

The Reef
Theme: Kudzu Kidz
August-September 2012
Power Lab

Scripture Luke 13:18-19

Then Jesus asked, "What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed. Someone took the seed and planted it in a garden. It grew and became a tree. The birds sat in its branches."

Opening

Before class, run a little Glo Germ all over a small ball. (This stuff is really expensive-almost \$20/bottle- so use it sparingly, please.) As the students arrive, play a quick game of "pass the ball" but don't tell them about putting anything on the ball.

Ask:

- How many of you washed your hands this morning?
- Would they pass the "mom test" right now?
- Why is important to wash your hands?

Say:

Before you came to class, I put a little bit of this special substance called Glo-Germ on this ball. Can you see it? No? GloGerm is specially formulated to be visible only under a UV/black light. Let's turn off the overhead lights and turn on the blacklight to see if we can tell where the ball has been.

Say:

- Jesus had to figure out a way to tell people about God and God's people in a way they would understand what he meant so he told short stories or parables using common objects the people knew about. Our scripture lesson today is one of those parables. Let's see what it is.

Scripture Lesson

Ask:

Which testament in the Bible do you think this story would be in, old or new? Why?

Do:

Have everyone open their Bibles to the New Testament (Divide Bible in ½ then in the back half, divide in half again.)

Grades K-2 – find Luke and teacher read passage out loud

Grades 3-5 – find Luke 13:18-19 and have a student read the passage out loud.

Ask:

- What common, everyday object did Jesus use to tell the people about the Kingdom of God?

(show class mustard seed poster)

- What do you think he meant when he said that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed?
- What happens to a mustard seed when you plant it?
- What happens when you tell people about God's amazing love?

(show class people poster)

Say:

- If one person shows or tells 2 people about God's love and kindness and they tell 2 people and they tell 2 people...look how quickly God's kingdom grows!

Ask:

What are some ways we can show or tell people about God's love?

Say:

- If Jesus was telling this parable today, what object do you think he would use to tell about God's Kingdom? (Hint – something that grows quickly, something that is hard to keep in one place, something that is unstoppable...)
- Kudzu has all of those properties which is why we are calling this rotation Kudzu Kidz.

Activity #1 Germs

Remember the people picture about spreading God's love? Germs are kind of spread the same way.

Remember the ball and how some of you were "infected" by the fake germs?

One of the things we are going to do today is to grow some germs.

Ms Karen (last week's class weeks 2-6) has grown some sample germs for us.

She took a sample from inside of her mouth and inside of her ear and put it in a petri dish 2 days ago. Can you see which germs are growing? That's what we're going to do.

Each class gets 4 petri dishes to grow samples. As a group, decide the 2 cleanest parts of the church and the 2 dirtiest, go swab some samples, label and seal the dish with tape.

Closing Prayer

Thank you, God, for helping my faith in you grow by participating in Sunday school and church. Help me to share my faith every day do your kingdom of heaven grows like Kudzu. Amen

Scripture Luke 13:18-19

Then Jesus asked, "What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare it to? It is like a mustard seed. Someone took the seed and planted it in a garden. It grew and became a tree. The birds sat in its branches."

Opening

Say and Ask:

- Close your eyes and imagine in your mind the sanctuary of our church.
- What is the sanctuary used for?
- How does the sanctuary remind you of God?
- What is the largest thing in the sanctuary?
- What is it used for?
- How is it used to tell people about God and God's people?
- What is the smallest thing in the sanctuary?
- What is it used for?
- How is it used to tell people about God and God's people?
- How big is God?
- What does God's kingdom look like?

Say:

- It was hard for some of us to imagine how big God is or what God's kingdom is like. Jesus had to figure out a way to tell people about God and God's people in a way they would understand what he meant so he told short stories or parables using common objects the people knew about. Our scripture lesson today is one of those parables. Let's see what it is.

Scripture Lesson

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Why?

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Say:

- If one person shows or tells 2 people about God's love and kindness and they tell 2 people and they tell 2 people...look how quickly God's kingdom grows!

Ask:

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Say:

- If Jesus was telling this parable today, what object do you think he would use to tell about God's Kingdom? (Hint – something that grows quickly, something that is hard to keep in one place, something that is unstoppable...)
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Activity #1

Grades K-2 Play and Learn - **Lunch for 5,000** Talks about something little growing big
Grades 3-5 Galilee Flyer - **Kingdom Parables**

Here's how you play Galilee Flyer:

1. Pick from one of four subjects: Beatitudes, Kingdom Parables, Lord's Prayer, Sermon on Mount.
2. Select "easy" or "hard" flying controls.
3. Take off and go study the verses on Mount Hippius.
4. **Fly around Galilee to find the verse-halves and match the correct halves with each other.**
5. As you fly....you can also answer questions about the verses to win bonus points.
6. When you've matched all your verses, zoom back and land on the airfield to get your score.

7. Get your "pilot ranking" (based on how many tries it took you to match the verses), and enter your name on the scoreboard.
8. Then go fly to the Discussion Area, land and discuss the pop-ups, -or play again to try for a higher score.

Kingdom Parables -including Mustard Seed, Pearl of Great Price and Leaven in the Loaf...with an emphasis on teaching "The Kingdom of God." Pop-up windows describe the nature of seed/leaven. Discussion area questions and activities zero-in on being a part of God's Kingdom everyday.

Closing Prayer

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