

Parable Of The Mustard Seed

UPPER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: From little beginnings come great things!

Scripture: Mark 4:30-34

Memory Verse: With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? - Mark 4:30

The Children's Sermon

Parables are special stories that Jesus told to help people understand big ideas in a simple way. He used things that people knew about, like seeds and plants, to teach them about God's love and how we can grow in our hearts. Today, we're going to learn about a very special story called the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

In this parable, Jesus talks about a mustard seed. It's one of the tiniest seeds you can find, but when it grows, it turns into a big plant where birds can come and rest. Jesus used this story to show us how something very small can grow into something very big and important.

The mustard seed is like the Kingdom of God that Jesus talks about. It starts small, with Jesus and his few friends, but it grows and grows until it's big enough for everyone in the world. It's a way of showing us that even if we start small, with just a little bit of faith, we can grow into strong and caring people who help spread God's love everywhere.

When Jesus started teaching, he didn't have a lot of followers. But he didn't give up. He kept sharing his message of love and kindness. Slowly, more and more people started listening to him, and the group of followers grew bigger and bigger. Today, there are millions of people all over the world who follow Jesus and his teachings.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed also teaches us about hope and faith. Even when we feel small or think that what we do doesn't matter, Jesus tells us that's not true. Just like the tiny mustard seed can grow into a big tree, the small good things we do can grow into big changes in the world.

We can be like the mustard seed in our own lives too. When we are kind to others, when we help our friends, or when we share what we have, we are planting seeds of love and kindness. And just like the mustard seed, these small acts of kindness can grow and spread, making the world a better place.

It's important to remember that growing takes time. Just like a plant doesn't grow overnight, becoming the best version of ourselves takes time too. We need to be patient and keep doing good things, even when it seems like nothing is changing. God sees our efforts and will help our "seeds" grow.

Now, let's think about how we can be like the mustard seed in our daily lives. Maybe we can share our toys with someone who doesn't have any, or we can help our parents without being asked. Every good thing we do, no matter how small, is like planting a seed of kindness.

So, let's take the lesson of the Parable of the Mustard Seed to heart. Let's be patient and keep doing small things with great love. And always remember, Jesus loves us and

wants us to grow in love and kindness. He's with us, helping our "seeds" of faith and goodness grow every day. Let's spread kindness and love wherever we go, just like the mustard seed spreads its branches for the birds.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed teaches us about faith, hope, and love. It shows us that no matter how small we start, we can grow into something great. Let's carry this message in our hearts and share it with others through our words and actions. Let's be like the mustard seed, growing and spreading God's love everywhere we go.

PRAY: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? - Mark 4:30

You Will Need:

- Several packets of mustard seeds
- Small pots or cups
- Potting soil
- Watering cans or cups
- Labels and markers

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials and set them up on a table where children can easily access them.

-Write the memory verse on a large piece of paper or a whiteboard where everyone can see it.

Do This:

1. Start by discussing the memory verse and what a parable is. Explain how Jesus used simple stories to teach deep spiritual truths.
2. Give each child a small pot or cup, and have them fill it with potting soil. Then, have them plant a few mustard seeds in their pot.
3. While they are planting, talk about how the kingdom of God starts small like the mustard seed but grows into something great. Have them label their pots with their name and the memory verse.
4. Encourage the children to take their pots home, water them, and watch them grow as a reminder of how they can grow in their faith and how the kingdom of God grows.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small mustard seeds
- Potting soil
- Small pots or biodegradable cups
- Watering cans or cups for water
- Markers and stickers for decorating the pots
- Bible or printed scripture from Mark 4:30-34

Get Ready:

- Set up a table with the pots, soil, seeds, and decorating materials.
- Have another table or space ready with watering cans or cups filled with water.
- Print out or have the scripture Mark 4:30-34 available for reading.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Mark 4:30-34 together, discussing the meaning of the parable of the mustard seed. Emphasize how something so small can grow into the greatest of all garden plants.
2. Have each child decorate their pot with markers and stickers, encouraging them to think of what small but significant thing they can start or grow in their lives that could make a big difference.
3. Fill the pots with soil. Let each child plant a mustard seed in their pot, cover it with soil, and water it. As they do this, encourage them to think about the growth process, both of the plant and the personal growth or impact they can have.
4. Conclude with a group prayer, asking for God's help in nurturing these small beginnings into great things, just like the mustard seed grows into a large plant. Encourage them to take their pots home, care for their plant, and remember the lesson of the mustard seed.

Snack Activity: Mustard Seed Gardens

You'll Need:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Oreo cookies (crushed)
- Gummy worms
- Mustard seeds
- Small plastic spoons
- Napkins

Get Ready: Prepare a small area where each child can work. Have the chocolate pudding cups opened and ready, along with bowls of crushed Oreo cookies and gummy worms. Place mustard seeds in a small bowl so each child can easily take a few.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that the mustard seed represents the Kingdom of God, which starts very small but grows into something great, just like in Mark 4:30-34. Each child will create their own 'garden' to represent this growth.
2. Have each child take a chocolate pudding cup. This cup represents the soil. They should then sprinkle the top with crushed Oreo cookies to represent the dirt on top of the soil.
3. Next, they will place a few mustard seeds on top of the 'dirt'. Explain that these tiny seeds can grow into something much larger, just like our faith and the Kingdom of God.
4. Finally, let them add a gummy worm to their garden. This adds a fun element but also can represent the life and growth within the Kingdom.
5. As they enjoy their edible snack, remind them that from little beginnings come great things, and even though we might start small, with faith and God's help, we can grow into something amazing.

Game Activity: Mustard Seed Relay

You'll Need:

- A packet of mustard seeds
- Small pots or cups filled with soil
- Spoons
- A start and finish line marked at a distance

Get Ready: Mark a start and finish line in your play area. Place the small pots or cups filled with soil at the finish line. Divide the children into teams and give each team a spoon and a few mustard seeds.

Do this:

1. At the start signal, the first player from each team takes a mustard seed, places it on their spoon, and races to the finish line without dropping the seed. If the seed falls, they must start over from the beginning.
2. Once at the finish line, they must carefully plant the seed in one of the pots or cups and race back to tag the next player in line.
3. The relay continues until all team members have successfully planted a seed. The first team to finish wins.

The activity emphasizes the parable of the mustard seed from Mark 4:30-34, illustrating how something small and seemingly insignificant can grow into something great, just like our faith and actions in life.

Craft Activity: Mustard Seed Faith Garden

You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Potting soil
- Mustard seeds
- Water
- Markers and stickers for decorating the pots
- A printout of Mark 4:30-34

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table, making sure there are enough pots, soil, seeds, and decorating supplies for each child. Print out the scripture Mark 4:30-34 for each child to have their own copy.

Do this:

1. Start by discussing Mark 4:30-34, focusing on how the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which starts small but grows into something great. Ask the children what small acts of faith they can do that might grow into something bigger.
2. Have each child decorate their pot with markers and stickers, encouraging them to draw or write something that represents their faith or a small act of kindness they can do.
3. Fill the pots halfway with potting soil, then have each child plant a few mustard seeds in their pot. Cover the seeds with a thin layer of soil and water lightly. As they plant, remind them that from small beginnings come great things, just like their faith can grow.
4. Conclude by having each child read their scripture printout aloud, reinforcing the lesson. Encourage them to take their mustard seed faith garden home, care for it, and watch it grow as a reminder of how their faith and acts of kindness can grow into something great.

Prayer Activity: From Little Seeds to Mighty Prayers

You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Soil
- Mustard seeds
- Markers and stickers for decorating pots
- Watering cans or cups

Get Ready: Gather all materials on a large table, making sure there are enough pots, soil, mustard seeds, markers, and stickers for each child. Prepare a reading area where you can comfortably read Mark 4:30-34 to the children.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Mark 4:30-34 to the children, emphasizing the parable of the mustard seed and how it grows from the smallest of seeds into the greatest of all plants. Discuss the concept of 'From little beginnings come great things!' and how this can apply to their faith and prayers.
2. Have each child take a pot and decorate it with markers and stickers, encouraging them to write their favorite verse from the Scripture or something they learned today.
3. Once the pots are decorated, help the children fill their pots with soil and plant a few mustard seeds in each. As they plant their seeds, encourage them to think of a small prayer or wish for growth in their faith, similar to how the mustard seed grows. They can silently say this prayer as they plant.
4. Conclude the activity by discussing the importance of patience, care, and faith as they wait for their mustard seeds to grow, drawing a parallel to how small acts of faith and prayer can lead to great things in their lives. Remind them to water their seeds regularly and watch them grow, just as they should nurture their faith.