

Lesson #2-19**Jesus Teaches in Parables**

Mark 4:1-34

**Key Verse:**

“And these are the ones sown on the good soil: they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty and sixty and a hundredfold.”

Mark 4:20

The Point:

Jesus teaches us about the kingdom of God.

Unit Theme (December 29—January 19)

God's Kingdom Announced

Parable of the Everyday Item

Create your own parable.

You will need:

- † Paper
- † Pens or pencils

Instructions:

1. The word parable comes from Greek, meaning a comparison. In the Bible, they are usually short, fictional stories. They compare everyday objects or events to a surprising spiritual truth.
2. Jesus' parables usually something behaving in an unexpected way.
3. In our story today, we will discover that the kingdom of God is surprising. It comes to us small, like a mustard seed or a baby in a feed trough, rather than a majestic tree or mighty conqueror. What other small, surprising things can you think of? [Responses can be serious or silly. Ants can lift 10-50 times their own body weight; David was small but defeated Goliath; there are a number of very small, very powerful breath mints.]
4. In pairs or trios, write a parable about the kingdom of God. It can be a sentence or two, or a story with several sentences. Begin with “The kingdom of God is like...” It might help to contrast what it is like against what it is not like. Here is an example: “The kingdom of God is like an ant. Ants are small but surprisingly strong and fast. The kingdom is not a large, lumbering elephant, but an agile ant.”
5. Give participants time to work. Allow those who are willing time to share their parables.