



# leader bible study

The Gospels record dozens of Jesus' parables. A *parable* is a simple story Jesus told to help people understand the kingdom of God. Each parable taught a lesson and revealed deep and often mysterious truths about God's kingdom for those who would understand. (See Matt. 13:10-15.)

In Matthew 13:31-33, Jesus tells two stories about the kingdom of God. In the first, He compares God's kingdom to a mustard seed. In those days, the mustard seed was the smallest seed planted in the region. Despite its size, the seed yielded a tall, tree-like bush with branches for birds to nest in. Jesus was teaching that although God's kingdom started out small—with Jesus and a few disciples—it grows and spreads. We still witness this growth today.

Then Jesus compares God's kingdom to leaven, or yeast, that is mixed into flour. In time, yeast causes a dense ball of dough to grow and rise. God's kingdom grows in a similar way, moving throughout the world and changing lives.

Then, in the parables of the hidden treasure and the priceless pearl, Jesus taught about the value of God's kingdom. A man came across a treasure buried in a field and sold all he had to buy the field. A merchant, finding a priceless pearl, sold all he had to buy it. Jesus taught that the kingdom of heaven is so valuable, we would be wise to give up everything in order to have it. Jesus emphasized this truth in His encounter with the rich young ruler. (See Matt. 19:16-22.)

As you teach kids, help them begin to grasp the truth about God's kingdom. The kingdom of God is growing in the world. This kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. While we wait for Jesus to return and fully set up His kingdom, we carry out the mission of telling others about King Jesus, who rescues sinners.

**Vision for Grace Airways**  
We navigate the scriptures,  
training up bold disciples,  
on our ongoing journey to Jesus!

## Gospel—Centered Preparation:

The heart of preparation is rooted in your understanding of the gospel and your personal application of the story.

### After your study ask yourself:

- How do the verse and Big Picture Question connect to this story?
- What am I excited to teach from this passage?
- The main point this week is: \_\_\_\_\_
- Where is the gospel in this story?

## March Focus: KINGDOM TO COME



### March 1st: Kingdom Parables *Matt 13*

**Story point:** Jesus taught about God's kingdom



### March 8th: Three Parables *Luke 15*

**Story Point:** Jesus came to save people who don't know Him



### March 15th: Jesus' Hard Teachings *John 6*

**Story Point:** Many people did not understand Jesus' teaching



### March 22nd: Jesus Raised Lazarus *John 11*

**Story Point:** Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead



### March 29th: The Last Supper *Matt 26; Mark 14; Luke 22; John 13*

**Story point:** Jesus told His disciples to remember Him



## Co-Pilot—Included Preparation:

On a Sunday morning, the Pilot is leading everyone in our ongoing journey to Jesus— that includes both flyers and Co -Pilots! The more consistency and continuity we have between Pilots, the better we can prepare our helpers to succeed and grow! With that consistency comes the mentorship aspect for our youth volunteers in particular, and utilizing our adult co -pilots as well: sharing activities, engaging them in the morning, and encouraging their involvement.

As you prepare for the lesson, ask yourself:

- Does my planning allow for Co-Pilot participation throughout the morning?
- How did I prepare my Co-Pilot to help with classroom management?
- What specific activities will my Co-Pilot assist with today?
- In what ways can I encourage my Co-Pilot?

### Engagement

- Sit with child during the story
- Playing alongside flyers
- Reengage chatty/distracted kids
- Ask to volunteer an example during discussion
- Help play to Co-Pilot's strengths

### Activities

- Attendance stickers
- Timeline
- Joining in the verse and BPQ&A
- Assigned to a specific flyer
- Helping find books in the Bible
- Leading crafts & songs

### Encouragement

- Thank you for stepping in there!
- You did a great job with \_\_\_\_\_.
- You really helped me while I was \_\_\_\_\_.
- Thank you for being \_\_\_\_\_'s buddy today.
- Your help really made this morning go smoothly.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the right thing to do. You handled it well!
- I'm so glad you are here today!

## Morning Routine



Stay with this order.

Adjust pictures on schedule according to your plan.

Review schedule with the children at the start of the morning.



**Take Off**  
VBS song  
Verse/BPQ

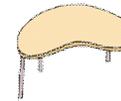
5 Min



**Journey**  
Prayer  
Bible Story  
God Attributes



10 Min



**Flight Lab**  
Bible Story Activity

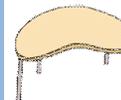
15 Min



**Free Play**  
Inside or on  
playground

10 Min

At congregation last song—clean up/move inside



**Pilot's Log**  
Prayer  
Take Home Page  
Settle and Review



5 Min



# 5 min Take Off

*Celebrate & being here! Introduce the morning*

## Gather

As the children enter, have them gather at the TV to begin with worship/singing.

Have your co-pilot check attendance.

## Song

Do a song or 2 of your choice as time allows to help children prepare for the lesson,

## Key passage

Transition from singing into the Verse Song. Lead the kids with the hand motions in the video!

**He has rescued us....and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.**

**Colossians 1:3**

## Big picture question

***How does God care for His creation?***

*God loves and rules over all He made.*

*Repeat the question 2-3 times for learning!*

## Transition to the Bible Story

Clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy, use a finger play, etc... Set expectations for the children: "my turn to talk, your turn to listen, eyes on me, hands in your lap"

Choosing the same transition every week works super well with child and kindergarten ages.

## Bible Connection Ideas

### Bible FingerPlay:

1, 2 (hold up fingers) The Bible is true (hands like book), God loves me (cross arms, point to me) and God loves you (cross arms, point to class)

### Bible Foundation Motions:

- The Bible is **True** (*thumbs up*)
- The Bible is How God **Speaks to Us** (*cup hands around mouth as if you were shouting*)
- The Bible is **Different** from other stories (*cross your arms and point in opposite directions*)
- The Bible points to **Jesus** (*ASL sign for Jesus*)

## Fingerplay Ideas

### Open Shut them:

*Hold hands in front as you open and shut them while saying:*

Open shut them, open shut them, give a little clap

Open shut them, open shut them, lay them in your lap.

Creep them creep them, slowly to your chin

Open wide your little mouth (pause), but do not let them in!

### Active Preparing to sit and listen:

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I jump up from the ground.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I turn myself around.

I stomp my feet, I clap my hands, I sit myself right down

I stomp my feet (*while sitting*), I clap my hands, I do not make a sound (*finger over lips, spoken in a whisper*).



# 10 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

## Introduce the Bible Story

Use our Bible Finger play each week to transition to the Story.

• Today's Bible story comes from the Book of Matthew. **Point to the Bible story picture on their timeline.** The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

## Tell the Bible Story

Using the pictures, tell the Bible Story or watch the video (*This lesson is NOT in It's All About Jesus Bible Storybook*). Tell the story using your own words keeping eye-contact with the children.

• Today, we heard that **Jesus taught about God's kingdom** using *parables*, or stories, to help people understand what the kingdom is like. God's kingdom is growing in the world, like the mustard seed or the yeast. His kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for, like the buried treasure or the very valuable pearl. 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.

## Talk about the Bible Story

Show the Bible story picture as you ask:

1. **Who used stories to teach people about God's kingdom?** (Jesus)
2. **What were these stories called?** (*parables*)
3. **Did everyone understand the parables?** (*no*)
4. **How is God's kingdom like a mustard seed?** (*It started small but grew large.*)
5. **Is God's kingdom worth giving everything for?** (*yes*)
6. **How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over all He made.**

What movement-based activity can I use?



**God's attributes-** helping the children understand what God is like, shown to us in the Bible. In today's story we see that God is:

**-With Us    -Good**

**Have a student place the story picture on the 'timeline'**

## Age Appropriate Bible Story

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you

### Kingdom Parables— Matthew 13

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."

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.

## Picture Card Lesson

Use your own words—Trust the Holy Spirit to speak through you!

### Kingdom Parables— Matthew 13

**Card 1:** Many people came to hear Jesus teach. He told stories, called parables, to help them learn about God’s Kingdom. The disciples didn’t understand the stories at first, but Jesus said they were blessed because they could learn the truth.

**Card 2:** 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.”

**Card 3:** Then Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like leaven, or yeast, that a woman mixed into flour. The leaven makes the dough rise.”

**Card 4:** 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.”

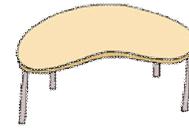
**Card 5:** Jesus said, “God’s kingdom is like a man looking for beautiful pearls. When he found one very valuable pearl, he sold everything he had and bought it.” When Jesus finished teaching the crowds, He left that place and went to His hometown

**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.*

#### Bible Storytelling Tips:

**Teach from a boat:** Spread a blue tablecloth on the floor in the storytelling area and direct children to sit by the “sea.” Place a large box on the “water” and tell the Bible story from the “boat.”

**Use props:** Gather props to hold up at appropriate moments in the Bible story, such as a seed, plant or picture of a mustard tree; yeast; dough; toy treasure chest; toy pearl; and so forth.



15 min **Flight Lab**

*Learning the story in an interactive way*

*Choose from below or use your own idea-however the Lord leads. Then go into free-play.*

#### Praise King Jesus

Announce the rules of this game regally, as if an ambassador of a king. Explain that when a king wants to send a message to a faraway kingdom, he sends a messenger called an ambassador. Once the people hear the message, they praise the king who sent it. Proclaim that you are an ambassador of King Jesus with many important messages to share! Open your Bible to Colossians 1:13 and read the key passage. When you finish, invite children to cheer, “Praise King Jesus!” Give children a chance to be ambassadors. Invite each child to stand in front of the group with an open Bible, whisper a short message into the child’s ear for him to say, and lead the children in praising King Jesus after each message. Suggested Messages:

Jesus loves us!

Jesus is the king forever!

Jesus came to give us life forever!

• Jesus taught about God’s kingdom. 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. We are like ambassadors for King Jesus, sharing the good news of His growing kingdom!

#### Match and sort seeds

Before the session, cut simple seed shapes out of construction paper, using various colors and sizes. Encourage children to sort the seeds by color and size. Retell the Bible story as children work.

• Jesus said God’s kingdom is like a tiny seed that grows into a very large tree. Everyone who trusts in Jesus is part of God’s kingdom.

## Find buried treasure

Bury toy jewels and coins in a bin of sand. Provide toy shovels and for children to dig with. Celebrate every time a child finds a treasure, then rebury it and continue.

- Jesus taught about God's kingdom. He said it 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. God's kingdom is valuable and worth giving everything for. When you discover the treasure of following Jesus, you happily give up everything else for it!

## Proof yeast

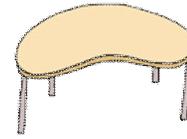
Post an allergy alert. Dissolve one teaspoon of sugar into  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup of lukewarm water in a liquid measuring cup. Stir in one package of active dry yeast. Mark the top line of the mixture with a marker or line of tape. Guide children to make observations about the yeast and take notes. Set a timer for ten minutes and then make more observations, noting how the mixture rises and changes. Repeat as time allows.

- Jesus taught about God's kingdom. He said it is like leaven, or yeast, that a woman mixed into flour. A little bit of leaven makes the dough rise and grow larger. God's kingdom is growing in the world, too. 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. We act like yeast in helping to make God's kingdom grow!

## Make tree art

Print a copy of the "Mustard Tree" printable for each child. Provide green jumbo crayons and bird stickers or cutouts for children to decorate their tree. Talk about the Bible story as children work.

- Jesus told people what God's kingdom is like. Jesus said it is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a big tree. Jesus grows His kingdom when we trust in Him.



# 5 Min Pilot's Log

*Where we prepare to go home*

After flight lab, allow the children to play. **When congregation begins last song, move to the tables.**

## Pause and settle

- Signal the end of free play, (use the time-timer to count down)
- Sing the clean-up song and guide children to clean their areas. Wash hands or use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Have children sit around the table.

## ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

**This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.**

- After prayer, hand out the activity/coloring page. Direct children accordingly to complete the page. Remind children of what they can take away from today's lesson.

If a child finishes the activity/coloring page while waiting for mom and dad or is not interested, only offer options that can be completed at the table (playdough, puzzle, select a book to examine, practice the verse, etc) **Keep children at the table to maintain a calm and quiet environment for easy transition to mom and dad.**

When parents pick up their children, as appropriate share something their child enjoyed doing or did well during the morning.

**Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents. Have your Co-Pilot encourage parents to use this to talk to their kids about what they learned in class today.**

## PREK/K Prayer Extra Ideas:

**Prayer Chain** — in small groups, ask children for their prayer requests and have the Pilot or Co-Pilot write them on a few strips of paper. Connect strips into a chain and display our growing conversation with the Lord. Feel free to revisit old prayer requests as well.

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**Pointing to a Globe** — Have a child or Co-Pilot spin the globe and place their finger on a country. Place a star sticker on the place(s) and pray over it as a group. We will provide a PreK/K age geography book to help guide discussion and prayer. Even if you don't know anything about the country, we can lift up the people, pray for Jesus, light to shine there, the Gospel to be active there, and churches to grow, etc.

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**Looking out the Window** — Grab a dry-erase marker, have the kids gather at the windows, and look outside. Ask the children to look for 3 things they can see out of the window to pray over. Using the dry-erase marker, write or draw these things on the window then pray over them.

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**Preschool Carpet Bag Prayers**— Choose an item(s) out of the carpet bag. Discuss the item and different people/things the item could represent (car—driving safely, mechanics, trips, first responders, etc) Encourage kids to “think outside the bag” and help them make connections. Pray over the people, places, and things that were discussed.

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**Head Shoulders Knees and Toes**—Pray through the song.

- Head (mind, imagination, thoughts, creativity)
- Shoulders (physical strength, things we might be dealing with)
- Knees (dancing, playing, jumping, etc.)
- Toes (walking and following after Jesus, standing strong in our faith)
- Eyes, ears, mouth & nose (seeing goodness, listening to Him, speaking truthful words, our senses, etc.)

