

WEEK 3: Kingdom

Big Idea: The good news is Jesus sets up God's kingdom.

HANGOUT

1. In advance, print this week's Big Idea (**The good news is Jesus sets up God's kingdom**) on a piece of paper for each child in your group.
2. Let everyone know that you're going to make good news letters to give to someone special. Ask the children to think about whom they'd like to give theirs to. Give each of them a piece of paper with the Big Idea on it. Provide crayons (and stickers if possible). Encourage everyone to decorate their letter.
3. Read aloud the Big Idea message, pointing to each word as you read. Emphasize that we can share the good news about Jesus with everyone!
4. Give each person an envelope. Help them fold their letters to place them inside. Print the name of the recipient on the front. If possible, help everyone deliver their letters.

HEAR

5. Let the children know that today's story from the Bible tells us that God's kingdom is like a hidden treasure. Jesus sets it up here on earth when we say yes to him!
6. Discuss: What would you do if you found a hidden treasure?
7. Tell the group that you're about to find out what someone who found the treasure of the kingdom of heaven did! Use a children's Bible to read about God's kingdom from Matthew 13.
8. Ask: What did the man do when he discovered the hidden treasure in the field (see Mathew 13:44)? (sold everything so he could buy that field)
9. Emphasize that God's kingdom is so precious, the man wanted it more than anything else!
10. Ask: Who sets up God's kingdom here on earth? (Jesus)
11. Guide everyone to spread out. Prompt the children to give two thumbs up and say, "**The good news is...**" Lead them to point to the ceiling and say, "**Jesus...**" Pretend to build something up with your hands and say, "**sets up...**" Open your arms wide, turn around once, and say, "**God's kingdom!**" Repeat saying this week's Big Idea and doing the actions together a few times.

HUDDLE

12. Explain that Jesus taught his followers a special prayer asking that God's kingdom would come here on earth. It's called the Lord's Prayer. (Optional: Watch some children saying the prayer at <https://youtu.be/wlBK97O4Ae8>.)
13. Demonstrate how to sit in a prayer posture, with closed eyes and folded hands. (It's okay if anyone doesn't want to do this.)
14. Encourage everyone to repeat each line of the Lord's Prayer after you: "Our Father who is in heaven [pause and guide the children to repeat] Holy is your name [repeat]. Let your kingdom come [repeat], let your will be done [repeat] on earth as it is in heaven [repeat]. Give us this day [repeat] our daily bread [repeat] and forgive us our sins [repeat] as we forgive those who sin against us [repeat]. Lead us away from temptation [repeat] and deliver us from our enemy [repeat]. For yours is the kingdom [repeat], the power and the glory [repeat], forever and ever, amen [repeat]!"

