

November 19
9:00am & 11:00am
Three and Four Year Olds
JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM
MATTHEW 13

CHRIST CONNECTION:

God's kingdom is growing in the world. His kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. While we wait for Jesus to come back and set up His kingdom, we obey Him and tell others about King Jesus, who rescues sinners.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.

KEY PASSAGE: Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory ... for everything in the heavens and on earth belongs to you. 1 Chronicles 29:11

Key Passage Phrase: Jesus shows us what God is like. John 1:18

LEARN

(GATHER ON THE RUG FOR THE LESSON)

1. INTRODUCE THE BIBLE STORY

Spread a few storybooks on the floor. Place a Bible in the center of the books. Invite preschoolers to find the Bible.

SAY *People love to hear stories. Jesus told stories to help people understand God's kingdom and what He wants us to do. The Bible is a special book and different than any other book ever written because it is from God.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

9AM Volunteers with 3s in room 125: You will need to combine with room 124 for bible story time.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

If you have issues with the video, there is a teaching outline at the end of this guide.

3. PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

Place the key passage marker at 1 Chronicles 29:11. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Prompt preschoolers to close their eyes and listen to the verse while you read it aloud a few times. Tell preschoolers to raise their hands when they hear a word in the verse that tells what the Lord has. Guide preschoolers to open their eyes. Read the verse again and prompt preschoolers to raise their hands when saying, "greatness," "power," "glory," "heavens," and "earth."

SAY *Another name for God is Lord. We raised our hands when we said words that talk about what God has such as power, greatness, and glory. What are other words that describe God? Jesus is God's Son. What are other words to describe Jesus? God sent Jesus to rescue sinners.*

4. REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

1. What did you like about the Bible story? (*Preschoolers' answers will vary.*)
2. Where was Jesus sitting when He taught the people? (*Jesus sat in a boat.*)
3. What was one of the stories we heard today that Jesus told? (*Jesus told stories about a mustard seed, a treasure, a beautiful pearl, and a large net.*)
4. Why did Jesus tell these stories? (*Jesus told parables, or stories, to teach people about God's kingdom. He wanted people to know that God's kingdom is growing in the world.*)
5. **What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom.**

SAY *Many people came to hear Jesus teach. One day, Jesus sat in a boat while the people gathered on the shore. He told the people stories to teach them about God's kingdom. He told stories about a small seed that grows, ingredients that turn into rising bread, a treasure and a beautiful pearl found, and a large*

net thrown into the sea that becomes filled with fish. All of the stories start with something small that grows into something bigger, better, and more valuable. God's kingdom is growing in the world. His kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. While we wait for Jesus to come back and set up His kingdom, we obey Him and tell others about King Jesus, who rescues sinners.

5. PRAY

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have. Pray for them.

SAY *God, thank You for sending Jesus to rescue sinners. Help us to obey Jesus and tell others about Him. Amen.*

ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE AS FEW AS ONE ACTIVITY OR USE ALL OF THE ACTIVITIES)

DRAW AND COLOR A TREE

Give each child **a piece of paper, a pencil, and a seed**. Guide preschoolers to draw a picture of a tree. Assist with taping a seed below the tree. Place crayons within reach so they can color their tree pictures.

SAY *You drew a tree and put a small seed under the tree. Did you know that trees start as small seeds and then can grow to be large trees. Jesus told a story about a small mustard seed that grew into a big tree. He wanted people to understand that this growing seed is like God's kingdom. God wants us to tell others about Jesus. People all around the world need to hear His good news. Who can you tell about Jesus?*

GUESS WHO HAS THE SEED

Attach a **seed to an index card** by placing clear packing tape over the seed onto the paper. Putting the seed on paper will make holding the seed easier for the children. Gather preschoolers in a circle. Tell them to close their eyes and hold out their hands with their palms up. Quietly move around the circle and put the seed in a child's hand. Tell the group to close their hands, open their eyes, and not to tell if the seed is in their hands. Suggest preschoolers look around and allow one child at a time to guess who has the seed. Play again as time allows.

SAY *We played a game guessing who had the seed. The seed is very small. Jesus told a story about a small mustard seed that grew into a big tree. How long do you think it would take for this seed to grow into a tree? Jesus wanted people to understand that this growing seed is like God's kingdom, which is growing in the world, getting bigger and bigger.*

PLAY A MEMORY GAME

Print and cut apart the "**Parable Picture Cards**" printable, two copies for each small group of children. Form small groups of two to four preschoolers. Mix up the cards from two copies of the "Parable Picture Cards" and place them facedown on a table or the floor. Prompt one child at a time to turn over two cards. If the cards match, the child can pick them up and set them next to her. If they do not match, she should turn them back over. Continue to play until all the matches are found.

SAY *Jesus told stories called parables while teaching. We see pictures that remind us of these stories on the cards we matched. Jesus told stories about a small seed that grew, ingredients that turned into rising bread, a treasure and a beautiful pearl found, and a large net thrown into the sea that became filled with fish. All of the stories started with something small that grew into something bigger and better. He used these stories to help people understand God's kingdom, which is growing in the world. God's kingdom grows when people trust in Jesus. We can tell others about Jesus' good news.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, emphasize the THE BIG PICTURE QUESTION AND ANSWER

SAY *What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God and His kingdom. Jesus wanted people to listen and understand His words. He used stories to help people understand what God wanted them to know.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE

Open your Bible to Matthew 13. . Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bold version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

STORYTELLING TIPS

Pretend to tell the story from a boat: Lay out a blue sheet, towel, or blanket. Sit on the blanket while telling the Bible story and pretend you are telling it from a boat. Suggest the children sit on the edge of the blue sheet, towel, or blanket like they are on shore.

Use objects to tell the story: As you tell the story, hold a seed, a treasure box, a pearl necklace or a play necklace, and a picture of a fish or a net when mentioning the items.

One day, Jesus went out and sat by the sea. Many people came to hear Him teach, so Jesus got into a boat and sat down. The people stood on the shore and Jesus told them parables, or stories, to teach them about God's kingdom.

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "Why do you tell stories to teach?"

*Jesus said, "Not everyone will understand what is true about God's kingdom." In the Old Testament, the prophet Isaiah said, "Some people look, but they do not see. They hear, but they do not listen or understand." Through Jesus, Isaiah's words came true. Jesus told the disciples, "**You are blessed because you understand.**"*

Then Jesus told a parable: "God's kingdom is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. It is the smallest seed, but it grows taller than the garden plants. The seed becomes a tree, and the birds build nests in its branches."

Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like leaven, or yeast, that a woman mixed into flour. The leaven makes the dough rise."

Jesus told another parable: "God's kingdom is like a treasure buried in a field. A man found the treasure and buried it again. Then he joyfully sold everything he had and bought that field."

Then Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a man looking for beautiful pearls. When he found one very valuable pearl, he sold everything he had and bought it."

*Finally, Jesus said, "God's kingdom is like a large net thrown into the sea. It collected every kind of fish, and when it was full, the fishermen brought it ashore and gathered the good fish into containers. They threw out the worthless ones." Jesus said at the end of time, **God will separate people who trust in Him from people who don't.***

When Jesus finished teaching the crowds, He left that place and went to His hometown.

Christ Connection: God's kingdom is growing in the world. His kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. While we wait for Jesus to come back and set up His kingdom, we obey Him and tell others about King Jesus, who rescues sinners.

DISMISS PRESCHOOLERS

- Release preschoolers to parents by matching up the number on the child's sticker with the guardian receipt.
- Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.
- Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.

November 19
9:00am & 11:00am
Two Year Olds

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT GOD'S KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13

CHRIST CONNECTION: One day, Jesus will come back and set up His kingdom forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus teach when He was on earth? Jesus taught about God.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: Lord, You are great and powerful. 1 Chronicles 29:11

LEARN

(CIRCLE TIME ON THE RUG)

1. INTRODUCTORY GROUP TIME ACTIVITY: SORT FISH

Cut out simple **fish shapes from construction paper**. Crumble some of the fish and try to flatten them back out. Place them in front of the toddlers. Guide the toddlers to sort the good fish (non-crumpled) from the fish that are not good (crumpled).

SAY *Jesus said that God's kingdom is like a net that catches lots of different fish. Fishermen separate the good fish from the fish that are no good. Jesus said that God will separate people who trust in Jesus from those who don't. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of God's kingdom.*

2. PLAY THE BIBLE STORY VIDEO ON THE TV.

How? Turn on the TV and Apple TV, Open the Plex App, and play the video with today's date (If needed, the Plex Pin is 1234)

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3. LEARN AND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the key passage phrase marker at John 1:18. Invite a child to open your Bible to the marker. Read the **key passage phrase card** and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

ACTIVITIES

SORT FISH

Cut **different colored sponges** into simple fish shapes. Insert the shapes into a **large whisk** at different angles. Allow toddlers to pull the "fish" out of the whisk and sort them by color. Review the gospel gems as toddlers play.

GOSPEL GEMS

Jesus told people what God's kingdom is like.

God's kingdom is worth giving everything for.

Everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of God's kingdom.

SAY *What did we catch today? Fish! Jesus told people that God's kingdom is like a fishing net that catches lots of different fish. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of God's kingdom.*

COLOR THE ACTIVITY PAGE *(please send this home with parents)*

Lead preschoolers to complete the **activity page**. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ connection.

SAY *When the son came home, the father celebrated because his son was lost and now found. God is a loving Father who sent His Son to rescue people from sin. God is happy when sinners trust in Jesus.*

OPTIONAL TEACHING OUTLINE:

Jesus told stories to teach people about God's kingdom. Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed a man planted. It is the smallest seed, but it grew and became a tree for birds to make nests in its branches." In another story, Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure a man found in a field. In his joy, he sold everything he had to buy that field." Jesus said God's kingdom is like a fishing net that catches lots of different fish. Fishermen separate the good fish from the fish that are no good. God will separate people who trust in Jesus from those who don't.

Check diapers and release toddlers to parents according to security procedures. Give parents today's activity page to reinforce today's Bible story and Christ connection throughout the week.