

WEEK 2: The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...

Big Idea: God's kingdom is so much more than we can see.

HANGOUT

1. Discuss: Can you think of a story that teaches an important lesson? (e.g., the tortoise and the hare) What's the lesson in that story?
2. Explain that Jesus often told this kind of a story, called a parable. He used parables to teach people about the mystery of the kingdom of heaven.
3. Discuss: Have you ever wondered what heaven is like? How do you picture it?
4. Let the kids know that they'll get some hints and clues today as we listen to Jesus.

Watch this week's video on the Kids and Youth playlist at youtube.com/themeetinghouse

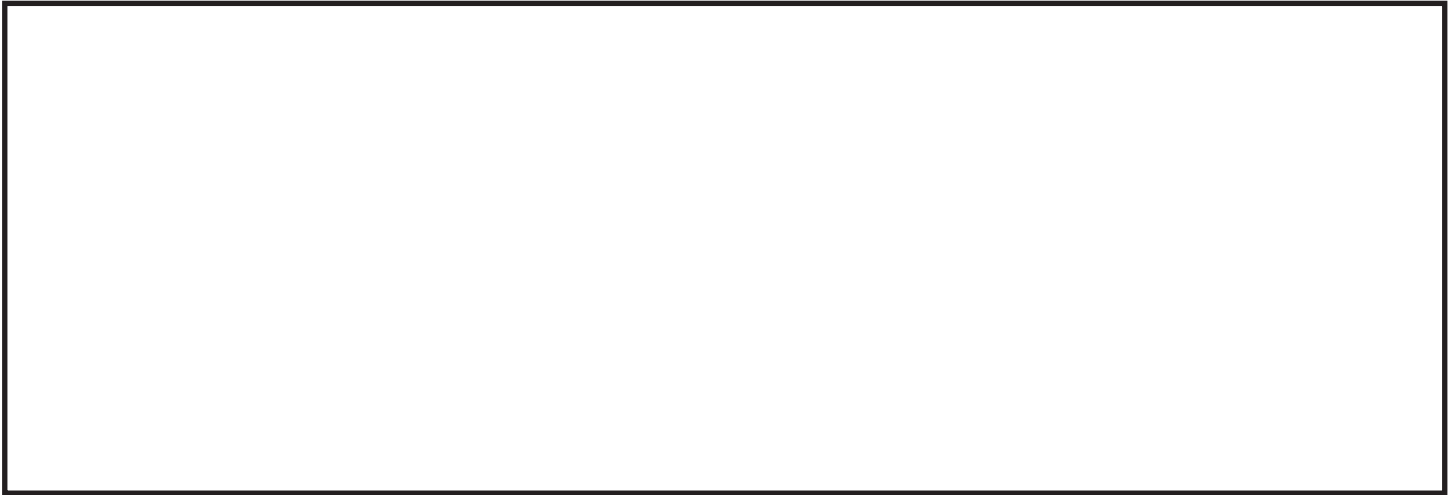
HEAR

5. Look up and read the parable of the growing seed in Mark 4:26-29.
6. Discuss:
 - What does the farmer do in this story?
 - What happens to the seed? Who makes the seed grow?
 - What does this parable teach us about God's kingdom?
7. Read the parable of the mustard seed in Mark 4:30-34.
8. Discuss:
 - What does this parable tell us about mustard seeds?
 - What do you think this shows us about the way God's kingdom is growing?
 - Did you learn anything new about God's kingdom from these parables?

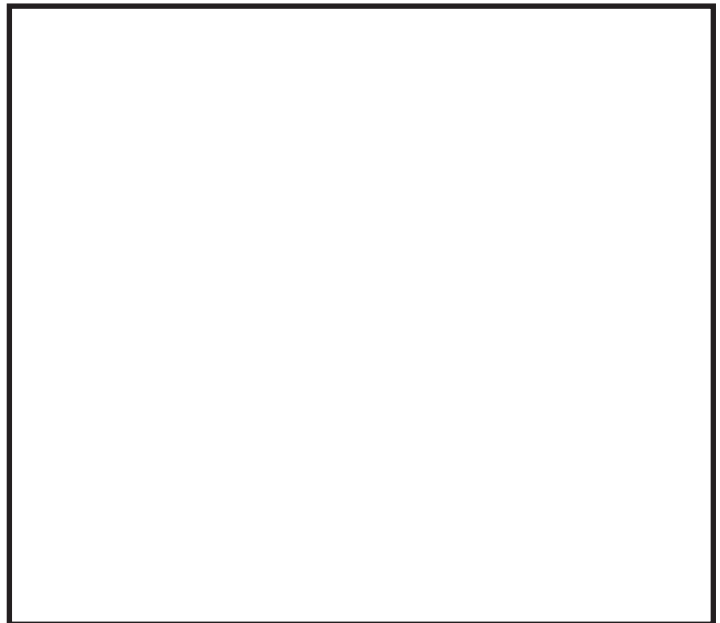
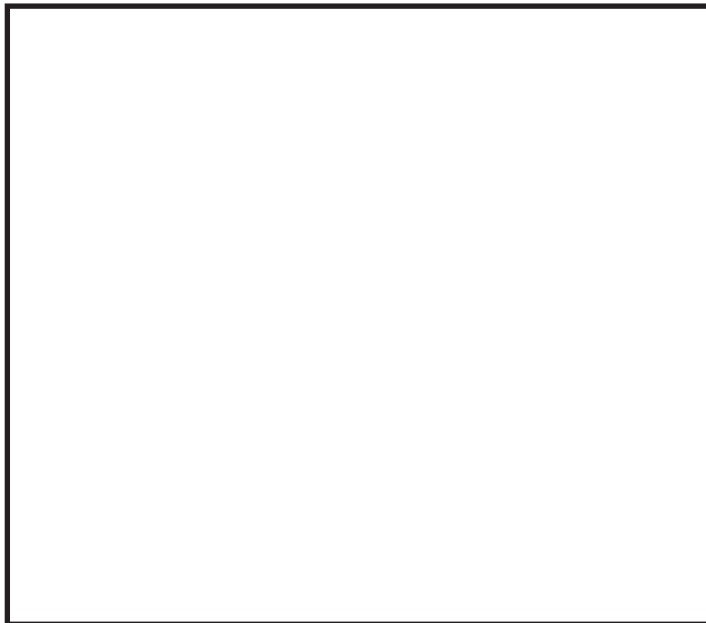
HUDDLE

9. Guide everyone to look up the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6: 9-13).
10. Explain that this is a special prayer Jesus taught his followers to pray about God's kingdom.
11. Encourage the kids to take turns reading each line of the prayer or guide them to echo each line as you read it aloud.
12. Pray a blessing over the kids.

Make a comic for the **Parable of the Growing Seed** (Mark 4:26-29).



Jesus also said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground.



Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens.

All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head.



Before long the grain ripens. So the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready."