

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:

- Hardcover book

What You Do:

- 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.
- Line kids up on one side of the room.
- Challenge them to try walking from one side of the room to the other while balancing the book on their head.
- Once everyone has had a turn, let the kids try again.
- Encourage kids to walk slowly and keep their head very still.
- Cheer for everyone who tries, whether the book stays on their head or falls off.

What You Say:

"That was tough! You had to really listen to your body and focus to balance that book. Today's Bible Story is a special kind of story called a parable. Jesus told parables to help people learn about God and His kingdom. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told to help us understand something very important. Let's go hear it!"

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

1. Act It Out

What You Need:

- Pom-poms in four different colors (seeds)

- Floor tape
- Butcher paper
- Cones
- Rug or blanket
- Spring-loaded clothespins

What You Do:

- Create a tape path in one area of your space for the path.
- Crumple up several pieces of butcher paper for the rocky area and place them next to the tape path.
- Arrange several cones haphazardly next to the butcher paper for the thorny area.
- Spread out the rug or blanket on the floor next to the cones for the good soil.
- Open your Bible to Matthew 13:1-23, and show the kids where the Bible Story is.
- Review the story with the kids by sharing these main points:
 - Jesus was teaching about God's kingdom, and He told this parable, or story, about a farmer.
 - The farmer scattered some seed on the ground.
 - 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 this story to show that when people hear God's message about His kingdom and understand it, they produce way more than He planted!
- Tell the kids they are going to act out the Bible Story by acting as the four different types of ground the seed fell on.
- Assign each kid to a different area.
- The Path: Give these kids a clothespin. Toss some seeds onto the path area. Have the kids pretend to be birds that fly in and "eat" the seeds by pinching them with the clothespins to pick them up.
- The Rocky Soil: Toss some seeds in the rocky area. Have these kids pretend to squat down and be little plants that sprout up fast, but then wilt and bend or fall over when the sun gets hot.
- The Thorny Soil: Toss some seeds near the chairs. Have these kids pretend to be plants

JULY 5

that get choked out by big, grabby thorn bushes.

- The Good Soil: Toss some seeds onto the rug or open area. Have these kids pretend to be strong, healthy plants that grow big and tall and produce lots of fruit!

What You Say:

“Great job acting out the four different places the seed fell on the ground! It’s easy to see which spot was the best for the seeds: the good soil! Jesus told us this story to explain that our hearts can be like those different soils. 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.’*”

In this way, God’s kingdom continues to grow.

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

2. Memory Verse Motions

What You Need:

- “Verse Motions” Activity Page

What You Do:

- Demonstrate how to look up the Memory Verse
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Teach the kids simple motions for the Memory Verse.
 - “God’s kingdom is not about eating or drinking.” (Shake head “no.”)
 - “It is about doing what is right” (Give a big thumbs-up.)
 - “and having peace” (Cross hands over heart.)
 - “and joy.” (Jump up and cheer.)
 - “All this comes through the Holy Spirit.” (Point up.)
 - “Romans 14:17” (Open hands like a book.)
- Practice the Memory Verse with the motions together several times.

What You Say:

“You’ve got it! This verse reminds us what God’s kingdom is all about: doing what is right As you stay close to Him, He will grow His good fruit in you, and His kingdom will grow. **[Bottom Line] God’s**

kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.”

3. Pray and Dismiss

What You Need:

- Play-Doh®

What You Do:

- Give each kid a small ball of Play-Doh® and a paper plate.
- Ask them to roll it around in their hands and feel how soft and squishy it is.
- Say, “In our Bible Story today, the good soil was soft and ready for the seeds. We want our hearts to be soft and ready to hear from God, just like this Play-Doh®.”
- Ask the kids to shape their Play-Doh® into a heart.
- Hold your Play-Doh® hearts as you pray together.

What You Say:

“Let’s talk to God together.”

Prayer:

“Dear God, thank You for giving us Jesus to teach us. We want to have soft hearts, like the good soil, that are ready to listen to You. Help us to hear what You say and then do it, so Your kingdom can grow in us and all around us. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”