



Building Faith Brick by Brick: Parables

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Week of July 26, 2020

These activities are designed to be used with LEGO bricks. However, if you don't have LEGOs at home, that's okay! Grab blocks, or boxes, or play dough, or anything else you can use to build a scene. Or, you can draw or color your response to the story on a sheet of paper.

Show us your creations by emailing photos to Victoria Hoppes at victoria@rlcindy.org. We might just share them with others!

PRAY: Heavenly God, our great sower, plant in our hearts the seeds of hope and forgiveness. Help them to grow and bear fruit so that all can know you and love you. Inspire in us the will to grow into the people whom you have made, loved, and called by name. Amen.

READ: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52 (For younger children, you may want to read or tell the story using the story script below.)

RESPOND AND BUILD: I wonder what the scenes in these parables looked like? Build a scene that shows what you think it looked like!

BUILDING QUESTIONS:

As you build, ask some of these questions to "wonder" together about the story. Pick and choose a few to guide your discussion!

- I wonder what it would be like to hear Jesus tell stories?
- I wonder if you have ever been told a story that you didn't understand?
- I wonder what these stories tell us about God?
- I wonder if you have ever witnessed the Kingdom of Heaven?
- I wonder if you have been surprised by something wonderful?
- I wonder how you might grow into something larger than you thought possible?
- I wonder how you might be helpful to others?
- I wonder what unique and beautiful things you can do with God's help?
- I wonder what about your life helps people know more about God's goodness?
- I wonder how you could tell others about the important stories of Jesus?

SHARE: Share your creations with each other. What did you build? You can also email photos of your creations to victoria@rlcindy.org and we will share them with the congregation!

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for stories that help us learn more about you and your love. Thank you for surprising us with the goodness of your kingdom. Help us share this goodness with other people. Amen.

Adapted from [Building Faith Brick by Brick II: An Imaginative Way to Explore the Parables with God's People](#) by Emily Slichter Given (Church Publishing, 2018.)

Story Script

Matthew 13:31-33, 41-52

Jesus told the crowds another story:

God's kingdom is like the littlest seed there is. When it grows into the biggest tree, all the birds want to come and build their nests in it.

Let me put it another way. God's kingdom is like yeast. When you mix a tiny bit of yeast in flour, all of it is leavened and the dough rises into bread.

Or, how about this? God's kingdom is like someone who collects pearls. When he finds the most beautiful pearl of all in the market, he gets so excited that he sells everything he has so he can buy it.

Or this—God's kingdom is like hidden treasure, buried in a field. You would be happy to sell what you have so you could buy the field with the treasure in it.

Or this—God's kingdom is like a net thrown into the sea that catches all kinds of fish. When the net is full, you put the good fish in one basket and throw out the rest. That's what will happen at the end of the world. Angels will come to sort the bad from the good.

"Do you understand what I'm talking about?" Jesus asked his disciples. "Of course we do," they replied. (Even though they didn't.) And Jesus said, "Everyone fit for God's kingdom is like the owner of a store who has a cupboard full of new and old treasures."

From God's Word, My Voice: A Lectionary for Children by Lyn Zill Briggs (Church Publishing, 2015)