

Life of Christ

The story of the mustard seed and the yeast

Matthew 13:31-34

Younger Verse

Stand firm in what you believe. Isaiah 7:9

Older Verse

If you do not stand firm in your faith, you will not stand at all. Isaiah 7:9

Lesson Goals

See that we can get into God's kingdom only by believing in Jesus
Learn what it means to grow and learn more about Jesus

Welcome Time

Bring a little acorn and ask the kids what it will grow into. Point to an Oak tree and share how one little seed can grow into something very big. (If you do not have Oak trees near your place, use a seed from a tree nearby.)

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus would often tell stories to help His friends understand what He was saying. These stories are called parables. They helped people understand what Jesus was trying to explain to them.

Jesus told them a story about a little mustard seed to help them see what God's kingdom was like.

(Show the group a mustard seed.) Jesus told His friends that God's kingdom was like the little seed. A man planted it in a field. Even though it was one of the smallest seeds, when it grows, it becomes a gigantic tree with branches that birds can rest on.

Jesus was trying to tell His friends that we do not have to understand everything when we trust God. He will take the little bit of understanding that we have and help it to grow, and grow, and grow. The more we learn about God and how much He loves us, the more we grow, like the mustard seed. We change and become something more beautiful.

Jesus told His friends another story to help them understand. He said that Heaven was like yeast. (Let the kids smell some yeast in packets.) He explained that when yeast is mixed into dough, it helps the dough to rise and taste good.

He was helping His friends to understand that when a person becomes a Christian, he is changed. When he mixes with his friends, they see the difference and want to know what has happened. That person's decision affects others and makes them want to know more about Jesus.

Jesus shared these story parables to help His friends see that the only way to Heaven is by believing in Jesus and trusting Him. When we do this, we begin to grow and learn what it means to follow Him. When we do this, we begin to change and be different. Others will notice and ask about the change. We will help others see that the only way to Heaven is through believing in Jesus.

Do you believe in Jesus? It is not just about knowing Jesus in your head. It is about knowing Jesus in your heart. You do this by believing that Jesus died and came back to life to take the punishment for all the bad things we have done. If you believe this and ask Jesus to forgive all your wrongs and come into our heart, He will forgive our sin and stay with us forever. He will help us live to please God and help us start to grow like a little mustard seed. If you want to know more about Jesus, talk to us about Him.

Learning Activities

Try different hands-on activities to help the kids learn and understand the lesson. Ask them questions to see if they understand.

Memory Verse Activities

Write out the verse and let the mustard seed be the dot on top of all the "i's" in the verse. Share what it means to have faith and that nothing is impossible with God.

Prayer Time

Pray that everyone will be like the little seed that grew and grew. Ask God to help us be more like Him and share with others.

Snack Time/CleanUp

Have snacks like pretzels or hotdogs and bring **MUSTARD!** Or, bring bread that has yeast in it.

Planning for June 22
Story of the treasure, the pearl and the net
Matthew 13:44-52

Preschool Lesson
for
The story of the mustard seed and yeast

Jesus would often tell stories to help His friends understand what He was saying. They helped people understand what Jesus was trying to explain to them.

Jesus told them a story about a little mustard seed to help them see what God's kingdom was like.

(Show the group a mustard seed.) Jesus told His friends that God's kingdom was like the little seed. A man planted it in a field. Even though it was one of the smallest seeds, when it grows, it becomes a gigantic tree with branches that birds can rest on. (Illustrate this by sitting down, then slowly standing up and reaching out your hands like branches.)

Jesus was trying to tell His friends that we do not have to understand everything when we believe in God. He will take the little bit that we know and help us to grow, and grow, and grow. The more we learn about God and how much He loves us, the more we grow, like the mustard seed. We change and become something more beautiful.

Jesus told His friends another story to help them understand. He said that Heaven was like yeast. **(Let the kids smell some yeast in packets.)** He explained that when yeast is mixed into dough, it helps the dough to rise and taste good. Jesus told us that we need to share Jesus with our friends. The more people we tell, the more that we will want to believe in Him.

Pray and ask God to help us believe in Him and share Him with others.

Sing the little Mustard seed song to the tune of "Muffin Man." (courtesy of Shining Star Dee Leone)

Once there was a mustard seed, a mustard seed, a mustard seed.
Once there was a mustard seed that was planted in the ground.

Though the seed was oh so small, oh so small, oh so small,
Though the seed was oh so small, it grew into a tree.

Birds landed on its branches, on its branches, on its branches,
Birds landed on its branches, and rested in the shade.

The Kingdom is like this seed, like this seed, like this seed,
The Kingdom is like this seed, in the story Jesus told.

Hands-on Activities
for
The story of the mustard seed and yeast

Plant seed and watch them grow!

Make yeast bread or prepare the yeast in water and watch it bubble. (It may need a little sugar to help activate the yeast.)

Create the mustard seed sauce dip.

Decorate construction paper crosses and glue a small mustard seed on it.

Make a Mustard Tree and display the verse using leaves.