

# SABBATH SCHOOL

## Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

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Level 2 • Unit 5 • Week 3

### PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

**OBJECTIVE:**

To show that the Kingdom of God starts small, but in the end it fills all the earth.

**ATTENTION GETTER:**

Have a mustard seed to show how tiny it is. (If you can, have a seed for every child.)

Ask: If you planted this seed what do you think it would look like when it was grown? A small plant or a tree?

Say: We'll find out in our lesson today if your answer is correct.

**BIBLE LESSON:**

Prepare: Get pictures of a mustard tree from seed to adult tree to demonstrate the different stages of growth. (The mustard tree grew in Palestine and reached a height of about 15 feet.) Try to get the pictures in four stages. You may draw pictures if you cannot obtain any. You will use these pictures as you read. Also provide cut outs of birds to add to the adult tree.

Say: Today I will be reading a parable that Jesus gave when He was teaching on the earth. This parable tells us how the Kingdom of God grows.

Ask: What is a parable?

Say: A parable is a story taken from the everyday life of those in Bible times to help us to understand spiritual things.

Our parable today is based on the tiny mustard seed you have seen (or have in your hand). It is taken from Mark 4:30-32. [The NIV or Living Bible might be easier for the children to

understand.] As I read to you imagine the seed growing into a huge tree.

Do: If it is a nice day, you may consider taking the children outside to show them large trees. Look beneath any of the trees to find the seed of the particular tree. Hold it up saying, "Can you believe that this massive tree was once a tiny seed like this?"

Ask: Why did the parable say that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed?

Say: A mustard seed is very tiny. God's plan for His Kingdom started very small like the mustard seed. He used only a handful of people in the Old Testament like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Ruth and Esther to be part of the beginning small group of His future Kingdom.

Ask: Can you think of any more of God's chosen people in the Old Testament?  
[Possible answers: Noah, Moses, Joseph, Samuel, Elijah, Elisha, Sarah, Rebekah, Josiah, Daniel.]

Do: Show the first stage of the mustard tree.

Say: Later, after Jesus came to earth, His disciples became a part of the chosen group to be a part of His Kingdom. Then, when Jesus had returned to heaven, thousands of people were added as His followers, and they were called to become the Church, like we are today. This Church had its beginning on the day of Pentecost. Do you see how the Kingdom of God is growing?

Do: Show the second stage of the mustard tree.

Say: Today that Church continues to grow as thousands of people come to know God and become a part of His Church. These people have the potential to be in God's Kingdom. Let's look at the growth of the tree.

Do: Show the third stage of the mustard tree.

Say: When Christ comes to earth again, many, many more people will be added to His Kingdom. It will be much larger than we can imagine right now. The Kingdom of God will fill the earth just as the mustard seed grew into a big tree that was able to provide shelter for the birds. God will then have the whole world in His hands.

Do: Show an adult mustard tree. Let the children add some birds.

### **LESSON APPLICATION:**

Make photocopies of the word search (see end of lesson).

Ask the children to search through the letters in the chart and find and circle the words listed at the bottom.

**MUSIC:**

“He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”

Chorus:

He’s got the whole world—in His hands.  
He’s got the whole world—in His hands.  
He’s got the whole world—in His Hands.  
He’s got the whole world in His Hands.

Verse:

He’s got you and me, brother—in His hands.  
He’s got you and me, sister—in His hands.  
He’s got you and me, teacher—in His hands.  
He’s got the whole world in His hands

(Repeat the chorus)

Verse:

He’s got everybody here—in His hands.  
He’s got everybody here—in His hands.  
He’s got everybody here—in His hands.  
He’s got the whole world in His Hands.

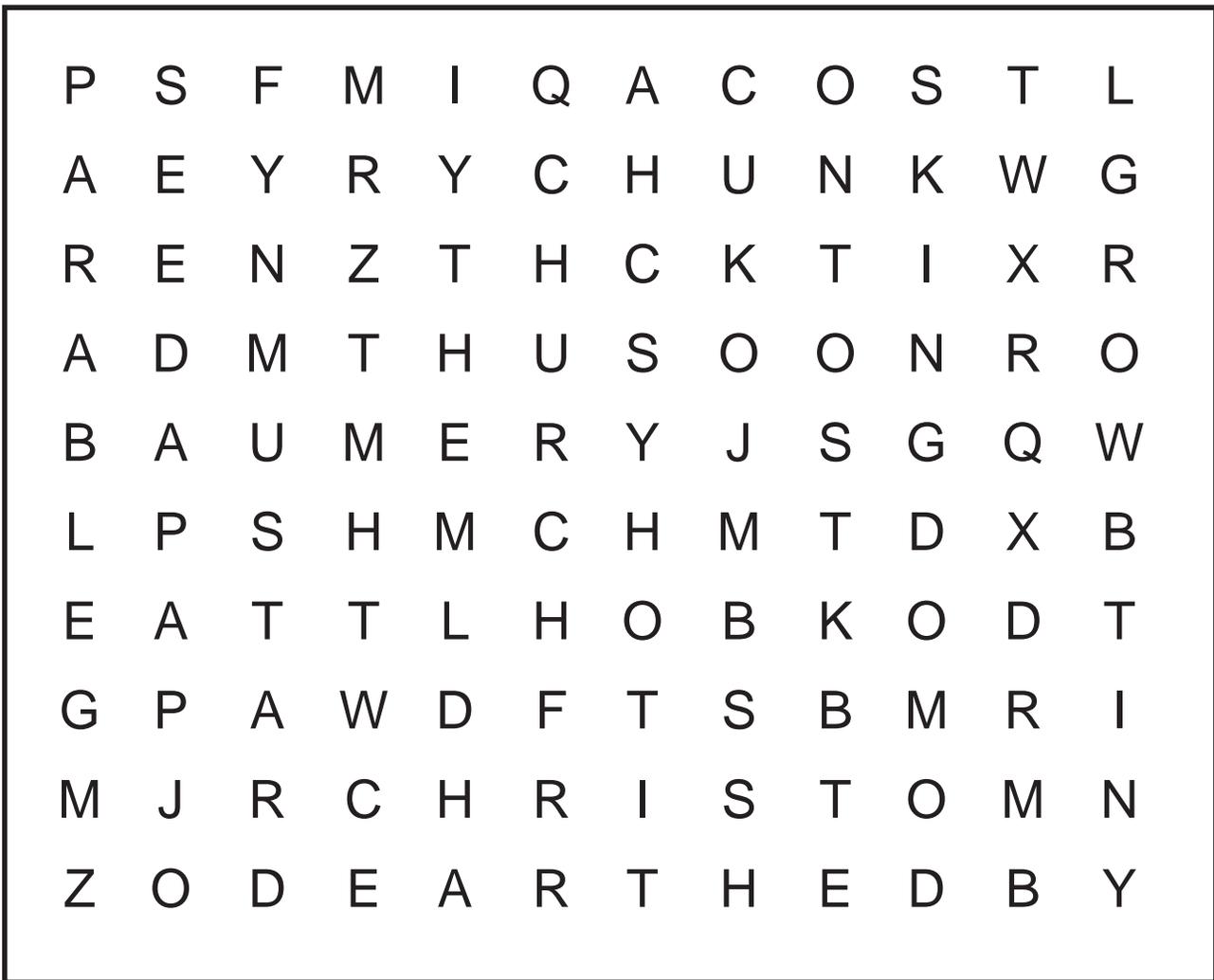
(Repeat the chorus)

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Luke 13:29 “They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.”

# WORD SEARCH

Find these words from the lesson. They can be up, down, across or diagonal.



Words to find:

TINY

PENTECOST

KINGDOM

PARABLE

CHRIST

GROW

CHURCH

SEED

EARTH

MUSTARD

# *family activity*

**THE POINT:**

The Kingdom of God starts small, but in the end it fills all the earth.

**ASK ME...**

What is a parable?

Which parable did I learn about?

What does the parable mean?

**FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:**

Discuss the Kingdom of God. Read and discuss the parable of the leaven (Luke 13:20-21) which relates to the parable of the mustard seed.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

Luke 13:29 "They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God."