

LOWER ELEM Flight Plan March 1st



Lesson	Kingdom Parables
Bible Passage	Matthew 13
Story Point	God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.
Key Passage	"He has rescued us from the domain of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. In Him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins." Colossians 1:13-14
Big Picture Q & A	<p>How does God care for His creation?</p> <p>God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.</p>



Growing Up

INSTRUCTIONS: Match each picture with a letter and number to indicate the group and order in which it belongs.
(Note: The image of the plane is group A, the person group B, the duck group C, and the butterfly group D.)

























WORLD STORY HIGHLIGHTS:

- Jesus used stories to help people understand what the Kingdom of God is like.
- God's Kingdom is like a mustard seed, which starts small but grows.
- God's Kingdom is like a hidden treasure, more valuable than anything else.
- God's growing Kingdom is more valuable than anything.

KEY PASSAGES: Colossians 1:13-14

WORLD STORY QUESTIONS:

- How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan.
- What might we have to give up to spend God's Kingdom?
- How can we help God's Kingdom grow?
- What can we tell about God's Kingdom?

WORLD STORY ACTIVITIES:

- Match each picture with the letter and number to indicate the group and order in which it belongs according to the Kingdom of God's perfect plan. Discuss how God's Kingdom is like each one.

DOWNLOAD THE FULL LESSON PLAN

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: The Kingdom to Come



MAR 1st: Kingdom Parables *Matthew 13*

Story point: God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.



MAR 8th: Three Parables *Luke 15*

Story Point: Jesus came to seek and save the lost.



MAR 15th: Jesus' Hard Teachings *John 6*

Story Point: Many people misunderstood Jesus' teachings.



MAR 22nd: Jesus Raised Lazarus *John 11*

Story Point: Jesus has power over death.



MAR 29th: The Last Supper/Palm Sunday!

Story Point: Jesus commanded His disciples to remember His sacrifice .



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!

Sunday Morning Flight Plan



Take Off

- Open in Prayer
- Hook
- BPO and A & Key Passage
- Timeline & Introduce Story

10 Min

Journey

- Attendance & Bible Sticker
- Bible Story
- God's Attributes

15 Min

Flight Lab

- Experience of the Bible Story
(Make connections through an activity & motion)

15 Min

Pilot's Log

- Pray
- Calm activity during pick-up
- Give activity sheets to parents as they pick up students

5 Min

PICK UP:

First Service:
Around 9:45

Second Service:
Around 11:45



10 min Take Off

Celebrate being here! Introduce the morning.

Open in Prayer

Hook

Prompt kids to talk about what they would do if they were king or queen of a kingdom. No matter how amazing it would be to be in charge of a whole kingdom, none of our kingdoms could ever be perfect. Today, we will talk about God's kingdom and some of the things Jesus taught about it. Jesus is the perfect King. Let's learn more.

Big Picture Question

As we get into our story, let's ask a big picture question to help guide our study. ***How does God care for His creation?*** That's an important question because the Bible tells us that all of creation is under God's rule. He is the King of the universe, so understanding the ways He takes care of everything under His rule helps us see that He is a good King. As you listen to the story, see if you can figure out the answer to our question.

Key Passage

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together

Colossians 1:13-14 • Before coming to faith in Jesus, all of us are trapped in darkness—spiritual darkness. We cannot see the truth of God and we cannot obey Him. When God saves us, we become citizens of Jesus' kingdom, which is a kingdom of light. In Christ, we can love and obey God.

Timeline/Introduce Bible Story:

Adam and Eve's sin caused everything to fall apart. Thankfully, nothing happens apart from God's plan, so He promised to send a Rescuer to fix what sin had broken. God kept His promise. Jesus was born and grew up. Jesus never sinned, and He traveled around teaching people and working miracles. One of the things He spoke about often was the kingdom of God and the ways it would come into the world. Jesus used *parables*—stories with deeper meaning—to help people understand what the kingdom of God is like. **Transition to Bible Story: (OPTIONAL) Show the Bible Story Video.**



15 Min Journey

Where we travel into God's word

Bible Story

Open your Bible to **Matthew 13** Read from the Bible or use your storytelling skills to help you tell the story.

For a second, I want you to imagine how silly you would look to your family and friends if you sold everything you owned just to buy a bit of land. It's likely that people would think you had lost your mind. Land can be valuable, but selling everything is extreme! At least, it seems that way until you come back from your new land with a chest of treasure!

God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything the world can offer, but to people living in the world, it doesn't always seem that way. When we give up things to follow Jesus and be in God's kingdom, we might seem silly too. But what is sillier: giving up something that will eventually fall apart to gain something perfect that lasts forever; or holding onto something that won't last instead of chasing after something wonderful?

In addition to the value of God's kingdom, Jesus wanted people to understand that it will expand to fill the whole earth. Just as the mustard seed which grows into a tree that provides shelter for many, God's kingdom will grow and become a shelter for everyone who has faith. God's growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.

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.

That brings us to our big picture question. How does God care for His creation? God loves and rules over His creation according to His perfect plan. By sending Jesus to defeat sin, God was working out His plan to restore the whole earth.



Age Appropriate Story

STORY POINT: GOD'S GROWING KINGDOM IS MORE VALUABLE THAN ANYTHING.

Jesus told the people parables to teach them about the kingdom of God. Jesus told a parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it grows taller than the garden plants. It becomes a tree, and the birds come and build nests in its branches."

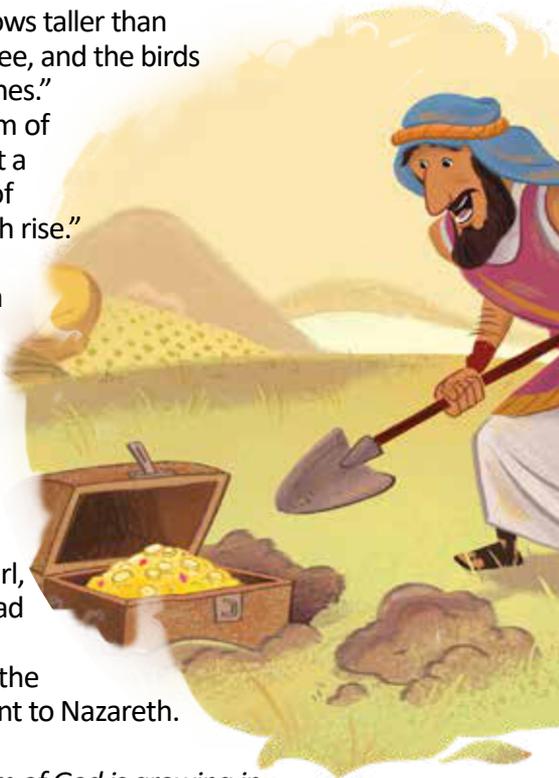
Jesus continued, "The kingdom of heaven is like leaven, or yeast, that a woman mixed into fifty pounds of flour. The leaven makes the dough rise."

Jesus told another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure, buried in a field, that a man found. He reburied it, and then he joyfully sold everything he had and bought that field."

Then Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls. When he found one priceless pearl, he went and sold everything he had and bought it."

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

Christ Connection: *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.*



Discussion & Bible Skills

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Matthew 13. You may choose a strong reader to read a selection of verses, such as Matthew 13:31-32. Remind the kids that Matthew is part of the New Testament division called the Gospels. Ask what the other gospels are and what they tell. (*Mark, Luke, John; accounts of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection*) Lead the group to discuss:

1. **Who fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy about listening and not understanding?** (*those who didn't understand Jesus' parables, Matt. 13:13-14*)
2. **How is the kingdom of heaven like a mustard seed?** (*It looks small but grows large and provides shelter, Matt. 13:32*)
3. **How is the kingdom of heaven like a buried treasure?** (*It is valuable and worth giving up everything to get, Matt. 13:44*)
4. **Have you ever had to give up something to follow Jesus?** *Guide kids to discuss situations they may have faced where they had to choose obedience over popularity, comfort, or another thing the world can offer. Be prepared to share your own experiences too.*
5. **Would you give up everything to follow Jesus?** *Help the kids think through the kinds of sacrifices some believers must make, such as missionaries or those living in places hostile to Jesus. Remind them that God may not tell them to give up everything, but they are called to be ready if necessary.*



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

Travel Guide:

Use the travel guide for maps, charts, etc... as useful with helping the children learn and understand today's story.



15 min

Flight Lab

Instill Wonder as you experience the Bible
CHOOSE ONE ACTIVITY

Key Passage Activity

Instruct the kids to form a circle and squat down low to the ground. Lead the kids to say the key passage very quietly. Then, repeat the key passage multiple times, increasing in volume and standing a bit more upright each time. When you say the passage for the last time, stand on tiptoes with arms stretched overhead and shout the verses .

Seed, seed, tree

Instruct the kids to sit in a circle. Select a volunteer to be the “gardener” who will walk around the outside of the circle, gently patting kids’ heads, saying “seed” each time. She will select a kid and say “tree” when she pats him. He must stand and chase her around the circle. If he tags her, she must stand in the center of the circle and be the “shrub.” If the gardener reaches the tree’s seat before he tags her, she is safe. Either way, he will be the new gardener.

- When Jesus taught about God’s kingdom, He used *metaphors*—word pictures that help us imagine something unfamiliar by comparing it to something familiar. Some of Jesus’ metaphors involved plants, specifically small seeds growing into huge trees.

Find the Treasure

Place a few plastic gems or plastic coins in a large tub. Fill the tub with dry beans or play sand. Allow the kids to take turns sifting through the beans to find the treasure hidden within. You may wish to prepare a tub for every two or three kids so that all kids may play at the same time.

- Finding a buried treasure may sound to you like the start of a wonderful adventure story. Jesus explained that the kingdom of God is like a buried treasure. Entering God’s kingdom is the start of a wonderful adventure too!

Describe Pictures

Invite children to draw pictures. Ask them to tell you about their pictures. Ask a child permission to show her picture to the group.

For an added challenge, show children the “Ambiguous Images” pictures. Invite children to tell you what they see. Encourage children to look at the image another way to see something different.

- Two people can look at the same picture and see two different things. Not everyone understood the stories that Jesus taught in our Bible story today either. Jesus used stories about trees and things that people could look at, but they didn’t see how it explained God’s kingdom.

Kingdom Trees

Distribute a sheet of paper to each kid. Instruct the kids to draw a simple tree shape without leaves on the branches. Tell the kids to write their name in the middle of the tree trunk and the name of the person who first told them the gospel at the base of the tree. Then, allow the kids to tear off bits of green construction paper and write the names of people they can tell the gospel to on each “leaf” before gluing it to the bare branches of their tree.

- We use the image of a tree to help us think about our families. The base of a family tree is made up by your ancestors, like great-grandparents. The branches are your brothers, sisters, and eventually your children and children’s children. In a way, this is also a good way to think about God’s kingdom. Someone told you the gospel, and you can tell other people the gospel. As people trust in Jesus, they become part of God’s kingdom, which is also God’s family! **God’s growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.**

Parable Posters

Form four groups of kids. Assign each group a parable from today’s Bible story.

Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32)

Parable of the Leaven (Matthew 13:33)

Parable of the Hidden Treasure (Matthew 13:44)

Parable of the Priceless Pearl (Matthew 13:45-46)

Instruct groups to find and read their assigned passages. Provide markers, construction paper, and other craft supplies for groups to make posters illustrating the kingdom parables. Consider providing glue with mustard seeds, yeast, and artificial pearls for kids to use to decorate the corresponding parable posters.

Direct each group to write the story point on their posters. When groups finish, invite them to take turns retelling the parable to the rest of the group. Display the posters in the room throughout the unit.

- Jesus used parables to teach about God’s kingdom. **God’s growing kingdom is more valuable than anything.** 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.

Find Buried Treasure

Bury toy jewels and coins in a bin of sand. Provide toy shovels and scoops 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!



5 min Pilot's log

Where we prepare to depart.

Pray:

If time, share prayer requests and allow kids to record in the **prayer journal section of their *Travel Guide***.

ALWAYS CLOSE THE MORNING WITH PRAYER.

This is how we model incorporating prayer into their lives.

Waiting for parents/Activity Page:

Tie back into the lesson, remind them of the Big Picture Question/verse, etc...

Be sure to **re-set expectations on what their choices are while waiting for mom and dad:**

- Activity page
- Key Passage Activity (See next page for list of options)
- Coloring page
- Gospel Kit Activities
- Anything quiet at the tables you are ok with (*origami, free draw on blank paper, hangman game at white board, putting Book of the Bible cards in order, etc....*)

Be sure that the Co-Pilots hand out the Activity sheet to each child or to parents so they can go home with families.

Key Passage Review Extra Ideas:

Invite kids to sit around tables. Give each kid a pencil. Show the key passage poster and lead them to read it aloud.

Give a piece of paper to one kid at each table. Instruct him to write down the first word of the key passage and pass the paper to the person on his right. That person will write down the second word, pass the paper to her right, and so on. Kids will pass the paper around the table, writing one word at a time until they finish the key passage. When kids finish, invite groups one at a time to say the key passage together.

Display the key passage poster. Lead the kids to read it aloud. Then challenge them to read it in various ways: whispering, shouting, quickly, slowly, and so on.

Form two groups of kids. Call on the first group to say the key passage together. Then call on the second group to say it.

Prompt the first group to say the passage a few phrases at a time, pausing for the second group to echo. When kids finish saying the key passage, lead the second group to begin and the first group to echo.

Instruct kids to sit or stand in a circle. Choose one kid to begin by saying the first word of the key passage. Guide kids to say the key passage, one word at a time, moving around the circle.

Allow kids to look at the key passage poster if they need help remembering the words. Continue around the circle a few times. Consider shouting, "Switch!" and letting kids move to another place in the circle before playing again. *Or toss the ball to different kids rather than go in order.*

Before the session, write out the key passage on a chalkboard or dry erase board in eight separate phrases. Display the phrases where kids can see them. Give each kid a marker and eight craft sticks. Instruct kids to copy from the board, writing each phrase on a separate stick. Then instruct kids to mix up their sticks and then quickly rearrange the phrases in the correct order. Kids may work individually or in pairs. Provide rubber bands for kids to bundle their sticks and keep them as a method of practicing the key passage during the week.

Prayer Extra Ideas:

Prayer Chain—In small groups, ask children/co-pilot to write prayer requests on a few paper strips. Connect paper strips into a chain and display our growing conversation to the Lord. Feel free to revisit older requests as well.

Painted Rocks—Have each child choose a painted rock to write on. Write a word of encouragement, a word about Jesus, a name, etc. The goal is to take it with them and place it somewhere near their typical living space—a neighbor’s house, a store, a playground, etc. Then pray over the place or the people who are there.

Pointing to a Map—Choose one or two kiddos to spin/close their eyes/find a certain color (you can be creative and have fun) and point to a country on the map. Place a pin in the place(s) and pray over it as a group. 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.

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 those things on the window (Pre-K & K may draw things) and then pray over those things. Feel free to leave them on the window, so whenever we look through, those things are brought to our mind to pray for again.

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.)

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.

You're
ready
for
Sunday!



