



### **BIG IDEA**

Jesus shows us what God's kingdom is like.

### **GOD STORY**

Jesus' Kingdom Parables (Matthew 13:1–33)

### **KEY VERSE**

[Jesus] said, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must say no to themselves. They must pick up their cross and follow me." (Matthew 16:24b, NIRV)

## **1 | Conversation Starter**

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. To lead into today's lesson, ask: Have you ever been partway through a story and thought you knew exactly how it was going to end—only to be totally surprised?
- b. Explain that Jesus' disciples thought they knew how the story of their nation, Israel, was going to end. They believed the Messiah would come and lead a great army to defeat Rome, then set up an earthly kingdom. Instead, Jesus told them about the kingdom of heaven. It's sometimes called the upside-down kingdom because it looks totally opposite to those of the world!
- c. Introduce today's Big Idea: **Jesus shows us what God's kingdom is like.**

## **2 | Watch**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Media player

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Watch this week's video from the Now Playing Kids playlist on the One Story YouTube channel.

## **3 | Discuss**

### **SUPPLIES**

- Bibles

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

- a. Review the video teaching together:
  - What was today's Life Story about?
  - What was the God Story about?
  - What's a parable?
- b. Explain that Jesus used parables (short stories about everyday things) to help his followers understand big ideas about God and his kingdom.
- c. Show the kids how to find Matthew 13:24–29.
- d. Read the passage together.
- e. Discuss:
  - What did Jesus explain about God's kingdom in this parable?
  - Did you find any parts of it confusing?
  - When you don't understand something do you just quit, or do you try to learn more about it?



## 4 | Activity

### SUPPLIES

- God's Kingdom Is Like activity pages
- Colouring supplies

### INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Give each person an activity page and some colouring supplies.
- b. Review the page together.
- c. Encourage the kids to consider what God's kingdom might be like. Ask what they would compare it to.
- d. Direct everyone to draw their ideas in the squares on their page.
- e. As the kids draw, chat about today's lesson and what stood out to them.
- f. Reinforce the Big Idea: **Jesus shows us what God's kingdom is like.**

## 5 | Pray

### SUPPLIES

- Bible

### INSTRUCTIONS

- a. Show the kids how to look up Matthew 6:9–13.
- b. Let them know that Jesus taught this prayer to his disciples 2,000 years ago. People still use the Lord's Prayer today! It gives us a model that we can follow when we pray.
- c. If your kids are able to read, guide them to read the prayer aloud.
- d. Invite them to join you in praying as you read it again. They could read it with you or close their eyes and pray silently.