

TREK

Lesson 10 - "Kingdom of God"

Series Objective: Students will learn:

- That a "Trek" is a long, vigorous journey.
- That every individual's life is their Trek.
- That the Bible is full of stories about others' Treks that help us to better understand how our Trek should be lived out.
- That being a disciple of Jesus is a daily Trek, not a one-time choice.

Series Theme Verse: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

Lesson Objective: Students will understand:

- The Kingdom Parables are stories that help us understand God's Kingdom
- That we join the Kingdom of God as soon as we decide to follow Jesus.
- God's Kingdom is about us living with God now and forever.

Lesson Passage: Mark 4:21-34

Lesson Materials:

Pre-service - Music, lights, announcement slides

Video – National Holidays with Andres

Activity – 4 Blindfolds, Various Fruit

Worship – Lyrics for TVs

The Story - Copy of story outline

Small Groups - Trek Journals, Pens, Copy of Memory Verse

The After Party – Pizza

Attachments – None

Lesson:

Video: *National Holidays with Andres*

Activity: Guess That Seed

- Blindfold a member of each team.
- Give each blindfolded member a bite of a piece of fruit.
- Whichever blindfolded team member guesses the fruit correctly gets a point for their team.

- Switch blindfolded people and repeat until you run out of fruit.
- The activity prepares students to hear about the Kingdom parables that are very agricultural in nature.

The Story: (Talking Points)

- Theme Development: Trek
 - A long and vigorous journey usually made on foot.
 - Remind students of last week's scenic lookout (Visual Aid) of our Trek.
 - Acts 5:17-42
 - The Good News is: Jesus lived, Jesus died, Jesus lives again, and Jesus wants a relationship with every human.
 - Christians are expected to share the Good News.
 - Transition: "The Good News is about what Jesus has done to have a relationship with us, and tonight we are going to talk about the Kingdom of God that we join when we follow Jesus."
- The Lamp: Mark 4:21-25
 - Jesus said to them, "Do you bring in a lamp to put it under a large bowl or a bed? Don't you put it on its stand? What is hidden is meant to be seen. And what is put out of sight is meant to be brought out into the open. Everyone who has ears should listen. Think carefully about what you hear," he said. "As you give, so you will receive. In fact, you will receive even more. If you have something, you will be given more. If you have nothing, even what you have will be taken away from you."
 - A parable is a story that tells a truth about God.
 - God's Kingdom is light to a dark world.
 - As a part of God's Kingdom, Christians are to be light.
- The Growing Seed: Mark 4:26-29
 - Jesus also said, "Here is what God's kingdom is like. A farmer scatters seed on the ground. Night and day the seed comes up and grows. It happens whether the farmer sleeps or gets up. He doesn't know how it happens. All by itself the soil produces grain. First the stalk comes up. Then the head appears. Finally, the full grain appears in the head. Before long the grain ripens. So, the farmer cuts it down, because the harvest is ready."
 - God's Kingdom is a mystery.
 - Christians plant faithfully by sharing the Good News, but we do not know how or when God brings about fruit from our planting.
- The Mustard Seed: Mark 5:30-34

- Again, Jesus said, "What can we say God's kingdom is like? What story can we use to explain it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed planted in the ground. But when you plant the seed, it grows. It becomes the largest of all garden plants. Its branches are so big that birds can rest in its shade."
 - God's Kingdom started out small but has grown larger than any other kingdom and will always have room for more people.
 - We are to invite people into God's Kingdom, knowing that everyone deserves a place in God's Kingdom.
- Transition to Small Groups: "In your Small Groups, you will be discussing our Trek this fall and how we can live out our Trek as residents of God's Kingdom."

Small Groups:

Beginning the Conversation

- Go around the room and have each person introduce themselves, beginning with the leaders, by answering two questions:
 - What is your name?
 - What is your favorite story?

Trek Journals

- Have Trek Journals and pens on table for students to grab
- Explain to students that part of small group will be journaling in their Trek Journal. Have students AND LEADERS write the following questions in their Journal (*it would work best if you had these questions written on a piece of poster board to make it easier to copy into the journal*) and take about 5 minutes to respond to the questions in their Journals.
 - What is my favorite part of the story I heard in Big Group?
 - What has been my favorite part of the fall Trek?
 - What is one thing I learned during this fall Trek?
 - What do these parables say about me?
 - Am I living in God's Kingdom as a light in a dark world, sharing the Good News with others and inviting them into God's Kingdom?
 - Write the Memory Verse down and explain what it means to you.
- After 5 minutes, have everyone (leaders first) answer the first question out loud to the group.

- Work through the rest of the questions together, letting a couple answer each question.
- Close in a prayer like, “Guiding God, thank you for this Trek we have taken together this fall, help us to be faithful residents of your Kingdom, sharing the Good News with others and inviting them into your Kingdom...Amen.”

The After Party:

Pizza

Promote Advent