



SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM

MATTHEW 13; MARK 4

CHRIST CONNECTION

Jesus is the King who came to bring God's kingdom to earth. Through Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, He made the way for people to be part of God's kingdom. When we trust in Jesus, we are like the good seed in His field—we belong to Him, we grow in Him, and we will be with Him forever.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Is the Bible true? Yes, the Bible is true and has no error.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 40:8

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson.

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

More than 100 years ago, a group of missionaries developed a unique way to illustrate the idea of committing everything to the kingdom of God. These Christians were known as one-way missionaries because they would buy one-way tickets to their mission destinations with no intention to return.

They were so confident they would never return to their homes that they would pack all their belongings in a coffin that would be used to “bury” them when they died on the mission field. As they traveled to the ends of the earth, they said goodbye to everyone and everything they had ever known, all for the kingdom of God.

Jesus’ parables about the hidden treasure and the priceless pearl represent an encounter that changes everything. In one, a man stumbles upon treasure buried in a field. In the other, a merchant who has searched his entire life for fine pearls suddenly discovers one so valuable nothing else compares. In both cases, these men sell everything to obtain what they’ve found.

From a worldly perspective, selling everything to obtain one thing seems reckless and unwise. And yet, the man sells all he owns “in his joy.” This isn’t about grim duty or forced giving—it’s about overwhelming delight. When you truly see the worth of the kingdom, sacrificing everything you have for it doesn’t feel like loss. Rather, it brings great gain.

Many times, we find ourselves chasing a thousand smaller treasures, such as comfort, reputation, and control. But none of those treasures ultimately satisfy. They demand more and give less. But when we encounter Jesus, the true treasure, everything else finds its proper place. Paul echoes this in Philippians 3:8: “I also consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.” This week, lead your kids to value Jesus above all and seek their deepest joy in the one who gave everything for us.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive.

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to large group, you can play a game, chat with kids, or practice the memory verse!

MEMORY VERSE

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Isaiah 40:8, ESV

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Each month, we'll have a new memory verse that goes with the lessons we're learning from the Bible. Choose one of the provided activities in your room's memory verse folder to review the verse with kids.

Note: Our next Bible Bucks Day will be on September 27!



LARGE GROUP LESSON



Review what we're learning in large group.

JESUS TAUGHT ABOUT THE KINGDOM

Wherever Jesus went, He told people about God's kingdom. Many times, He used parables—stories with a special meaning—to help people understand.

One day, Jesus told the crowd, "God's kingdom is like a man who planted good wheat seeds in his field. But while he slept, an enemy came and planted weeds among the wheat. When the plants grew, the servants saw both wheat and weeds. They asked the man if they should pull the weeds out, but the man said, 'No. If you pull them out now, you might pull out the wheat too. Wait until harvest. Then I will have the wheat gathered into my barn, and the weeds burned.'"

Jesus told another story. He said, "God's kingdom is like a mustard seed—the tiniest of all seeds. But when it is planted, it grows into the largest garden plant. It becomes a tree, and birds come and rest in its branches."

Then He said, "God's kingdom is like yeast. A woman mixed it into a huge bowl of flour, and soon the whole batch of dough was rising!"

Jesus' friends asked Him to explain the first story. Jesus said, "The good seed are the people who belong to God. The weeds are people who reject Him. At the end of the age, God will separate those who follow Him from those who reject Him. Those who belong to Him will be with Him forever."

Jesus told more stories. He said, "God's kingdom is like treasure buried in a field. A man found it, hid it again, and joyfully sold everything he had to buy that field."

Jesus also said God's kingdom is like a valuable pearl that a merchant was searching for. When he found the pearl, the merchant sold everything he had to buy it.

Lastly, Jesus said that God's kingdom is like a big net cast into the sea. It catches all kinds of fish, but later the good fish are kept and the bad ones thrown away."

ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with kids after large group.

ACTIVITY: KINGDOM DEFENDERS

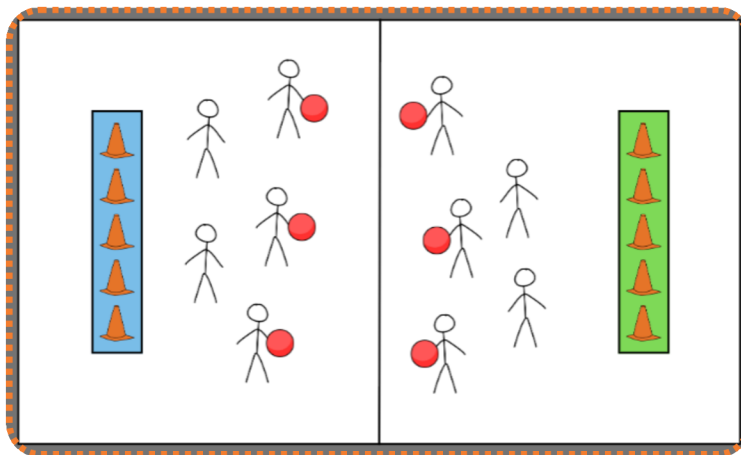
Divide the room in half with a "kingdom" at each end marked by a rectangle of tape on the floor. Place 3-5 of the provided cones/cups inside each kingdom.

Scatter several soft dodgeballs around the room, divide players into two teams, and assign each team to a kingdom. Teams work together to throw balls and knock down the opposing team's "towers" while defending their own. Players will retrieve loose balls and continue attacking until one team successfully knocks down all of the other team's towers.

CONNECT THE DOTS



Jesus taught a lot about the kingdom of God. When we place our faith in Jesus for our salvation, we become members of God's family that will be part of God's kingdom for eternity!



BIBLE SKILLS: TIMELINE REVIEW & PUZZLE

Review each era of the Bible using the timeline on pages 6-7.

If time allows, challenge kids to put the provided timeline puzzle in the correct order.

BIBLE TIMELINE



Reference and review
the Bible timeline
during small group.



God created all things and said that they were good. God created humans in His image with the ability to choose to love and trust and obey Him.



Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God and trust in themselves; this choice was sin. Their relationship with God, one another, and themselves was broken. God cursed the ground and promised to send a savior.



Adam and Eve's descendants grow, spread across the land, and rebel against God. This period covers events such as the flood/Noah's ark, the tower of Babel, etc.



God chooses the family of Abraham to be His special people. (Patriarch = father) Key patriarchs include Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel), and Joseph.



God's people were forced into slavery in Egypt. God rescued them and made a special covenant with them. The sacrificial system was put into place to show that the price of sin is death.



The people rebelled against God and wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. After 40 years, they were brought to the promised land where God defeated their enemies.



God's people forget about God, His covenant with them, and His commands. They did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.



God's people demand to have a king like other nations. The first kings of Israel are established: King Saul, King David, and King Solomon.

BIBLE TIMELINE



Reference and review
the Bible timeline
during small group.



Foolish decisions resulted in God's people splitting into two separate kingdoms: Israel in the north and Judah in the south. Both kingdoms continued to rebel against God and worshiped false gods.



As punishment for their rebellion, God's people were conquered by other nations and taken into exile.



Even in exile, God never left His people. After 70 years, God allowed His people to return to their homeland.



For 400 years, there were no new prophets or books of the Bible written, but God was still at work preparing the way for the Messiah to come!



God sent His son Jesus to live a perfect life, die for people's sins, and rise again. During His life on earth Jesus performed miracles, healed, and told people about the Kingdom of God.



After Jesus ascended to heaven, the church was created. Peter, Paul, and the other Apostles taught the church about Jesus and how to live as members of God's family.



Today, the church continues spread the Gospel, teach God's Word, and make disciples. We eagerly wait for Jesus to return to earth.



One day Jesus will come back and will rule forever. He will rid the world of all evil and sin and create the new heaven and new earth where we will reign with Him forever.

CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids before parent pick-up.

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

Ask the following questions and lead your small group to discuss.

1. How does God's kingdom compare to a mustard seed?
2. Will evil always exist?
3. Why will God separate those who accept Him from those who reject Him at the end of the age?
4. How do we fit into God's plan for His kingdom?
5. If some people are going to reject Jesus, why share the gospel? (*see Matt. 28:18-20*)

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time or your group needs to get out some energy, play one of the games/activities in your extra time bin in the cabinet or the "extra time" folder on the TV.

If there's a new game or activity you want to have available for your group in the future, let Taylor know!

BEFORE YOU GO...

Second service leaders, please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins.
2. Clean all trash off the tables.
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies.
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder.
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!