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Kingdom Time

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.

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.

Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 61.



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Sunday

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

LEARN Memorize the power text, Philippians 1:4-6.

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.

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.



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 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."

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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.

"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?"

