

K-2 | June 7

Bible Story: What Is God's Kingdom? The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast • *Matthew 13:31-34*

Bottom Line: Jesus shows us God's kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse: "May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven." • Matthew 6:10 NIV

1. Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Offering container

What You Do:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive!
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Invite the kids to sit with you in a circle.
- Explain that you're going to tell one big story together, and everyone gets to be an author.
- Start the story with a simple opening line, for example: "Once upon a time, a brave squirrel decided to build the world's biggest treehouse."
- Then, point to the kid next to you and say, "What happened next?"
- Let that kid add one sentence to the story.
- Continue around the circle, with each kid adding their own sentence to build the narrative. Encourage kids to be creative and have fun.
- Play again with a new opening sentence and change the direction, this time letting the kid who added to the narrative last be the first one to start.

What You Say:

"What a fantastic story we created together! It was so cool to see how everyone's small part added up to make one big story. Did you know that Jesus loved to tell stories too? Jesus told stories called *parables*. A parable is a short story using everyday objects and situations to help explain something about God and His kingdom. Jesus used everyday objects in His stories that people would be familiar with—like flour that you bake bread with and seeds! Let's go hear two of those stories now!"

2. Video on Jellyfin

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

3. Prayer

“Let’s open up today in prayer. Dear God, thank You for teaching us about Your kingdom. Thank You that small things can become big things with Your help. Please take our small prayers and our small acts of love this week and make them grow. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”

4. Dot to Dot Tree

What You Need:

- “Dot to Dot Tree” Activity Page
- Copy paper
- Crayons or washable markers
- Bird stickers

What You Do:

Before the Activity: Print “Dot to Dot Tree” on copy paper, one per child. Write each child’s name on their paper.

During the Activity: Show the children the small dot labeled “1” at the bottom of the page, explaining that it’s like our tiny mustard seed. Help them connect the small dots in order to “grow” the seed into something big. After the outline is done, they can color the tree and add bird stickers.

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

What You Say:

Before the Activity: “Let’s make a picture that reminds us of the story Jesus told! It starts with something tiny and grows into something big.”

During the Activity: “Find the number one on your paper. It’s a tiny dot, just like the tiny seed in our story! Now, let’s draw a line from one to two. (*Assist as needed.*) And now, two to three! Look! Our seed is starting to grow. Let’s keep connecting the dots to see how big it gets. (*Continue until the tree is formed.*) You did it! Your tiny seed grew into a big tree! That’s just like the story Jesus told. Jesus said God’s kingdom starts small but grows big enough for everyone.”

After the Activity: “Your pictures look amazing! The tiny seed grew into a big tree with room for everyone, just like God’s kingdom. God’s kingdom may start small, like a seed, but it grows and grows and grows! God is growing a kingdom that will have a place for all of His people, just like a tree has a place for all the birds. And God loves us so much that He wants all of us to be a part of His kingdom. Every single person! That’s a really big kingdom! **Who can be part of God’s kingdom? [Bottom Line] I can be part of God’s kingdom.**”

5. Pass the Mustard Seed

What You Need:

- Small bowl
- Tiny seeds (like mustard seeds or poppy seeds)
- Plastic spoons

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Pour several mustard seeds into the bowl.

During the Activity:

- Invite the kids to sit in a close circle.
- Show kids a single, tiny seed by holding it on your finger. Talk about how small it is.
- Explain that Jesus said God's kingdom starts small, like this seed, but grows into something big and amazing!
- Give each kid a plastic spoon.
- Place one seed on the first kid's spoon.
- Challenge the kids to carefully pass the seed from their spoon to the next person's spoon without it falling.
- See if the group can pass the seed all the way around the circle.

What You Say:

“Great job! That was tricky, but you did it! It’s amazing that something so tiny can grow to be something so big. God’s kingdom started small, but it grew into something big as more people began to follow Jesus and start their forever friendship with Him.

“As a follower of Jesus, the King, you don’t have to grow God’s kingdom. That’s God’s job. But you can point to it! When you’re kind to someone who is lonely, you’re pointing to Jesus and saying, ‘Hey, the King of this kingdom is kind like this!’ When you forgive someone for breaking your game controller, you’re pointing to Jesus and saying, ‘Hey, the King of this kingdom is forgiving, like this.’

“And maybe they’ll ask why you’re different. And you can tell them that Jesus, the King, loves them too and wants to be their forever friend! You can point to Jesus, the King!

“God is so powerful that He can take our small, everyday actions and turn them into something bigger than we can imagine. Every time we point to the good King and His kingdom, we are planting a small seed that God can grow into something big and wonderful. God loves to grow His kingdom bigger and bigger as more people come to follow Him!

“God has always been out to grow His kingdom! That’s one of the things Jesus taught us while He was on earth. ***[Bottom Line]*** Jesus shows us God’s kingdom.”