

Week 40 | October 4, 2026

THIS WEEK'S LESSON AT A GLANCE

Lesson Title: Jesus Teaches About God's Kingdom

Bible Passage: Matthew 13:1-23, 31-33, 44-46

Big Idea: Jesus is the King, and His Kingdom is worth more than anything else.

MEMORY VERSE

"Whoever has ears, let them hear." Matthew 13:9

What this means for your child: Jesus was talking about more than hearing sounds. He was inviting people to listen carefully to God's Word, receive what He says, and trust Him. A simple way to practice this at home is to say the verse together and ask, "What does it look like to really listen to Jesus?"

TODAY YOUR CHILD LEARNED

Jesus taught people about God's Kingdom by using parables, which are simple pictures or accounts that teach an important truth.

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus described seed falling on different kinds of soil. He explained that the seed represented the message about God's Kingdom, while the different soils showed the different ways people respond when they hear God's Word.

Jesus also compared God's Kingdom to a tiny mustard seed that grows much larger than it first appears. He was showing that God can begin something in a way that seems small while His purposes are much greater than we can see.

Finally, Jesus compared the Kingdom to hidden treasure and a very valuable pearl. His point was not that salvation can be bought. He was showing that knowing Jesus and belonging to His Kingdom are worth more than anything else we could possess.

WHY THIS LESSON MATTERS

Children sometimes hear the words "Kingdom of heaven" and think only about going to heaven after they die. Jesus teaches something larger. God's Kingdom is about God's rule, and Jesus is the King.

Jesus did not simply come to teach people how to behave better. We have all sinned, and we cannot save ourselves by trying harder. Jesus is God the Son who lived without sin, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Those who turn from sin and trust Him are forgiven and receive new life.

As Jesus works in us through the Holy Spirit, our lives begin to change. Those changes do not earn salvation. They are signs that God is working in us.

DEFENDING THE TRUTH AT HOME

A question children may ask: "Jesus said the mustard seed was very small, but aren't there smaller seeds?"

A simple answer: Yes, there are smaller seeds in the world. Jesus was not giving a scientific list of every seed on earth. He was speaking to people who knew mustard seeds as a familiar example of something very small, and He used that picture to show how something that begins small can grow much larger.

This is a good opportunity to teach your child that Christians do not need to be afraid of honest questions. We can ask what the Bible really says, look carefully at what we know, and admit when Scripture does not give us every detail.

TALK ABOUT IT AT HOME

1. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Whoever has ears, let them hear"? Suggested answer: He meant that we should do more than hear words. We should listen carefully to God and receive His truth.
2. What does God's Kingdom mean? Suggested answer: God's Kingdom means God's rule. Jesus is the King.
3. Why did Jesus talk about treasure and a valuable pearl? Suggested answer: He wanted people to understand that knowing Him and belonging to His Kingdom are worth more than anything else.
4. Can being good enough earn us a place in God's Kingdom? Suggested answer: No. We cannot save ourselves. Jesus died for our sins and rose again, and we are forgiven when we turn from sin and trust Him.
5. What is one small way we can follow Jesus this week? Suggested answers might include telling the truth, apologizing when we are wrong, praying when we are worried, showing kindness, or reading Scripture together.

TRY THIS AS A FAMILY

If you have a small seed at home, place it in your child's hand and look at it together. Talk about how something very small can become much larger than it first appears. Then ask each person to name one small way they can faithfully follow Jesus this week. Remind your child that small acts of obedience do not earn God's love. We obey because Jesus has loved us, saved us, and is our King.

PRAYER TO PRAY TOGETHER

Father, thank You for sending Jesus, our Savior and King. Help us listen when You speak through Your Word. Forgive us for our sins and help us trust Jesus instead of trying to save ourselves. Holy Spirit, help us understand God's truth and grow to become more like Jesus. When we are worried or afraid, remind us that Jesus is alive, He is King, and He will come again. Amen.

A FINAL THOUGHT FOR PARENTS

Your child does not need you to have every Bible answer. One of the most valuable things you can show them is how to open Scripture, ask honest questions, admit when you do not know something, and keep looking toward Jesus.

This week, the truth is wonderfully simple: Jesus is the King, and His Kingdom is worth more than anything else.