

CITY SG – June 6th- 7th, 2026

Bible Story: What Is God's Kingdom? The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast •
Matthew 13:31-34

Bottom Line: Jesus shows us God's kingdom.

Monthly Memory Verse: *"May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven."* • Matthew 6:10 NIV

PRE- SERVICE ACTIVITY

What You Need: "Hello Summer" Activity Sheet, (one per kid), Markers

What You Do:

- 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.
- Give each kid a Hello Summer activity sheet and coloring supplies.
- As they complete the sheet, talk to them about their weeks and their favorite part of summer!

SMALL GROUP TIME

1. Pass the Mustard Seed

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Small bowl (one per group), jar of mustard seeds, plastic spoons

What You Do:

- Open your Bible to Matthew 13:31-34 and show the kids where today's Bible Story can be found.
- Say:
 - "Jesus told the people listening: *'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed. Someone took the seed and planted it in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds. But when it grows, it is the largest of all garden plants. It becomes a tree. Birds come and rest in its branches.'*
 - While most herb plants stay pretty small, under the right conditions, a mustard seed can grow into a plant so big, it's the size of a tree! It's an amazing picture: Something so small you can barely see it grows up into a leafy, branching tree that provides rest and shelter.
 - In other words, God's kingdom may start small, but it grows and grows."
- Pour several mustard seeds into the bowl.
- Invite the kids to sit in a close circle.
- Show kids a single, tiny seed by holding it on your finger. Talk about how small it is.
- Explain that Jesus said God's kingdom starts small, like this seed, but grows into something big and amazing!
- Give each kid a plastic spoon.
- Place one seed on the first kid's spoon.

- Challenge the kids to carefully pass the seed from their spoon to the next person's spoon without it falling.
- See if the group can pass the seed all the way around the circle.

Say: “Great job! That was tricky, but you did it! It’s amazing that something so tiny can grow to be something so big. God’s kingdom started small, but it grew into something big as more people began to follow Jesus and start their forever friendship with Him.”

2. Prayer Activity

What You Need: Paper cut into 1-inch strips (one per kid), Markers, Tape

What You Do:

- Give each kid a strip of paper and ask them to write or draw one way they can show God’s love.
- Take one kid’s strip, form it into a circle, and tape it closed.
- Take the next kid’s strip and loop it through the first circle before taping it, starting a chain.
- Continue adding each kid’s strip to create a long paper prayer chain.

Say: “Look how our small circles are making one big, long chain! Our prayers are like this. Each one is small, but when we pray together, they make something big and beautiful. We can do small things every single day to point to God’s kingdom wherever we go. Let’s pray and ask God to help us share His love this week.”

3. Build God’s Kingdom

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Build God’s Kingdom” Activity Page (one per kid), Markers

What You Do:

- Depending on the age/ability of your group, you can either:
 - Give each child a Bible and look up the memory verse together.
 - Read the memory verse to the group.
 - *“May your kingdom come. May what you want to happen be done on earth as it is done in heaven.” • Matthew 6:10 NIV*
- Repeat the Memory Verse out loud together several times.
- Explain that when we pray this verse, we are asking God to help earth look more like God’s kingdom.
- Ask: “What are some attributes of God? What is God like?” (*If the kids are stuck, you can share that God is loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, kind, and just.*)
- Say: God’s kingdom is where He reigns as King! It’s where all of those attributes—His love, joy, peace, kindness, and justice—are the way things operate because He is the King. And that’s what we want to come more on earth!
- Give each kid a “Build God’s Kingdom” Activity Page, and set out the markers.
- Encourage kids to draw the most amazing tower or castle.
- As kids draw, repeat the Memory Verse.

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- "Dear God, thank You for Jesus. Thank You that Jesus shows us God's kingdom. Help us to point to Your kingdom this week wherever we go. May Your kingdom come. We love You, God, and we pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive, ask the kids to say one act of kindness they can do this week!