

8

Kingdom Time

Grace
We allow God to transform us.

POWER TEXT

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 13:31-33
- *Christ's Object Lessons*, chap. 5, pp. 76-79; chap. 7, pp. 95-102
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 84-87
- Student story on page 92 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 11, Growing in Christ
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 3, The Father

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that God's love grows in our lives.
- **Feel** excited about the great things God has begun in their lives.
- **Respond** by letting God's love fill their lives.

POWERPOINT

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

The parables of the yeast and of the mustard seed are both intended to teach that although the work of grace in the heart begins small, God nurtures its growth until it fills our life. Thus the kingdom of God grows within from small beginnings until the love of God fills the life.

This is a lesson about grace.

God starts and finishes His work in us by His grace. None of the work is ours. As the soil receives the mustard seed and the flour receives the yeast, we can only receive His grace through faith and allow it to change us.

Teacher Enrichment

"The germ in the seed grows by the unfolding of the life-principle which God has implanted. Its development depends upon no human power. So it is with the kingdom of Christ" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 77).

"Among the Jews leaven was sometimes used as an emblem of sin. . . . But in the Saviour's parable, leaven is used to represent the kingdom of heaven. It illustrates the quickening, assimilating power of the grace of God. . . .

". . . The leaven—something wholly from without—must be put into the meal before the desired change can be wrought. . . . So the grace of God must be received by the sinner. . . .

"As the leaven, when mingled with the meal, works from within outward, so it is by the renewing of the heart that the grace of God works to transform the life" (*ibid.*, pp. 95-97).

How is God's love growing in you? In what area do you feel "filled" with His love?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson. Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the readiness activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness Activities	10-15	*A. Yeast Power**	Bibles, measuring cup and spoon, yeast, warm water, sugar, flour, plastic bag, towel, other ingredients for bread
		B. Food for Thought	*ingredients from Activity A's bread recipe; small, sealable plastic bags; loaf of bread; fig preserves or honey (optional)
* Prayer and Praise	15-20	See page 87. Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, flowerpot/watering pot/basket, seed-shaped pieces of paper, pens/pencils, flowerpot/box (different from the one used for the offering)
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	five copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 155)
		Experiencing the Story*	Bibles, mustard seed, dry yeast
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*Where's the Yeast?*	
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Hide the Word**	pens/pencils, cards, OR small loaves of bread/slices of bread, bags, twist ties, tape
* Closing		Prayer and Closing Comments Reminder to Parents Coming Up Next Week	

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:

- ☐ measuring cup, spoon
- ☐ yeast
- ☐ water (warm)
- ☐ sugar
- ☐ flour
- ☐ plastic bag
- ☐ towel
- ☐ other ingredients for bread
- ☐ Bibles

Yeast Power*

Thirty minutes before class, using a glass measuring cup, mix one package of yeast with a half cup of warm water, 1 tablespoon of sugar, and 1 tablespoon of flour. Wrap the cup in a plastic bag and again in a warm towel. Keep it in a warm place until needed.

Show the students the ingredients needed to make bread. Pass the ingredients around for the students to see, smell, and touch. In front of the class, mix one package of yeast with a half cup of warm water, 1 tablespoon of sugar, and 1 tablespoon of flour in a glass measuring cup. Show the mixture you prepared earlier. They will see how the mixture bubbles and rises in the cup. Explain that the bubbles are produced as the yeast grows in the sugar mixture.

Debriefing

Read Matthew 13:33. **How is God's love like yeast?**

Our power text reminds us that it is Jesus who completes the good work that He began in us. Let's say the power text together,

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

Let's say the power point together,

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

B

YOU NEED:

- ☐ ingredients from Activity A's bread recipe
- ☐ loaf of bread
- ☐ fig preserves OR honey (optional)
- ☐ small, sealable plastic bags

Food for Thought*

Use the ingredients from Activity A. After the dough is mixed, before it is ready to knead, place it in plastic bags, one lump of dough in one plastic bag for each person. Have the students squeeze the dough inside the plastic bag for several minutes. Say: **Many people make bread by getting the yeast started, adding it to the flour, and kneading the whole until the yeast mixture is spread evenly throughout. Kneading the bread helps the gluten in the flour to become elastic so that it traps the bubbles of air in the dough. This is what makes the dough rise.** Cut some of the newly mixed dough. **Notice how smooth it is; this indicates an absence of air.** Cut a baked loaf of bread and pass around slices of it so everyone can see the fine air holes throughout. Serve it with preserves or honey.

Debriefing

From the story for this week what have you learned about yeast and bread? What does the yeast represent? (God's love, grace, God's kingdom) **What in this illustration represents you and me?** (the dough) **Let's say the power text together:**

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

What does this verse say to us? (God will make His love grow in us.) **God promises that He will complete the work that He has started. We just need to be open to receive His grace every day.**

The power point reminds us that

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

Prayer and Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors.

Suggested Songs

"He's Able" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 100)
"Oh, Fill It Up" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 135)
"It's About Grace" (see music on page 152)

Mission

YOU NEED:
- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins

Use *Adventist Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Offering

YOU NEED:
- ☐ flowerpot/watering pot/basket

Say: **Now it's our opportunity. Our offerings contribute to the many missions that support the growth of God's kingdom in new places around the world.**

Prayer

YOU NEED:
- ☐ seed-shaped paper
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ flowerpot/box

Add prayer requests to the flower box or container used last week. Take time to report prayer answers.

Gather everyone in a circle. Do a continuous prayer with everyone saying only one word to add to a sentence until the whole class has contributed. Go around the circle a couple times until the prayer seems complete. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ five scripts (p. 155)

Introducing the Bible Story

***The* Net Kids**

(Note: The *Net Kids* are an imaginative way to introduce the Bible story. If you prefer not to use this imaginary element, read over the script yourself and introduce the lesson concept in your own words.)

(Refer to Lesson 2 for background and setup information.) Make the appropriate number of copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 155 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity.

Present the skit.

Debriefing

Ask: **Can you think of anything else that in a small amount makes a big difference?** (salt in food; candlelight in a dark room)

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ mustard seed
- ☐ dry yeast

*Experiencing the Story

Pass around the mustard seed and dry yeast. Let everyone look at, touch, and smell them. Ask if anyone has seen or used either of them and what they know about them. Have the students read Matthew 13:31-33.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why do you think Jesus used the word "your" when talking about the mustard seed?** (He wanted to be clear. The mustard seed isn't the smallest seed; the orchid [a flower] seed is smaller.) **What do you think the birds symbolize in the parable of the mustard seed?** (The kingdom being open to everyone; there's rest in the kingdom for everyone.) **What do the elements in the two parables** (mustard seed and yeast) **have in common?** (They're both common, everyday items of which you need only a small amount to make a dramatic difference; they both signify that even though the kingdom seems to have a small beginning, it will eventually affect the whole world; they are things ordinary people of that time, who could not read, could relate to.)

Say: **Instead of mustard seed and yeast, what do you think Jesus would use if He told the same parable today? Let's say together the power text, Philippians 1:4-6:**

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

Ask: **What is the most important thing we must remember about the change that takes place within us?** (God provides the power.) **What is this week's power point?**

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:

- Bibles

Exploring the Bible

Have the students find and read Daniel 4:19-22.

Ask: **How is this passage related to the mustard seed parable?** (King Nebuchadnezzar's greatness and power had grown from something small to something great like the mustard seed in the parable.) **What does it tell us about God's kingdom?** (It produces growth and transformation.)

Let's say together our power text, Philippians 1:4-6:

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

As the power point reminds us,

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

Where's the Yeast?

Divide the class into two groups. Tell group one that whenever they hear you say "So what's the matter?" they should chorus "Where's the yeast?"

Select three people from group two and designate each by one letter, A, B, or C. Instruct them to act out the scenario silently as you read it. Change students for each scenario.

1. **A and B are in the church parking lot. A kicks the tire of a car, but misses and bumps his shin instead. He then grabs his leg, limps on one foot, and cries out in pain. B is shocked and runs to tell C what she heard. So what's the matter?** (Where's the yeast?) Discuss. Ask C: **How can you show that God's yeast is growing in you?** (She could hug both A and B and point their attention to God.)

2. **A and C go to the same Sabbath School. A is a new member and is troubled because she still does things that are wrong. So C, a Christian from birth, tells A the parable of the yeast. Later that Sabbath C sees A talking about how he can hardly wait until sundown to play his favorite video games. Shocked, C talks it over with B.** Ask C: **Why are you so shocked?** Ask A: **Explain your actions.** Ask B: **Remembering our parables and our understanding of grace, what advice can you give?**

Debriefing

Say: **What do we need to remember?** (That if we invite God into our lives He offers us His grace. He makes His kingdom grow in us so it fills our whole life.) **How do you feel knowing that this job is God's, not yours?** (grateful, happy, relieved)

4

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ cards
- ☐ OR small loaves of bread/slices of bread
- ☐ bags
- ☐ twist ties
- ☐ tape

*Hide the Word**

Invite students to share with the class if they had the opportunity last week to share God's goodness with someone using story or parable. Ask: **What did you share with someone about God's kingdom? How did you explain to someone that God can grow our faith even if it is very small at first? What illustrations did you use from nature or from stories to explain God's activity in growing our faith?**

Distribute pens/pencils and cards for the students to make cutouts of a loaf of bread and write the power text and a brief message about grace on them. Have them place these where people will find them, such as in hymnals, on car windshields, in bicycle baskets, in church bulletins. If possible, dismiss the students early so they can do this before the worship service begins.

OR, if possible, have students bag small loaves/slices of bread, tape the power text to the bag, and distribute these to church members.

Say: **Let's repeat once again the power point,**

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.

*Be aware of any food allergies and adjust accordingly.

Closing

Prayer and closing comments:

After prayer as the students go out the door, say to each one: **May God's grace go with you.**

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to spiritually guide your children. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **God treasures us. In giving our lives to God we realize the priceless gift we have in Jesus' sacrifice.**

Notes

Student lesson

Kingdom Time

Have your parents ever encouraged you to go somewhere or do something you didn't really want to do? What was the result? Did it turn out better than you expected? Imagine two boys who went to hear Jesus preach.

Pushing along with the noisy crowd following Jesus, a Hebrew boy heard a familiar voice behind him.

"Wait up!" Turning around, he saw his friend struggling through the mass of people.

"I didn't know you were coming," the boy said.

"They convinced me to go." His friend shrugged his shoulders. "What about you?"

"I figured I'd come and see who my parents keep talking about," replied the first boy.

Scanning the crowd, he found his parents and waved. Finding a less-crowded spot above the crowd, they sprawled in the grass. A man in front raised his hand. The crowd grew quiet.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field," Jesus said (Matthew 13:31).

The boy looked to where Jesus was pointing. "What's so special about that?" he whispered to his friend.

"I agree. It's just a plant." Mustard plants were common. They often grew to be more than six feet tall. Birds flocked to the plants. They ate the tiny seeds and rested on the shady branches. In the early spring the boys liked to eat the curly green shoots of the plant.

"Though it is the smallest of all seeds," Jesus continued, "yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches" (verse 32).

The crowd murmured its agreement. Jesus continued teaching by telling another story.

"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough" (verse 33).

The boy thought about the many times he had watched his mother make bread. She added only a small amount of yeast in comparison to the flour. But the yeast worked throughout the dough. It didn't just stay in one little corner. As the yeast spread through the dough, the sections of the bread rose together, not just one little section at a time.

He whispered to his friend, "What do a mustard plant and bread have to do with the kingdom?"

"I don't know," his friend whispered back. "Let's ask your father."

Walking home at the end of the day with his family, the boy couldn't wait any longer.

"Did any of you understand what Jesus was talking about with the mustard seed and the yeast?" he blurted out.

"What do you think He meant?" his father asked.

"I'm not sure," the boy replied. "I think that He might have been talking about us."

"That seems right," agreed the father. "As God's chosen people, we make up His kingdom. What do you think?" He turned to the other boy.

"Maybe that's it. Then any of us could belong to God's kingdom. What a privilege! But what about the yeast?" asked his friend.

"I think I understood that part," the boy replied, walking slowly.

"You've watched your mother bake bread, have you not?" asked his father. "The yeast goes throughout all the bread, not just part of it."

The boy stopped again and looked at his father. "But how can we recognize the new kingdom?" he asked slowly.

"Others around us will recognize that God's kingdom has taken root in our lives, when we produce good fruit for God's glory," said his father.

"Does that mean that we will produce good fruit naturally?" quipped his friend.

"You're right. God does it all for us," said the mother, "from beginning to end."

The boy put his hand on his mother's shoulder. "May I help you make bread today?"

KEY REFERENCES

- Matthew 13:31-33
- *Christ's Object Lessons*, chap. 5, pp. 76-79; chap. 7, pp. 95-102
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 8, pp. 84-87
- Our Beliefs nos. 11, 10, 3

POWER TEXT

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:4-6).

POWER POINT

We grow more like Jesus when His love changes us.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.

Sunday

READ Read Matthew 13:10–12 and this week's lesson, "Kingdom Time."

LEARN Memorize the power text, Philippians1:4–6.

PRAY Thank God for beginning a good work in you.

Monday

READ Compare Matthew 13:31 with Luke 17:6.

THINK Do we need faith in what God has given us in order to grow? Why or why not?

CHECK Are the seeds you germinated last week still growing?

REVIEW Review the power text, Philippians 1:4–6.

PRAY Pray that God will give you the faith of the mustard seed as He has offered.

Tuesday

READ Read Matthew 13:31, 32.

THINK How does our spiritual growth happen?

FIND What do the birds coming and perching in the branches represent? (See Daniel 4:21.)

SHARE Use story or parable to tell of God's goodness, focusing on how God can grow our faith even if it is small.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for helping you grow in Him.

Wednesday

READ Read Matthew 13:33.

THINK What do the yeast, flour, and woman represent in this verse?

FIND Find recipes or ask someone to explain how yeast works. Watch the yeast grow in the dough.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Ask God to put the yeast of heaven in your life so you can spread His goodness.

Thursday

READ Read Matthew 13:34, 35.

CREATE Write a parable of your own about God's work in your life.

CHOOSE Choose something to make with yeast. List what you need. If you don't have the ingredients, ask an adult to help you.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Thank God for the lessons hidden in the parables.

Friday

READ Read Matthew 13:31–33.

MAKE Make the recipe that you gathered the ingredients for yesterday.

SERVE Serve it for your evening meal.

READ Have your family read and discuss the parable of the yeast.

REPEAT Share the power text by memory with your family.

PRAY Pray together as a family and ask God to complete His work in you.