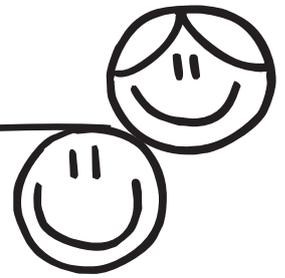


Intermediate



UNIT: THE PARABLES 3/9

Suggested Structure

Introduction - All Kids

Sunday School Assembly

(May include opening prayer, prayer requests, music, testimonies)

Encourage the senior students to lead the music, prayer and/or share what God is doing their life.

Summary of previous lesson – ask the children

Introduce lesson topic

Lesson - Break into class groups

Read through lesson content using discussion questions

(Read story or scripture from **children's bible*** or appropriate bible)

Discuss and breakdown as necessary

Craft/Activity

Finish

Summary of lesson

Cleanup, collate craft work, name and put in children's/class portfolio's or other

Supervised free play, outdoor games or board games if meeting isn't finished

Please leave feedback with your SS coordinator.

Lesson Title

Parables of the Kingdom of Heaven

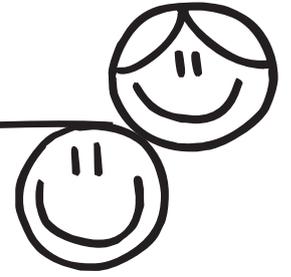
Lesson Purpose and Themes

To gain an understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven through the parable of the Sower and the parable of the Weeds. Themes: Growth in good soil, growth amongst weeds, growing strong, growing in understanding.

* Show the children where the stories are in the bible. The children need to know where the stories come from and that they are not 'fairy tales'.

Intermediate

UNIT: THE PARABLES 3/9



Lesson Content

The next two parables are about God's seed growing strong. Read through the parables together. You will have to gauge the children's ability to understand as you go and decide whether to cover both parables or just one.

Parable of the Sower: Matthew 13:3-9 "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. 5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. 8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear."

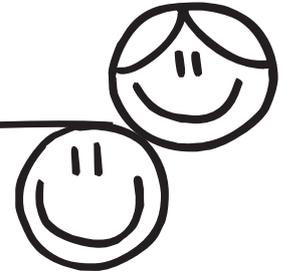
Parable of the Weeds: 24-30 Jesus told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. 25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. 26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared. 27 "The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?' 28 "An enemy did this,' he replied. "The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' 29 "'No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may uproot the wheat with them. 30 Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

In the parable of the Sower we can attribute the Kingdom of God to the good soil or the seed itself. In good soil the seed is able to root deep and grow very strong. It is our job to spread the word of God whether we think the ground is good or not. We also need to make sure we're growing in healthy soil (or like last lesson, attached to Jesus Christ - the True Vine). As we read, prayer and spend time talking about God our understanding grows much more.

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Intermediate

UNIT: THE PARABLES 3/9



In the parable of the weeds we can attribute the Kingdom of God to the wheat, meaning we are the wheat and the weeds are anything that's not of God. We are in this world but we are not the same as it (Romans 12:1-3). We are going to grow strong in Faith while people around us may grow to be great sports people, famous, rich, smart. There will come a time when God will bundle anything that's not his and it will be burned. He will then gather all that is his and take them to live with Him forever.

Discussion Questions

1. What is a parable?
2. Why did Jesus use parables to explain things to people? TN: To help them understand the word of God. He used things they already understood like planting wheat.
3. What is the Kingdom of Heaven? TN: Each and every one of us are God's Kingdom and place on earth and we are also a part of his big Kingdom.
4. What happens to seeds that fall on concrete paths?
5. What happens to seeds that fall on rich soil?
6. How can God's Kingdom grow strong? Prayer, Reading and Understanding.
7. What is understanding? TN: Use the analogy of a sport or activity some of the children do. eg. Do you know everything about soccer? Who knows lots about soccer? As soccer players grow to understand the game better and how to do clever passes they will become stronger players.
8. What will happen to you if you stay firmly planted? (or attached to the vine? - this was discussed last lesson)
9. Why did Jesus use these parables to explain the Kingdom of God? TN: Last lesson we discussed how quickly the seed of God can grow. This lesson the parables focused on where the seed needs to be to grow and how it can become a strong seed.

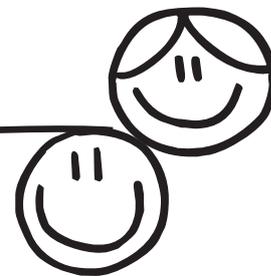
Activities/Craft

- **Seeds Scattered Poem.** Have the children write a poem about the seeds. If they're struggling, give them some helping or rhyming rules. E.g.
The seeds were scattered

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Intermediate

UNIT: THE PARABLES 3/9



Some were tattered
The path's no good
To make good food

or

The seeds were scattered, all over the ground
Some went on soil, some were not found.

- **Cut and Paste.** Explanation
- **Parable Booklet.** Have the children keep a booklet on all the parables they learn over the term. Help them fill in the blanks on the attachment and stick in their booklet. They can then draw or cut and paste a picture into the book that relates to the parable(s) each week. See attachments where applicable.
- **Science Experiment.** Follow link <http://www.kidzone.ws/science/seeds.htm>
- **Prayer/Devotions.** At the end of the lesson have the kids pray for each other about what they have learned, the week ahead, their pastors and anything else they might like to pray for.
- See filing cabinet and craft books for additional activities or create your own.

Feedback

* Show the children where the stories are in the bible. The children need to know where the stories come from and that they are not 'fairy tales'.

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ate it up. 5 Some _____ on rocky places, where it
did not have much _____. It sprang up _____,
because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the
____ came up, the plants were scorched, and they
withered because they had no _____. 7 Other
seed fell among _____, which grew up and
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