

Good morning!! Here is a collection of activities for all ages that you can do as a family this week. My hope is that this lesson can help you connect together as a family and with God and will open up some authentic discussion as a family.

The King Who Teaches- Parables

What He has done: Jesus taught about his kingdom.

Lesson Aim: To explore the parable of the yeast in the dough.

If you have some yeast on hand (especially if it is still fresh), you can include it in today's lesson.

1. Setting the story:

Last week we talked about how Jesus said that the kingdom of heaven is like a tiny mustard seed that grows into a large plant. Today, we are learning about how the kingdom of heaven is like yeast that was worked into the dough.

2. Telling the story

Here is a link to a video of the story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiY6DD0Z7hw>

Preschool version of the story:



Leaven

Jesus told another story.
He said God's kingdom is like yeast.
Bakers use yeast to make dough puff up.
Then it will make soft, fluffy
loaves of bread.
Jesus said God's kingdom is like yeast.
A woman mixed the yeast with flour.

Preschool discussion:

- What does yeast do to the dough? (makes it puff up)
- What was the yeast mixed with in our story (with flour)
- What is bread with yeast in it like? (soft and fluffy)
- If yeast makes bread good, what is something that God does for you that makes your life good? (provides good food to eat, loves you very much, etc)
- How can you share this good with others around you? (invite friend over for lunch, hug your family, tell friends you love them, etc.)

Elementary age version of the story:

Read Matthew 13:33

Take a look at the yeast. Maybe you have never seen this. It looks a little like sand, but it's actually alive. And if it is healthy, it will grow- just like all healthy, living things do. It is a one-celled member of the fungus family. Add water to yeast, give it some sugar for food, and soon it's happily "burping" carbon dioxide- which is what causes bread to be fluffy.

Just like yeast is growing and burping and all around making bread fluffy, yummy and better, we can grow in Jesus and "burp" out his goodness to our surroundings- sharing his love and goodness with the world around us, in the place that God has us right now.

Elementary age discussion:

- What do you think the point of Jesus' story was?
- What do you think the "kingdom of God" means?
- Why do you think it matters whether or not the kingdom of God is growing?
- What is your earliest memory?
- If you want to grow as someone who knows, loves and follows Jesus, what can you do to help that happen?
- How do you- as a person- grow in the kingdom?
- Jesus told parables using common things people could see to help them understand the kingdom of heaven that they could not see. Instead of yeast, what do you think Jesus would use if He told the same parable today?

3. Prayer

Ask the children how they see the church growing. Share from your own life about people who have been studying the Bible with you, or ways that your faith is growing from Bible study, prayer and discipleship. Pray together, thanking God for all the ways that he helps the church to grow.

Dear God,

Thank you for your kingdom and for inviting us to be part of it. And we ask that your Holy Spirit bubble up in us and empower us to share your kingdom with others. Amen.

4. Games (from the curriculum- you may need to play with your kids to fill out the teams):

GAME: MIXING IN THE YEAST

Students stand in a tight circle with one student in the middle. The student in the middle is the Yeast. The students forming the circle are the Dough.

The student in the middle crosses their arms and spins, allowing the rest of the students to help push them along so that the Yeast makes it all the way around the circle.

Ensure that the circle is tight enough that the person in the middle can't fall down. Divide your students into two or more groups if you need to in order to make each circle tighter.

Time how long it takes for the Yeast to go all the way around. Then, the time the next student as they pretend to be the Yeast. Encourage the students to try to beat their best time.

Once everyone has had a turn being the Yeast, explain that like yeast mixing up in a batch of dough, we have to go to different people and tell them about Jesus to give them a chance to believe in Him.

GROWING TAG

Choose one student to be It. They start as the Yeast. When they tag someone, that person links hands with them and joins their team, forming part of the Loaf of Bread. They continue adding people to their team, linking hands with each one until all but one student is part of their chain. That remaining student becomes It for the next round.

Play a couple of rounds and then explain that the news about God started small, but when we tell people about Jesus, we hope that the number of people following God will grow, just like a small amount of yeast makes a whole batch of dough rise and become a loaf of bread.

5. Craft/Activity ideas:

Science Experiment: Impossible Possibility

Purpose: Help kids remember that God is always with us, even if we can't see him.

Supplies: A balloon, yeast, sugar, water, a glass jar, a funnel, and an empty glass drink bottle.

Can something invisible have visible results?

The Experiment

Mix 1 tablespoon of yeast, 1 teaspoon of sugar, and 1 cup warm (not hot) water in the glass jar. Use a funnel to pour the mixture into the bottle. Ask kids to hypothesize about what'll happen to the balloon when you stretch it over the bottleneck. Then watch as the balloon inflates.

Scientific Facts

The yeast converts the solid sugars and liquid water into carbon dioxide gas. Since the gas takes up more space than the solid and the liquid, the pressure in the bottle increases and the balloon expands.

Talk About It

- Was your guess correct?
- Is it easy or difficult to understand something you can't see, such as the carbon dioxide? Explain.

- How would you explain how carbon dioxide works?
- How would you explain our invisible God to someone?
- Is it easy or difficult to have faith in a God you can't see? Why or why not?
- How can you explain your faith in God so others understand?

Yeast Power- to visualize

Thirty minutes before class, using a glass measuring cup, mix one package of yeast with half a 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 half a 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.

How is God's love like yeast? Similar to yeast: **God's love grows in us until it fills our lives.**

Making Bread craft:

Color the pictures. Cut them out and put them in the correct order of how to make bread.

