



Crèche Material for 0-4 years



# Parables - The Kingdom of Heaven

This month we are focusing on the stories of Jesus that teach about the kingdom of heaven. This is where God rules. His rule on earth is gradually growing and we want these young children to understand that things that start small in God's kingdom grow big.

Do not despise the days of small beginnings but know that God is working the lives of these young ones to give them an inheritance.

These are exciting days, allow you children each week to experience the presence of God as you encourage them to engage in the activities. Don't forget each week to lay hands on each child and pray prayers of blessing over them.

May God richly reward your ministry.

Every blessing,

Olly Goldenberg,

Children Can

[www.childrencan.co.uk](http://www.childrencan.co.uk)



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# Parables - The Kingdom of Heaven

*Aim: To teach the children why Jesus came.*

## Month Overview:

**Story:** The mustard seed

**Bible passage:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Memory verse:** Matthew Chapter 13 verse 44: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field."

	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4
Ways of telling story	Story book	Grow a model tree	Kids to be seeds	Real life props
Worship	Small & quiet	Around the tree	Ribbons	Flying birds
Warfare	Step by step	Around the tree	Special chair	Prayer stations
Activity	Seed name tags	Fruit tree	Certificate	Make a bird
Resources Provided	Story, story book, seed templates.	Story, fruit pics.	Story, certificate	Story, Prayer pictures, bird template.
Resources Needed	Bible, Crayons	Bible, toilet roll, tissue paper, glue, etc.	Bible, ribbons, special chair, stickers.	Bible, Seed, plant, photos for story, Card, crayons, glue, etc.



## Week 1

# Week 1

**Word:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Theme:** The kingdom of heaven

**Teaching point:** Things start small in God's kingdom and grow big

**Aim:** To encourage the children that they may be small but God has big plans for them.

**Way of telling the story:** Use a picture story book.

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:

He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that although it may look small on earth, God's kingdom will grow to be very big.

Once upon a time there was a small mustard seed. It was the smallest seed that there was around. It was so small that you could hardly see it unless you looked really carefully.

It was planted in the ground and started to grow. At first it did not seem like a very big plant but it grew and it grew. And it grew and it grew. It kept on growing. It grew bigger than the flowers. It grew bigger than the bushes. It grew to be a great BIG TREE.

In fact the tree was one of the biggest trees around. The whole field looked different because the tree had grown so big. The wild birds heard about the tree. They flew all over the place looking for it. When they found it they came and built their nests in it.

The tree was very happy now. What people thought was nothing was now a very special tree.

After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that things of God can start small, but will end up big.

1. How small was the seed? **It was tiny.**
2. What happened to it? **It grew to be a big tree.**
3. Did it change the field? **Yes the field looked different.**
4. What did the birds do? **They looked for the tree and then made their nest in it.**

Talk with the children how they are growing from a small baby to be a big boy and girl (get them to use their hands to show how they have grown). Tell them that God likes everything to be like that. It starts small and grows big. We start by loving God a little then we love him more and more and more (let the children use their hands to show how their love grows).

Worship:

1. Choose a worship song for the children to sing.
2. Sing the song through once to remind them how it goes.
3. Get them to all crouch down as small as they can and to sing the song quietly.
4. Keep repeating the song, standing up a bit more and singing it a bit louder each time until they are standing up and sing it as loud as they can.

## **Warfare: Ask God for more.**

1. Get the children to stand in a line all facing forwards (not looking at each others as if in a queue, but facing sideways to the line).
2. Give them a prayer topic asking God for more love and then give them ten seconds to pray for it.
3. When they have prayed get them to take a step forward.
4. Give the next prayer topic and let them pray as before.
5. Repeat.

Possible prayer topics:

To love our mummy and daddy more.

To love our leaders more.

To love our friends more.

To love every body more.

To love God more.

## **Activity: Seed name tags**

Give the children the seed name tags template from the extra resources section.

Let them decorate it, remind them that God has big plans for them and he loves them very much.

Glue a real seed to the corner of the template.

## **Memory Verse:**

Don't forget to teach the memory verse

Matthew Chapter 13 verse 44: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field."

Use props to help teach it (shiny treasure with a box to hide it in).

## Week 2

**Word:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Theme:** The kingdom of heaven

**Teaching point:** God's kingdom changes everything around it.

**Aim:** To let the children know that where God is things are different.

**Way of telling the story:** During the story grow a model tree (take a roll of paper and gradually unroll it while making the tree head bigger and bigger). Let the final tree be really big and emphasize how different the room looks.

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:

He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that although it may look small on earth, God's kingdom will grow to be very big.

Once upon a time there was a small mustard seed. It was the smallest seed that there was around. It was so small that you could hardly see it unless you looked really carefully.

It was planted in the ground and started to grow. At first it did not seem like a very big plant but it grew and it grew. And it grew and it grew. It kept on growing. It grew bigger than the flowers. It grew bigger than the bushes. It grew to be a great BIG TREE.

In fact the tree was one of the biggest trees around. The whole field looked different because the tree had grown so big. The wild birds heard about the tree. They flew all over the place looking for it. When they found it they came and built their nests in it.

The tree was very happy now. What people thought was nothing was now a very special tree.

### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that where God is things are different.

1. How small was the seed? **It was tiny.**
2. What happened to it? **It grew to be a big tree.**
3. Did it change the field? **Yes the field looked different.**
4. What did the birds do? **They looked for the tree and then made their nest in it.**

Ask the children to tell you of a time when they lost their mummy. How did they feel? How did they feel when she came back again? Mummies make a big difference in our lives. How else do they change our lives (give us food, cuddles, etc.)? God makes an even bigger difference. What does God do to make things different?

### Worship:

Stand around the tree from the story. Remind them that God makes a big difference in our lives, just like the tree changes the room.  
Worship God because of this.

### Warfare:

Hold hands in a circle around the tree.  
Get them to think of ways that they can be different (think of the fruit of the Spirit - love, joy, peace, etc.).  
Write these ways on a fruit-shaped piece of paper.  
Stick these fruits to the tree one by one praying together that God will give us these fruits as we pray so we can be different.

## **Activity: A field and a tree.**

1. Give the children a piece of cardboard and some materials to make a field out of it.
2. Make a tree out of a toilet roll and tissue paper.
3. Stick the tree in the middle of the field.
4. Stick onto the tree some of the fruits of the Spirit.
5. End by sticking a strip of paper to the top of the field that says:  
*God makes the earth a better place.*

## **Memory Verse:**

Don't forget to teach the memory verse

Matthew Chapter 13 verse 44: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field."

Use props to help teach it (shiny treasure with a box to hide it in).

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## Week 3

**Word:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Theme:** The kingdom of heaven

**Teaching point:** We are very special.

**Aim:** To let each child know they are special.

**Way of telling the story:** Let the children pretend to be the seed and grow into a big tree.

### The Story:

Jesus loved to tell people stories:

He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

People loved to listen to Jesus' stories.

One time Jesus told this story to show that although it may look small on earth, God's kingdom will grow to be very big.

Once upon a time there was a small mustard seed. It was the smallest seed that there was around. It was so small that you could hardly see it unless you looked really carefully.

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In fact the tree was one of the biggest trees around. The whole field looked different because the tree had grown so big. The wild birds heard about the tree. They flew all over the place looking for it. When they found it they came and built their nests in it.

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The tree was very happy now. What people thought was nothing was now a very special tree.

### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that each of them is special.

1. How small was the seed? **It was tiny.**
2. What happened to it? **It grew to be a big tree.**
3. Did it change the field? **Yes the field looked different.**
4. What did the birds do? **They looked for the tree and then made their nest in it.**

Go round the room and tell each of the children by name that they are special, and then pray for each of them (see the warfare).

### Warfare:

Before the session decorate a chair to make it the special chair. Put it at the front of the group.

Let each child come and sit on the chair one at a time. When they are sitting on it let all the other children and leaders pray for them.

### Worship:

Give each child their own special ribbon (could be a strip of crepe paper 5cm x 1m). Let them wave it around as you sing praise and worship songs to Jesus.

### Activity:

Give each child a certificate of specialness for them to decorate with stickers. See the extra resources section.

### Memory Verse:

Don't forget to teach the memory verse

Matthew Chapter 13 verse 44: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field."

Use props to help teach it (shiny treasure with a box to hide it in).

## Week 4

**Word:** Matthew 13:31-32

**Theme:** The kingdom of heaven

**Teaching point:** We should look for God.

**Aim:** To encourage the children to seek God.

**Way of telling the story:** Bring some real life props to enhance the story (and some photographs of those that you can't bring).

1. Seeds.
2. A small plant (and plants of various sizes).
3. A photo of a tree.
4. A photo of a bird.
5. A photo of birds in a tree.

### The Story:

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He told stories to let people know what God is like.

He told stories to tell people what would happen.

He told stories to help people know what to do.

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## Parables – The Kingdom of Heaven

In fact the tree was one of the biggest trees around. The whole field looked different because the tree had grown so big. The wild birds heard about the tree. They flew all over the place looking for it. When they found it they came and built their nests in it.

The tree was very happy now. What people thought was nothing was now a very special tree.

### After telling the story

Ask them questions like the ones below to see if they were listening to the story. Focus on the teaching point that we should look for God.

1. How small was the seed? **It was tiny.**
2. What happened to it? **It grew to be a big tree.**
3. Did it change the field? **Yes the field looked different.**
4. What did the birds do? **They looked for the tree and then made their nest in it.**

Get the children to imagine that they are birds looking for God. They may want to call out for God. (Leading into the worship time).

### Worship:

Let the children pretend to be birds. As they worship God with songs they can fly around the room.

### Warfare:

Move around the room from one corner to the next. At each corner have different prayer pictures and prayer items for them to pray for.

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|-----------------------|--|
| 1. Picture of a cross | Pray for people to meet God.             |
| 2. Picture of a dove  | Pray for people to meet the Holy Spirit. |
| 3. Picture of a heart | Pray for people to love God.             |
| 4. Picture of family  | Pray for our family.                     |

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**Activity:**

Make a bird. See separate instructions in the resources file.

**Memory Verse:**

Don't forget to teach the memory verse

Matthew Chapter 13 verse 44: "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in a field."

Use props to help teach it (shiny treasure with a box to hide it in).