

PRETEEN MINISTRY

4TH & 5TH GRADE



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.

LEADER DEVO

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.

ARRIVAL

When kids arrive, they can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until large group starts. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and build relationships with them. Ask them about their week, big events coming up, or follow up on a prayer request from the week before.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

THIS MONTH'S MEMORY VERSE

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

Isaiah 40:8



**BIBLE
BUCKS**

NEXT BIBLE BUCKS DAY

SEPT 27

There are many techniques and tools to help kids (and you!) memorize Scripture.

THIS MONTH'S TOOL: VERSE ABBREVIATIONS

On an index card, write out the first letter of each word in the verse you want to memorize. For example, Isaiah 40:8 will look like:

T G W T F F B T W O O G W S F

LESSON

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.”

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.

SMALL GROUPS

OUR GOAL

To create opportunities that invite preteens to discover for themselves what it means to own and live out their faith.

DISCUSSION / APPLICATION

- 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 *Matthew 28:18-20*)

PICK UP

After small group, kids can play in the game room, large group room, or the balcony area. They can go between the areas as they want until they are picked up. Leaders should be spread out in these areas to watch kids. Use this time to interact with kids and follow up on any questions or discussions from small group time.

As parents arrive upstairs, direct them to the game room, large group room, or balcony to pick their kids up. Make sure to match their security code with their kid's name tag and remove the name tag before they leave!

CLEAN UP

- Put away any supplies used during small group.
- Turn off TVs and lights in the small group rooms.
- Turn off both air hockey tables and put away extra pucks or paddles.
- Gather any balls or other items left out in the game room and put them away in the correct bins.
- Put away any games, books, or supplies in the balcony area.
- Check for any items left behind by kids and put them in the lost and found.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING!