

# MD KIDS CURRICULUM: LUKE

Week 15: Kingdom of God (from Luke 13:18-30)

## To the Teacher:

I planted two fruit trees in my backyard. This past season, one of them started giving us lemons! Unfortunately, if you've been to my home you know, there are also huge weeds growing around the small trees. In fact, it was difficult to find the trees through the weeds until we finally pulled the weeds out. This is like the kingdom of God, planted into the broken world, and growing in the midst of darkness. Not all will see the kingdom through the weeds of the world. Take time to pray for your kids this week to see God's kingdom in Jesus!

**Big Idea and Missio Basic:** The Kingdom of God has come, but not all will see it.

**Starter Ideas:** You may choose to set up all or some of these activity centers for the children to play with or do as they arrive. Help children with the activities. Kids can stay in one center or travel to more than one.

1. Free Play: Allow the kids to play with the classroom toys. (dolls, basketball, cars, tea party set, dress up, etc)
2. Play dough: Create seeds from the play dough and then create trees or flowers. Remind the kids that flowers and trees come from seeds. They are very small and need to be planted in the ground for them to grow and bloom.
3. Invisible colors: Use the materials provided (plastic bin, muffin tin, food coloring, baking soda, squeeze bottles, vinegar, water.) Put a few drops of food coloring in each muffin tin, cover the food coloring with baking soda. Give each kids a turn using the squirt bottle to squirt the water/vinegar mix over the baking soda. This will create an eruption of color! The color was hidden until you squirted the vinegar mixture. As you do this, talk to the kids about the Kingdom of God and how you cannot always see it at first but it is real.

**Circle Time:** When all the kids have arrived and have had time to participate in at least one center, walk around the room and have each child follow you around the circle until you have a line with everyone in it. Lead them to the circle for prayer time. (Like playing follow the leader.)

**Welcome Song:** (To the tune of "Are You Sleeping?")

**Welcome, [Name]**

**Welcome, [Name]**

**Hear God's Word**

**Hear God's Word**

**We can trust in Jesus.**

**We can trust in Jesus.**

**Welcome, friends.**

**Welcome, friends.**

Repeat until every kid and adult has been welcomed.

**Jesus taught us to share peace. We share peace in a special way by repeating Jesus' special words. Jesus used these words of peace when the disciples were scared. Jesus said, "Peace be with you." We share the peace of Jesus. During worship we can say, "Peace be with you."**

Make sure kids are sitting in a circle on the floor. Kneel down in front of each person/kid and share God's peace by shaking their hand and saying, "Peace be with you." Remember to honor those kids who do not want to be touched! **Let's all say Jesus' words of peace. "Peace be with you."** Repeat a few times before moving on to prayer.

### **Prayer Time:**

**Praying for Others:** Ask the kids if they have anything that they would like to have prayed for. Share requests and then have someone pray for them. Remind the kids to pray for friends throughout the week.

**Praying Together:** *God, we trust that Your kingdom is the best and King Jesus will rule the earth. Help us by Your Spirit to see Your kingdom and to live in it, by loving You and loving others. Amen.*

**Story:** from Luke 13:18-30

[READ]

Jesus continued healing and caring for people. Most people did not understand who Jesus was and what he had come to do, so he also spent a lot of time teaching about God's kingdom. He used stories to help teach.

One time he said, "What is the kingdom of God like? It's kind of like a mustard seed that someone planted in their garden and it grew to become a tree big enough for the birds to make nests in its branches."

And again he said, “What can the kingdom of God be compared to? It’s like yeast mixed in a bunch of flour. You don’t see it until it makes the flour rise.”

*He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, “Lord, will there only be a few saved?” And he said to them, “Many will try to enter the kingdom but will not be able to, because the door to get in is narrow. When the master of the house has shut the door and you’re still outside knocking, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Go away, you who do evil!’ There will be much sadness and destruction, when you see all God’s people from centuries past in the kingdom but you yourselves are not allowed in. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at the table in the kingdom of God. And see, some who are considered last in your world will be made first in the kingdom, and some who are first in your world will be made last.”*

[Reflection]

1. Have you ever planted a seed? Where do you put the seed? Does the seed grow fast or slow? When a seed is planted in the ground, you can’t see what is growing right away, but it is there!
2. What are other things that you cannot always see, but you know are there? (example: wind-you can see it move the branches but you cannot see the wind)
3. Jesus is the **only** way into God’s Kingdom.

**Snack Time: Let’s take a big stretch!** Pause for kids to stretch and get the wiggles out. Clean the table for snack time. Help the kids wash hands together before delving into today’s snack. Sing songs while you wash hands. You can give them each a wipe or a squirt of hand sanitizer. Have the children have a seat at the table. Today’s snack is goldfish or veggie straws. Make sure none of the kids have an allergy to them. Begin passing out the napkins, goldfish or veggie straws, and cups of water.

### **BLESS Activity:**

*\*For kids to do during the week\**

**BLESS:** *Jesus says those who think they are greater than others will be made the least in his kingdom, but those who put others first will be honored by him. Find ways to put others needs before your own this week.*

Optional playground time: If you have extra time please feel free to take the kids to the playground. Please be mindful that preschool playground time does not start until 5:30PM.

**Closing Prayer:**

**Dear God,**

**Thank you for your word, The Bible.**

**Thank you that the Kingdom of God has come and that Jesus is the way to your Kingdom.**

**Thank you God, Jesus and Holy Spirit.**

God takes care of His children.

Luke 12