

Unit 25 • Session 1 * Kingdom Parables

BIBLE PASSAGE: Matthew 13

STORY POINT: Jesus is our King.

KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:13

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus grows His kingdom when we trust in Him.

Bible Story for Toddlers

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 when it grew, it became a tree and birds made 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 was saying that God's kingdom is worth giving everything for. It is also big enough for everyone who trusts in Jesus.

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.

Circle time (5 minutes)

You will need: Bibles; Key Passage card (print from website)

What to do: Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle. Say the Bible is God's words. Read the key passage card. Open your Bible to Matthew 13. Tell the story with your Bible on your lap so that Toddlers know the story if from the Bible and true! Say the story point and gospel gems. Pray.

Play with mustard seed slime

You will need: "Mustard Seed Slime" printable (from website); slime ingredients; bowl; spoon; Ziploc baggie

What to do: Before the session, print the "Mustard Seed Slime" printable, gather the supplies, and make a few batches to keep in ziplock bags. During the session, encourage toddlers to handle and explore the slime. It is taste-safe, but do not let toddlers eat

it. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY • Jesus said God's kingdom is like a tiny seed that grows into a big tree! Jesus grows His kingdom when we trust in Him. **JESUS IS OUR KING.**

Learn the key passage

You will need: tub filled with rice, popcorn kernels or something else safe to touch for toddlers

What to do: Fold the key passage card and place it in a bin. Cover the card with corn kernels. Encourage toddlers to look for the "treasure." When they find it, read the card. Play again as time allows. **DO NOT LEAVE THIS ACTIVITY UNATTENDED!!**

SAY • Our key passage tells us that everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of God's kingdom, and **JESUS IS OUR KING.**

Line a bird's nest

You will need: shoebox; stuff to make a "nest" with

What to do: Remove the lid from a shoebox to serve as a bird's nest. Provide faux feathers, twigs, raffia, shredded paper, and other items for toddlers to line the nest. Retell the Bible story as toddlers play.

SAY • Jesus told people what God's kingdom is like. Jesus said it is like a tiny seed that became a big tree. All kinds of birds made their nests in its branches. Jesus said God's kingdom is growing. **JE US IS OUR KING!**

Make a bird feeder

You will need: empty toilet paper roll; light corn syrup; tray; paint brush; bird seed (or cheerios); yarn or string

What to do: Provide smocks, paintbrushes, and bath tissue tubes. Help toddlers paint their tube with light syrup. Then roll their tube in a plastic bin of birdseed or cheerios. Toddlers can gently shake the bin to cover the tube. Thread yarn through the tube and tie it so toddlers may hang it from a tree at home. Wipe hands thoroughly. Retell the Bible story.

SAY • Jesus told people what God's kingdom is like. Jesus told a story about a seed that grew into a big tree. Many birds made their nests in the tree. Jesus grows His kingdom when we trust in Him. **JESUS IS OUR KING.**