

4th and 5th Grade

WEEK 1 - STARTER



Activity Name: Make Space Challenge

What You Need: ☐ Floor Tape

☐ (Optional) Random Assorted Items from the Room (books, backpacks, etc.)

What You Do:

Before the Activity:

- Use floor tape to create a large square on the floor (about 2 x 2 feet).

During the Activity:

- Greet each kid by name with a fist bump, high-five, smile, or wave as they arrive.
- Invite any kids who brought an offering to place it in the offering container.
- Challenge the group to see how many people they can fit inside the square at one time. They can stand, sit, or get creative, but everyone's whole body must be inside the lines.
- After they set their first record, challenge them to do it more quickly the next time.
- Then, play again, but this time see how many things they can fit in the square along with themselves (shoes, backpacks, Bibles, etc.).

What You Say:

Great teamwork! It's amazing how much you can fit into a space when you plan it out. We have to be intentional about what we make space for in our lives too.

When Jesus taught, He often used parables. A parable is a short story using everyday objects and situations to help explain something about God and His kingdom. A parable makes you think and feel. It helps you understand something true for yourself instead of just repeating what someone else told you. Today, we're going to hear a story Jesus told to teach us about making space in our hearts for something really important. Let's go hear this parable Jesus taught!

Lead your group to the Large Group area.



Bible Story: The Story of the Farmer • *Matthew 13:1-23*

Bottom Line: God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Conversation Starter: What are you going to do with what you've heard?

Monthly Memory Verse: *God's kingdom is not about eating or drinking. It is about doing what is right and having peace and joy. All this comes through the Holy Spirit.* • Romans 14:17 NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why do you think Jesus used a story about farming instead of just explaining about God's kingdom plainly?
- What do the seeds represent in this story?
- What does it mean that the good soil produced 30, 60, or 100 times more?
- What are you going to do with what you've heard?

Activity Name: The Word Order Game

What You Need: ☐ Bible ☐ "The Word Order Game" Activity Page ☐ Paper ☐ Writing Supplies

What You Do:

- Open the Bible to Matthew 13:1-23 and review the story of the farmer.
- Share these main ideas:
 - Jesus was teaching about God's kingdom, and He told a parable about a farmer.
 - The farmer scattered seed on the ground.
 - The seed fell in four different types of soil.
 - Only the seed that landed in good soil grew well.
 - The seed in good soil produced a huge harvest.
 - Jesus used this story to show that when people hear God's message about His kingdom and understand it, their lives produce much more than what was planted.
- Invite kids to unscramble the words in each line to create sentences from the Bible Story.

(Help quieter kids participate by partnering them with a supportive friend.)

What You Say:

Nice work! You put the sentences together perfectly. It's a simple parable, but Jesus used it to teach a huge truth. It's not just hearing God's Word that matters. What we do with it after we hear it changes everything.

Matthew 13:23 says, *"But the seed that fell on good soil is like those who hear the message and understand it. They produce a crop 100, 60 or 30 times more than the farmer planted."*

People with soft hearts hear God's words. They read what God says in the Bible. They listen to the Holy Spirit. They talk to God about what they hear. They ask God for help. Over time, people with soft hearts become more and more like Jesus through the help of God's Spirit living inside them.

Jesus explained that some people have hardened their hearts to the truth. They won't accept it, even when they hear it. But other people have soft hearts that are ready to hear and follow God.

This parable helps us understand an important truth about God's kingdom:

God's kingdom grows when you hear and do what He says.

Close in prayer/Invite kids to pray.