

The Kingdom of Heaven



Parents, below are a few activities you can try at home together to help reinforce and continue teaching on this week's Bible story.

Overview:

Big Idea: God promises eternal life to those who seek and find Him.

Bible Basis: Matthew 7:7-11, Matthew 13:44

Key Verse: Matthew 7:7 (NIRV)

Grade 1-2 Activity: *Jesus Can, Can You?*

Supplies: None

Say: In a lot of ways, Jesus is just like you and me; He has 10 fingers, He has a mommy and a daddy, and He grew up to be a big boy. But in some ways, Jesus is very different. We're going to play a game that helps us see how Jesus is special.

Directions: Read the "Jesus Statements" from the list below. If it's something the children can do, have them repeat the action. If it's something they cannot do, have them shout, "Jesus is the special Son of God."

Jesus Statements:

- Jesus can clap his hands 10 times. Can you?
- Jesus can hop in a circle. Can you?
- Jesus can make a big storm stop. Can you?
- Jesus can honk his nose. Can you?
- Jesus can run in place. Can you?
- Jesus can die and come back to life. Can you?
- Jesus can stomp his feet seven times. Can you?
- Jesus can walk on water. Can you?
- Jesus can spin around five times. Can you?
- Jesus can moo like a cow. Can you?
- Jesus can make a blind man see. Can you?
- Jesus can take our sins away. Can you?

Question: Jesus is special because He is the Son of God. Can you think of other ways that Jesus is special?

Grade 3-4 Activity: *Walk the Line*

Supplies: Tape; place a 10-15 foot (3-4.5 m) long strip of tape on the floor.

Say: We have learned why the story of Jesus' death and resurrection is so important. When Jesus died on the cross, He took the punishment for our sins. Thanks to Him, we can now be forgiven and spend forever with Him in heaven. We're going to do an activity right now that will help us figure out who truly needs forgiveness.

Directions: Line up at one end of the tape line. Challenge everyone to walk on the line without stepping off. If they step off the tape line, they're out and must return to the back of the line. At first, it will be easy, but then introduce some of the following additional challenges: walk backwards, bear crawl, hop on one foot, hop backwards on one foot, close your eyes, etc. For the last round, quickly spin everyone in circles 10-12 times before they walk the line. Inevitably, you will be dizzy and step off the line before reaching the end.

Say: In the end, everybody stepped off the line at least once. That's kind of like what the Bible says about sin. (Open your Bible to Romans 3:23 and read aloud, *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*) Staying on the tape line is kind of like following Jesus without messing up or sinning. But at some point, we all step off the line. We all break God's rules and sin. That means we all need to be forgiven.

Questions:

If you tried really hard, how long do you think you could go without messing up or sinning?

Have you ever prayed to Jesus to become a Christian? How did it happen? What was it like?