



**God's Love is the best Treasure**  
**Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Hello Everyone! It was so lovely seeing you all last week at our Zoom meeting.**

Today we are thinking about some of the parables that Jesus told people who crowded to hear him speak. They might be really short.....but they are FANTASTIC! They help us to understand how great God's love is for each of us and how his love spreads out to reach everyone. Everyone in church today will be hearing these stories. Look them up in [Matthew 13.31-33,44-52](#)



Here are some parables that Jesus told the crowd:

**The parable of the mustard seed**

'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, sown in a field. It is the smallest of seeds but grows up into a huge bush, and the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.'

**The parable of the leavened bread**

'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman mixes with three lots of flour, until it is all leavened and ready to rise.'

inSpire

### The parable of the hidden treasure

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. Someone finds it, hides it again, and then is so very, very happy, he goes and sells everything he has to buy the field.'

### The parable of the fine pearl

'The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant who is looking for fine pearls. He finds one very special and valuable pearl, and goes and sells everything he has to buy it.'

Print off the reading and cut it into the four sections, representing each of the four symbols of the kingdom. Put each part in an envelope and number them one to four in order, then hide them around your space. Encourage everyone to take part in a 'treasure hunt' to find them, open them and read the story in order.

### Talk together with children

- When you hear the word 'kingdom', what pictures come into your head?
- Which of the four descriptions of God's kingdom do you like the best and why?
- What do you think won't be in the kingdom of God?

### Talk together with young people

- Why do you think that Jesus uses so many images to describe the kingdom?

- How would you describe God's kingdom?
- Is there a story in the news or from your community which is like the kingdom of God described in today's passage?  
E.g. A school welcoming refugee families?

## Activities, songs and prayers

*Choose from the activities below and do any or all of them in any order you wish. Some are designed for younger children and some for young people. However, we hope using a mix will work for any ages in your household.*

### Play

#### Growing with God

Race to build the biggest tower

**You will need:** building blocks.

- Divide the group into two teams and share out the building blocks evenly between them.
- Explain to the group that the first example of the kingdom was a mustard seed, a tiny seed. In this race, the teams are going to build a tower to demonstrate that, like the mustard seed growing into a large tree, the tower has to start with the first brick.
- In a relay race, encourage the teams to compete in building the tallest tower.

## Create

### Kingdom die

Make a reminder of all the images of the kingdom

**You will need:** [cube templates](#) printed onto card, scissors, pens/pencils, glue.

- Give each person a template and ask them to cut it out – you can pre-prepare for younger children.
- Explain that like their cube, a die has six sides – then show the children these on their cubes.
- Ask the children to decorate each of the sides with one of the four images of the kingdom: a mustard seed, yeast in bread, treasure in a field, a pearl and a fishing net. In the fifth and sixth space, they can draw a question mark.
- Then invite the children to construct their die by adding glue to the tabs and sticking together.
- When all the dice are complete, ask everyone to roll their own and see if they can remember what the meaning is behind each image. If it lands on the question mark, ask the child to say what they think the kingdom of God is like.

## Think/reflect

*Spend some quiet time reflecting on the passage, as well as what you have been doing in the activities you chose.*

## Pray

*Finish your time of worship by praying together in any way you choose (there are more prayers on our [Prayers page](#)).*

Bubble prayers

Give everyone a pot of bubbles and encourage them to blow big bubbles. Praise God that the kingdom of heaven grows and grows.

God of the kingdom,  
may we plant the seeds,  
may we grow like the yeast,  
may we seek your treasure,  
may we prize your pearl,  
may we come into the net  
of your kingdom,  
this week and every week.

**Amen.**

*You may wish to use the additional resources below to worship together and/or the [activity sheets for children](#).*

## **Sing and listen**

[Kingdom of God](#)

[Faith as small as a mustard seed](#)

In our lives plant seeds of hope (CH4 349)

[The kingdom of God is like a grain of mustard seed](#)

[To what can the kingdom of God be compared?](#)

[The treasure, Macapella](#)

[Waymaker](#), Michael W. Smith on *Awaken: the surrounded experience*

[Cannons](#), Phil Wickham on *Cannons*

## Notes on the Bible story for parents and carers

- This reading is a selection of Jesus' descriptions of what God's kingdom is like; each one is a pictorial image. The first two images are of very small items: the mustard seed, showing that what flourishes from the seed is what is important; and the yeast, used to demonstrate again the way the kingdom starts small but has a mighty and wide - ranging effect.
- The next two are examples of expense and worth, used not as a morality tale but instead as a teaching point, to direct the reader to consider the huge value of the kingdom in comparison with anything else life might offer.

See [Bible notes](#) for more information on the passages for today.

## Activity Sheets

Here are the links to these sheets:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20746/26-july-2020-childrens-sheet.pdf>

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/media/20757/26-july-2020-colouring-sheet.pdf>

Material for today's Sunday's Cool come from

© ROOTS for Churches Ltd (www.rootsontheweb.com) 2002-2020.

Reproduced with permission.

Read this article [ROOTS at home - support for nurturing faith at home](http://www.rootsontheweb.com/faithathome) (www.rootsontheweb.com/faithathome)

**Wow! What great stories! Aren't we lucky God's love is so great!**

**Have a good rest of the day everyone!**

**From all at Sunday's Cool**