

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK



Sunday morning teaching plan

Date: 2nd February 2025

TITLE:	The parables of the mustard seeds and the yeast Matthew 13:31-33
THEME:	God's Kingdom grows from small beginnings but has a big impact.
AIM:	Understand that we are part of a global kingdom and our role in it is equally valid as anyone else. We must use what God has given us to grow His Kingdom.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

These parables are part of a bigger section of teaching about the Kingdom of God. Each parable gives a different slant on the Kingdom. A mustard seed is very small, yet the trees grow big and wide. They are fast growing and invasive. If left to grow wild they will take over. Their wide branches and foliage give excellent cover and protection for birds and animals. The second parable of the yeast is similar, yeast causes dough to rise and expand. A small amount of yeast causes great expansion. Some suggest this is a picture of the work of The Holy Spirit. (see resources section about Yeast and Leaven)

WARM UP

Make some popcorn using the popcorn maker! Share it around. (Kernels will be provided plus sugar or sauce). Whilst popcorn is doing... use playdough to make a mustard tree or loaves of bread! Prize for the best one. (Sweets of some sort! I will provide)

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Read Matthew 13:31-35

Why do you think Jesus told these parables? What do you think He was trying to teach us?

Have you always been the way you are now, or have you changed? Will you always be the way you are now?

Do picture game.... Who is this? (Jez. Pictures from different stages in life) (Can swap pictures for whoever is leading!)

Key teaching point: Everything starts off small. We were all tiny babies at one time, dependent on others, but we didn't stay small, we grew and have become more active and we make an impact on the world. The Kingdom of God is the same. It started with Jesus and a few followers, now there are **2.5 billion** Christians and it's still growing! What is happening in one small part of the world like Eastbourne may seem unimportant in the big picture of God's Kingdom.. But it is vital for God's Kingdom to grow properly. Mustard seeds and yeast are very small yet the impact they have is very big.

Activity 2 What makes you feel small and insignificant? Discuss the ways we can sometimes feel out of our depth or feel useless or unimportant. (Caution here. Be sensitive to individual needs)

What does the Bible teach about how important we are to God?

Look up the following verses and discuss what they reveal.

Psalms 139:13-16 Romans 5:8 Matthew 6:25-34 Jeremiah 29:11 Isaiah 43:4

Matthew 10:31 Ephesians 2:4-9 John 3:16 Hebrews 4:16 Genesis 1:27

Key teaching point: We are not insignificant. God has created us to be in His image, we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God who loves us and gave everything for us. He has our best interests at heart. He wants to be in relationship with us. We will never be alone or lost if we love God. When you feel small or insignificant, remember you have an AWESOME GOD who can take things that appear small (you) and use them to grow His kingdom!

Activity 3. God will use us to grow His kingdom.

Balloon blowing competition. Blow up a balloon as big as you dare without it bursting

Key teaching point: When we become a Christian God fills us with His Spirit. We are transformed from being flat and useless like an unfilled balloon to something with purpose and use like a filled balloon. Yeast can be a picture of The Holy Spirit transforming the church and individuals for God's kingdom

1. How can God use your life in His kingdom?
2. Why do you think Jesus uses people to grow His kingdom?
3. What are some things that get in the way of you making an impact for the Kingdom of God?
4. Does God equip you with everything you need to accomplish His work?
5. Where do we get our strength to help grow the Kingdom?
6. What are some ways you can make an impact for the Kingdom?

TAKEAWAY

We may be one small individual in God's Kingdom but we are powered by the Holy Spirit who enables us to do great things for God. God's Kingdom will always grow and can never be stopped. You are a part of that if you love Jesus.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

Yeast is a living micro-organism, a fungus. Used in cooking it causes dough to rise.

Leaven is a term used to describe a wider range of rising agents, including yeast. It could be a chemical such as baking powder or sourdough starter. It is anything that causes fermentation. Sometimes in the Bible it refers to sin spreading and infecting everything, but in this parable it is seen as positive!