:33 NIV

1. Video on Jellyfin

Lead the children in worship to one song and then watch today's video lesson.

2. Pray

"Let's open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You for teaching us about Your kingdom in the Bible. Thank You that **[Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God's kingdom**. Please help us have hearts like good soil. Help us to hear what You say and then DO it. Please help my friends (*say each child's name*) to grow big and strong for You this week, just like the seeds in the good soil. We love You, God. In Jesus' name, Amen."

3. The Growing Seed

What You Need:

- ☐ "The Growing Seed" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Brown tissue paper
- ☐ Crayons or washable markers
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Permanent marker
- ☐ Baby wipes
- ☐ Flower cutout

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print "The Growing Seed" on cardstock, one per child. Write each child's name on their paper. Cut brown tissue paper in one-inch squares, ten per child.

During the Activity: Give each child an Activity Page. Point out the line across the middle. Explain that below the line is the ground/dirt, and above the line is the air. Point to the seed in the ground and ask children to color it in, then glue brown tissue paper squares to fill in the dirt/ground area. Ask children to trace the line in green for the stem. Then encourage children to glue a pretty flower at the top of the stem.

After the Activity: Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Friends, come to the table and let’s make some neat story art to help us remember today’s Bible Story.”

During the Activity: “Jesus told a story about a farmer. The farmer threw seeds on the ground! See this line on your paper? *(Point)* This part down here is the ground, and the part up here is the sky. See the seed in the ground? *(Point)* Color the seed. *(Pause.)* Great! Now, glue some of these pieces of brown tissue paper for the soil. For a seed to grow into a big, strong plant, it needs good soil. When the seed is in good soil, and it gets water and sunshine, it starts to grow! Take a green crayon or marker and trace this line. *(Point.)* That’s your seed growing. *(Pause.)* Now you can add a pretty flower at the top of the stem, and some leaves too. *(Pause.)* Everyone’s seed grew into something amazing!”

After the Activity: “In our story today, Jesus talked about a farmer planting seeds. Some seeds fell on the path, some on rocks, and some in thorns, and they didn't grow. But the seeds that fell on the good soil grew into big, healthy plants! Jesus wants us to be like the good soil. When we listen to Jesus and learn that He loves us, we grow! And do you know what else? When we tell others that Jesus loves them, we help God’s kingdom grow, too. **Who teaches you about God’s kingdom? [Bottom Line] Jesus teaches me about God’s kingdom.**”