

## Children's Worship Lesson – July 26, 2020

**Focus Scripture:** Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

**Purpose:** To think about what are our real treasures.

### **An Awesome Adventure: “SEEKERS AFTER JESUS”**

**Clue #1: Where We Find God**

**Clue #2: How Does God Work in Our World**

**Clue #3: Joining God in Creating Shalom**

**Clue #4: Give and You Will Receive**

**Clue #5: Take My Yoke Upon You**

**Clue #6: God’s Spirit Grows in Me**

**Clue #7: Weeds and Wheat Together**

**Clue #8: Glimpses of God’s Realm**



### **Preparation**

Worship Table – green cloth

Pictures for story/activity at the end of the lesson

Mustard seeds, package of dry yeast, 2 dishes

***Lighting the Christ Candle: “We light this candle to remind us that God is always with us.”***

### **Prayer**

Dear God,

We are searchers, looking for clues about you and your love.

Guide us in the adventure of following you and sharing your love.

Amen.

### **Song: (Tune: Spongebob Squarepants Theme Song)**

Ohhhhh, the Kingdom of Heaven, is like mustard seeds,

Can’t wait to see it!

Man planted the seed and it grew to a tree,

Can’t wait to see it!

Started out small then grew large as can be

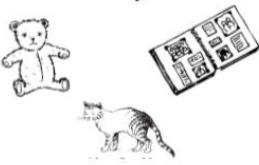
Can’t wait to see it!

The birds came and perched, like in heaven can be

Can’t wait to see it!

Wait to see it!

## Introducing the Theme



Ask the children to imagine that there was some reason like a flood or forest fire or a hurricane happening and that the police were asking everyone to get into their cars to go to a safe place. (Some children may have experienced this already.) Each family can only take 3 things with them.

What do you think your family might take? (You might mention that parents may want to take photo albums - pictures of special times that you have shared.) We call these our “treasures” because they mean a lot to us. Other people might not see them as very special, but we do. They may not cost much money and they may be a little worn, but they are so special to us that they are worth more to us than a treasure chest full of money.

## Exploring the Theme – Bible Story

Each week we have been reading stories in our Bible from a book written by one of Jesus’ disciples who was a tax collector before he became a disciple. Does anyone remember what the book is called? (Book/Gospel of Matthew)

In today’s story from the book of Matthew, Jesus is teaching the disciples what a treasure God’s kingdom of shalom is. Shalom is a Hebrew word that means peace and harmony. When we follow God’s way we help bring peace and harmony to our world and that is a bigger gift to our world than treasure chests full of money.

The disciples wanted to know how they could help this Shalom to grow and spread through all the world. That was a huge job and they were only a small group of people. So Jesus told them some parables - like giving them clues to help them understand.

### Mustard Seeds and Yeast



Bring out the mustard seed and yeast and place them each in a shallow dish. Invite each child to pick up a mustard seed.) Was that hard to do? Why? Mustard seeds are one of the smallest of seeds but listen to what Jesus said to his disciples.

#### **Read Matthew 13:31-32**

***He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and sit on its branches.”*** Jesus wanted his disciples to see that even a very small loving action could have a big result, just like the tiny mustard seed became a big plant.



**(Invite the children to handle some of the yeast)** Do you know what yeast is used for? Jesus had watched his mom make bread when he was growing up and he knew how important yeast was. Listen to what Jesus said to his disciples.

#### **Read Matthew 13:33**

***He told them still another parable. “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about 60 pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”*** Jesus wanted his disciples to see that when they mixed with other people in their town and countryside their love and kindness would touch everyone, their love could cause a whole town to change. It

doesn't matter if you are young or small, God's love can spread and grow through you in surprising ways.

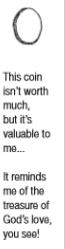
God's love deep inside you is a very special treasure. It is worth more than treasure chests full of gold.

### **Activity or Craft – Coin Bookmark**

**Materials:** glue, scissors, crayons or pencil crayons, nickels, poster board.

Copy bookmark design at end of lesson, one for each child.

Give each child a bookmark and read the words aloud. Have the children decorate the bookmark and glue the nickel onto it. (Mount the bookmark onto cardboard if you do not have cardstock paper)



This coin  
isn't worth  
much,  
but it's  
valuable to  
me...

It reminds  
me of the  
treasure of  
God's love,  
you see!

### **Closing Prayer**

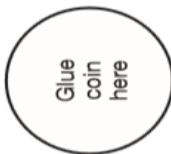
Thank you God for lips to praise you,  
Hands to serve you and hearts to love you!  
Amen.

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