



## PHUMC Sunday School lessons for Preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

### January 31, 2021 – God’s Kingdom (Luke 13:18-21)

#### Prepare to Wonder

#### Faith Word: Include

Jesus told many stories when he was teaching his disciples. Many times the stories were parables, a simple story told to teach a lesson. Jesus used the parable form of storytelling to teach spiritual lessons. The story this week is a parable told by Jesus about how God’s kingdom grows. He compares God’s kingdom to two very tiny things – one is a very tiny mustard seed, and the other is a tiny but if fungus called yeast. The mustard seed can grow into a plant eight to nine feet tall and wide enough to look like a bush. A small amount of yeast when placed in flour, under right circumstances, will multiply and change the entire makeup of the flour.

Sometimes we imagine the kingdom of God as being a place and time in the future. Jesus said God’s kingdom was here on earth, right now. Jesus encouraged his friends then and us now to make sure that we are working to bring about God’s kingdom today. Anywhere the followers of Jesus are doing God’s work and living as God wants them to live, the kingdom of God is present.

Jesus used the parable of the mustard seed and the yeast to emphasize that small beginnings can turn into huge results. From one small start, God’s kingdom becomes a force for good. When we follow Jesus’ teachings and live the way God wants us to live, great and amazing things will happen. What began with a handful of people following Jesus now has so many followers, it is hard to count. We can change the world into God’s kingdom, one small act at a time.

### Wonder with Me

#### READ the Bible Story

- Calling the Disciples, from Luke 13:18-21 (*Read from your Bible, see the verses listed below, or see one of the following pages for a picture of the Celebrate Wonder version.*)

<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus asked, “What is the kingdom of God like? What shall I compare it to? <sup>19</sup> It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his garden. It grew and became a tree, and the birds perched in its branches.”

<sup>20</sup> Again he asked, “What shall I compare the kingdom of God to? <sup>21</sup> It is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds<sup>a</sup> of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

## **WATCH the Bible Story**

- <https://youtu.be/Xuh5iHcrlN0>

## **SHARE the Faith Word**

Faith Word: Include – It means to welcome all God’s children in God’s love.

Our story today is an example of how Jesus sought to include all people in God’s community.

## **WONDER Together:**

1. What is God’s kingdom like?
2. What can you do to help make God’s kingdom grow?
3. Does including others help God’s kingdom grow?

## **Spiritual Practice**

- **Share the Celebrate Wonder Family Activity Book together** (page 20 & 21). On page 21 you will find the suggested Spiritual Practice activity for the week.

**A mustard seed takes a long time to grow into a big bush or tree. Since you can’t watch a mustard seed grow, use your imagination.**

**Close your eyes and imagine a small seed in the palm of your hand. Imagine it grows bigger and bigger, until you can’t hold it anymore. Imagine you are nestled on the limb of a big tree. Friends have filled the other branches.**

**When you see a tree, remember it started from a small seed.**

**No one is too little or too young to grow God’s kingdom.**

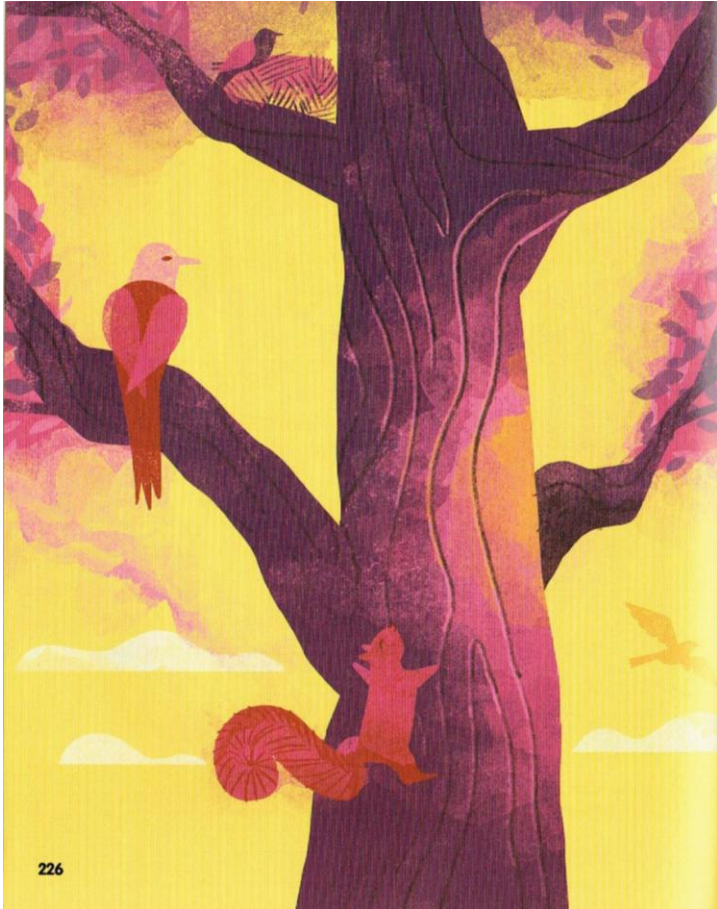
## **Go in Peace**

**Blessing:** Touch your child and say: **“Blessed are those who include everyone in God’s community.”**

**Prayer:** **God help me be like a small seed that sprouts, and use my small acts of kindness to help grow Your Kingdom. Amen.**

## **Additional Activity for each age group**

Select the material toward the end of the lesson that is age appropriate for your child(ren)



## God's Kingdom

Luke 13:18-21

Jesus asked, "What is God's kingdom like? What can I compare God's kingdom to? God's kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed that someone planted in a garden. The mustard seed grew and grew, and became a tree. It got so big that birds nested in its branches."

Jesus continued, "God's kingdom is like yeast that a woman hid in lots of flour. The yeast made all of the flour grow into enough raised dough to feed many, many people."

**I wonder:** What do you think God's kingdom is like?

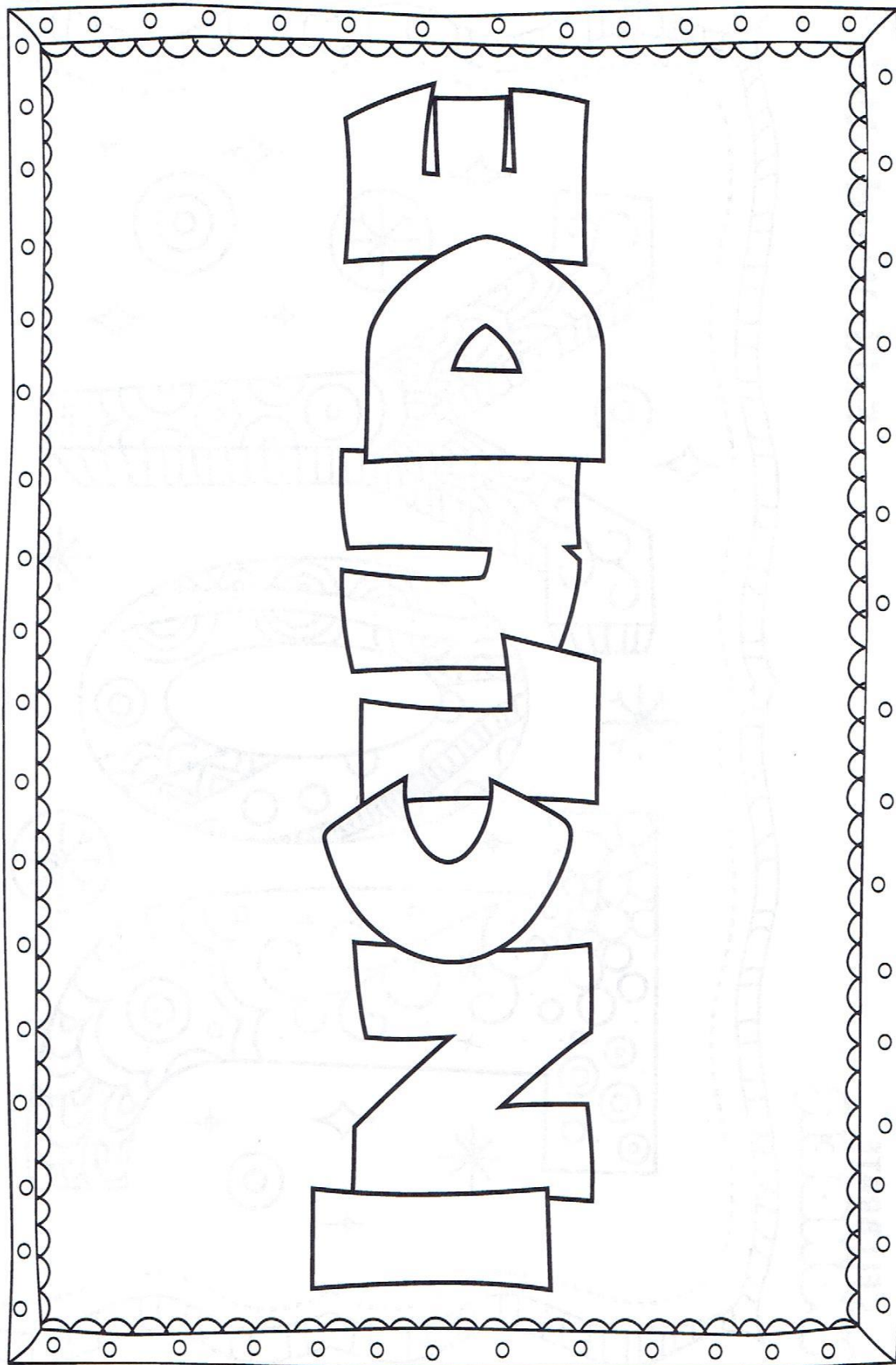




# Color Sheet for all



## Faith Word—Unit 2



# Preschool Activity

## Helping God's Kingdom Grow (Art)

**Supplies:** printed copy of the Pre-School activity sheet and color crayons

Have your children color their sheet and as they work on their page remind them that God's kingdom is like a seed that needs love and care. As it is watered and gets sunshine and is cared for it grows. As we love and care for others, God's kingdom will also grow! Ask your child what are some things they can do to love and care for others.



God's kingdom is like a mustard seed – with love and care it grows and grows and grows.  
How can I help God's kingdom grow and grow and grow?

# Early Elementary Activity Celebration Chart

**Supplies:** copy of the Early Elementary Activity sheet below

**SAY:** Give your child(ren) a copy of the Celebration Chart (see page below). Discuss and read each square. Put where everyone can see it and encourage your children to participate by doing the activities on the sheet all week.



## Celebration Chart

Place the chart on your refrigerator, kitchen table, or in an easy-to-access place. Throughout the week, have your child mark a space each time he or she completes an item on the chart. When a vertical, horizontal, or diagonal line is completed, celebrate together!

CELEBRATE				
Felt hope	Felt love	Felt joy	Felt peace	Celebrated Jesus' birthday
Accepted a new responsibility	Sang a happy song	Acted on my faith	Shared good news	Gave a gift
Participated in a faith community	Told someone God loves them	Free Celebration!	Showed someone love	Told someone about Jesus
Said the Lord's Prayer	Spent time with my Bible	Wondered about a Bible story	Talked about a Bible story	Asked for guidance
Forgave someone	Made up for a mistake	Was brave at a tough time	Was a good listener	Welcomed someone



# Older Elementary Activity Celebration Chart

**Supplies:** copy of the Older Elementary Activity sheet above

**SAY:** Give your child(ren) a copy of the Celebration Chart (see page above). Discuss and read each square. Put where everyone can see it and encourage your children to participate by doing the activities on the sheet all week.

# Word Search Puzzle

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ #: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the word bank below to help you look for hidden words in the word search below. The words may be found up-and-down, side-to-side, or diagonal.

M	F	X	F	H	Z	N	A	P	A	R	A	B	L	E
R	U	C	A	T	T	Y	N	G	N	D	X	B	E	Q
H	C	S	Q	V	I	K	I	N	D	O	M	V	S	A
L	M	W	T	T	O	I	E	T	V	A	H	L	T	S
A	N	E	I	A	H	N	C	G	O	S	P	E	L	V
C	E	A	N	S	R	G	V	K	I	A	Q	B	C	D
B	W	D	Y	M	E	D	X	A	W	D	F	Z	Z	I
E	T	D	G	O	P	O	S	T	E	A	C	H	X	S
L	E	L	B	V	U	M	P	S	A	E	C	N	H	C
I	S	C	X	I	M	O	T	H	W		S	T	R	I
E	T	M	M	B	U	S	Q	L	U	K	E	N	P	P
V	A	E	A	S	H	M	R	E	S	I	E	O	U	L
E	M	Q	T	R	D	S	I	A	G	O	D	L	T	E
K	E	L	T	O	K	Z	Y	N	Q	U	E	N	F	S
D	N	E	H	N	Q	E	U	N	T	T	D	O	G	T
C	T	D	E	B	T	M	I	B	H	G	R	O	W	S
V	T	R	W	T	W	A	L	T	O	P	L	E	U	N
O	A	B	L	W	F	A	I	T	H	R	E	I	E	T

### Word Bank

MUSTARD  
GOD  
SEED  
FAITH

MARK  
GROW  
PARABLE  
KINGDOM

DISCIPLES  
GOSPEL  
MATTHEW  
BELIEVE

TINY  
LUKE  
TREE  
TEACH

NEW TESTAMENT

