

Things to take:

Question box with pens & paper.
 Door welcome sign, register & rules.
 Wordsearches and pencils.
 A3 paper, facilities sheet, scissors and glue sticks.
 Story resources printed and cut out, brown felt piece.
 Wheat and weeds game printed and cut up.
 Salt dough plaques & paints **or** Zig zag cards & coloured pencils **plus spares**.
 Weeds & wheat sheets for response and relay game
 Let Your Light Shine song and words

Session Aim:

To explain what God's kingdom is like and how we can be a part of it.

'Our father in Heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come'

Matthew 6:9

Game as they arrive and register: Kingdom Wordsearch

As the kids arrive give them each a wordsearch and explain that they have to find kingdoms (places) and the leaders who rule them. They then have to match up the kingdoms and rulers. The answers are:

Arthur + Camelot
 Peterpan + Neverland
 Shrek + Farfaraway
 Queen + Britain
 Dumbledore + Hogwarts
 God + Heaven

Rules & Question Box

Game: Build your Kingdom

Get your group into small teams. Give each of them an A3 sheet of paper, kingdom facilities sheet, pair of scissors and glue stick. Let them know they have 5 minutes to draw a quick map of their own kingdom (with houses, roads, mountains etc) and choose 5 facilities from the sheet to cut out and stick on the A3 sheet too. As a group they have to decide which 5 things they think are the most important for their kingdom.

When they have finished tell them you are going to read out a story of what happens to the kingdoms. They need to listen out for whether their kingdom has things needed to survive. They get 1 point for every facility they have which is mentioned.

Life was peaceful and enjoyable in all the little Kingdoms at Kids Rock in (*insert school name*) school. That was until there was a huge storm which wiped out all of the crops and fruit trees. There would be no harvest this year. Only the kingdoms which had **enough food for everyone** would survive the coming famine. The storm had also flooded lots of people's houses, so only the kingdoms which had **emergency services** would be able to help people. Many people had been injured or got ill during the storm so **medicine for everyone** was needed. Sadly, there were also a few people that died in the storm, as long as the kingdoms had **Churches** services and funerals were held for those that had been lost. Many people whose houses had been destroyed or damaged slept in the **Churches** too. Luckily the kingdoms that had **learning centres** and **schools** could teach the people in the kingdom how to mend and fix things, and everyone in those places worked together to re-build their beautiful kingdoms. The end!

See which group had the most points. Explain that the facilities that were about helping other people were the ones which enabled the kingdoms to get through the good and the bad times. Share that today we are going to be looking at what God's kingdom is like and how we can be a part of it.

Bible bit: Matthew 13:24-30

Print the story resources out, stick them to some thick card and cut them out. Buy some brown felt or material and cut it into a circle about 60cm in circumference. Put all the resources in a shoe box or similar. Practice and tell the following Bible story using the pieces, words and instructions.

Instructions	Story
<i>Pull the brown felt out of the box and spread it out before the kids.</i>	I wonder what this could be? It's very brown! I wonder if it's a swamp? Or a big chocolate button? (Encourage the children to share what they think it could be).
<i>Keep your eyes on the cloth.</i>	Let's find out now what it could be. Jesus once told this story:
<i>Take the farmer out of the box and show him to all the children. Use your hand to pretend you are scattering seed from the farmers hand onto the cloth.</i>	The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field.
<i>Turn farmer over to look like he's sleeping.</i>	But while everyone was sleeping,
<i>Take the enemy out of the box and pretend to scatter seeds from his hand again.</i>	an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left.
<i>Get the weeds out of the box and lay on the green cloth. Take the servant out of the box and go and inspect the weeds.</i>	When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds.
<i>Turn the farmer back over and move the servant to go and talk to him.</i>	The servants came and asked, "Sir, didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?" "An enemy did this," he replied. His servants then asked, "Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?" "No!" he answered. "You might also pull up the wheat. Leave the weeds alone until harvest time. Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them. But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn."
<i>Leave the scene out for the children to look at.</i>	I wonder... I wonder if the farmer had a name? I wonder why the enemy scattered weed seeds on the field? I wonder what kind of people the good seed could be representing? I wonder what kind of people the weeds could be representing?

Talk: Matthew 13:36-43

Jesus' friends also wondered what the meaning was of this story about the kingdom of heaven. He told

them that (Matt 13:36-43) He was one who scatters the good seed. The field is the world, and the good seeds are the people who belong to the kingdom of God. The weed seeds are those who belong to the evil one, and the one who scattered them is the devil. The harvest is the end of time, and angels are the ones who bring in the harvest. Jesus will send out his angels, and they will gather everyone who has done right and they will shine like the sun in God's kingdom.

But who belongs to the kingdom of God? Well Jesus said that anyone who believes in Him, and asks for forgiveness for the things they do wrong can be part of the kingdom of God. It's a bit like becoming part of God's family. I'm sure we all want to be like the good seeds, part of God's kingdom. What do you think we should do if we're part of God's kingdom? (Love others, help the poor and the sick, help look after God's kingdom) Does anyone here want to become part of God's Kingdom for the first time or try to be better at being a part of it? Close your eyes and let's pray for those people now.

Dear God, thank you that we can be a part of your Kingdom because Jesus died to take the blame for all the wrong things we have done. We are sorry for when we have done things like the weeds in the story, like being selfish, not helping other people or just not talking to you. Please forgive us and help us to be better at being like the good seeds, loving other people and helping those in need. Amen.

(Nt. There may be lots of other questions from this parable that the children want to ask.)

Response: Wheat and weeds

Give the kids a wheat & weeds sheet each. Get them to write down the things they think God would like them to stop doing amongst the weeds, and the things they think He would like them to do in His kingdom next to the wheat.

Pray

Reflect on and update the prayer journal, and choose a prayer activity from the creative prayer ideas in the 'extras' section of the download.

Memory verse

This week the words to paint/write are 'Your Kingdom come.' **N.B.** bring some spares for anyone who missed last week.

Song & Actions: Let Your Light Shine, Hillsong Kids- available to download from Amazon

Song words and actions are in the 'songs' folder of the download.

Game: Wheat & weeds relay

In advance print out, cut up and fold over a few sheets of wheat/weeds from the 'extras' section of the download.

Get the group into teams and line them up at one side of the room. At the other side lay out lots of the wheat and weeds. The teams have two minutes to take it in turns to go get a piece of paper. At the end of the two minutes they can unfold their paper and count up the points. Wheat is positive points, weeds are negative points.

Pray: Kids Rock prayer before they leave.