

FOUR-FIVE CURRICULUM

JULY 5

Kingdom Quest- Living the Greatest Adventure

Bible Story: The Story of the Farmer • *Matthew 13:1-23*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

SOCIAL ACTIVITY

Opening Activity

What You Need:

- Floor tape

What You Do:

- Use floor tape to create a large square on the floor (about 2 x 2 feet).
- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Challenge the group to see how many people they can fit inside the square at one time. They can stand, sit, or get creative, but everyone's whole body must be inside the lines.
- After they set their first record, challenge them to do it more quickly the next time.

What You Say:

"Great teamwork! It's amazing how much you can fit into a space when you plan it out. We have to be intentional about what we make space for in our lives too.

"When Jesus taught, He often used parables. A parable is a short story using everyday objects and situations to help explain something about God and His kingdom. A parable makes you think and feel. It helps you understand something true for yourself instead of just repeating what someone else told you. Today, we're going to hear a story or parable Jesus told to teach us about making space in our hearts for something really important. Let's go hear this parable Jesus taught!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY:

1. Take a Snapshot

What You Need:

- Plastic cups (5 per group)

What You Do:

- Group the kids into pairs and instruct them to stand or sit face-to-face with the cup on the floor in between them.
- Call out an action: "Head!" "Shoulders!" "Knees!" or "Cup!"
- The kids are to listen carefully and touch their head, shoulders, knees, or grab the cup.
- When you say, "Cup," the kids try to be the first one to grab the cup.
- The kid who grabs the cup first wins the round.
- Reset cups and continue to call out the actions: "Head!" "Shoulders!" "Knees!" or "Cup!"
- Increase the speed at which you call out the actions, making it more difficult.
- Repeat as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"That game takes serious listening skills! You couldn't just guess; you had to wait for me to say, 'Cup' before you could act. It's like that with our faith. Jesus asks us to be people who don't just hear what He says, but who actually do what He says. It takes practice to be a good listener and an obedient follower. **[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.**"

2. Bible Story Extension

What You Need:

- "The Word Order Game" Activity Page
- Paper
- Writing supplies

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 13:1-23 and review the story of the farmer.
- Share main ideas, like:
 - Jesus was teaching about God's kingdom, and He told a parable, or story, about a farmer.
 - The farmer scattered some seeds on the ground.

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- The seed fell in four different types of places on the ground.
- None of the seeds grew well, except those that fell on the good soil.
- The seeds that grew in good soil produced a huge harvest!
- Jesus told the story to show that when people hear God's message about His kingdom and understand it, they produce way more than He planted!
- Encourage kids to unscramble the words in each line to create a sentence from the Bible Story.

What You Say:

"Nice work! It's not just hearing God and His Word that matters. What we do with it after we hear it changes everything. Matthew 31:23 NIV says, *'But the seed that fell on good soil is like those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted.'*

[Bottom Line] God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says."

3. Discussion Questions

What You Need:

- No supplies needed

What You Do:

- **Ask these questions and discuss:**
 - Why do you think Jesus used a story about farming instead of just explaining about God's kingdom plainly?
 - What do the seeds represent in this story?
 - What does it mean that the good soil produced 30, 60, or 100 times more?
 - **[Conversation Starter] What are you going to do with what you've heard?**

4. Make It Personal with Prayer

What You Need:

- Soft music

What You Do:

- Invite the kids to find a comfortable spot in the room. You can dim the lights if you'd like.
- Ask them to close their eyes and think about the four kinds of soil Jesus talked about.
- Lead them through a time of quiet reflection with these prompts. Pause for about 30 seconds after each one.
 - Hard path: "When do I ignore God?"
 - Rocky soil: "When do I quit when things get hard?"
 - Thorny soil: "What distracts me most?"
 - Good soil: "Where am I growing?"
- Now invite them to take time to pray quietly for the piece they need to ask God's help with.
- After the quiet time, close in prayer for the whole group.

What You Say:

"Let's pray together and ask God to help us be like the good soil."

Prayer:

"God, thank You for this time to be quiet and listen. We want our hearts to be like the good soil—soft, ready, and prepared for Your words to grow. Forgive us for the times we ignore You, give up too easily, or let other things become more important than You. Help us to be people who not only hear what You say, but actually do it. We want to be part of Your growing kingdom. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."