

Making Family Bread – Matthew 13:24-43

Parables – Grades K-2



Young children are striving to make a difference in their world. Jesus' parables of the mustard seed and the yeast provide important lessons that even small contributions can yield dramatic results.

Materials Needed

- One clear bowl of water
- Food coloring

Preparation for Sunday Scripture Readings

1. Show the group the bowl of water. Tell the group that you would like to make this water more colorful by adding food coloring. Ask: ***How much food coloring do you think is needed to change the color of this water?*** Allow time for the children to offer their suggestions.
2. Say: ***It really doesn't take much food coloring to change the color of this water. Let me show you.*** Place one drop of food coloring into the bowl. Let the children observe how much impact just a drop of food coloring has on the water. Say: ***Sometimes little things can make a big difference.***
3. Say: ***Jesus told many parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. The lesson from two of these parables reminds me of the food coloring in the water. As we listen carefully to these parables Jesus told, see if you can figure out which two make me think about the demonstration we just did.***
4. Read aloud Matthew 13:24-33.
5. Say: ***In this Gospel, Jesus tells three parables. The first is called the parable of the sower, and in it the farmer allows the wheat and the weeds to grow together. In the second parable, Jesus taught that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. In the third parable, he said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast. Which of these parables are like the demonstration we did with the water and food coloring?*** (The parable of the mustard seed and the parable of the yeast)
6. Say: ***In these parables, Jesus is teaching us that little things can make a big difference. In fact the Kingdom of Heaven, the great news that Jesus came to announce, begins with the smallest of actions. That means that every good thing that we do, however small, can have tremendous effect when we do it because we love Jesus.***
7. Conclude in prayer together, thanking God for helping us to make small contributions that can make big differences in the world. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or the Morning Offering.