

# Unit 14 at a Glance

## The Kingdom

### Unit Overview

In this unit, the students get a taste of God's kingdom on earth—the church. From the events surrounding Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, to Peter's preaching at Pentecost, the students will watch Jesus' church begin and grow with passion and power. Not only will the students hear some of Jesus' well-known kingdom parables, but they will also consider how they can seek God's kingdom first and enter it one day.

### Unit Goals

- The students will learn that the church is God's kingdom on earth.
- The students will learn how to enter the kingdom.
- The students will understand that God wants them to seek his kingdom first.

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### Unit Contents

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#### Lesson 1 What Is the Kingdom?

**Scripture Memory Verse**

**Hebrews 12:28**

**Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe.**

The students will hear from Peter about how he received the keys of the kingdom and how the church began. They will look at God's compelling plan to let Jesus die on the cross for their salvation. The students will not only see that the church is God's kingdom on earth, but also consider how they will respond to God's incredible sacrifice for them.

#### Lesson 2 Entering the Kingdom

**Scripture Memory Verse**

**Acts 2:38**

**Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."**

The steps in this lesson lead to God's own stairway to heaven. The students will watch the exciting events surrounding Peter's preaching in Acts 2 as they consider God's plan of salvation. Not only will they look at the steps that lead to new life, but they will also consider the most important part of entering the kingdom—a heart that loves God above all!

#### Lesson 3 Kingdom Parables

**Scripture Memory Verse**

**Luke 8:15**

**"But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."**

Earthly stories with heavenly meanings are the focus of this lesson about Jesus' kingdom parables. The students will have "hands on" these stories that show how much God wants his kingdom to grow, and how much he wants each of them to enter, too.

#### Lesson 4 First the Kingdom

**Scripture Memory Work**

**Quarter Review**

The last will be first in this unit. That is, the last lesson is a call to seek God's kingdom first. The students will not only learn that God has great blessings in store for those who do seek him first, but they will also consider how they can make God their first priority today.



### 3rd and 4th Grades

Dear Parent,

In this unit, the students get a taste of God's kingdom on earth—the church. From the events surrounding Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, to Peter's preaching at Pentecost, the students will watch Jesus' church begin and grow with passion and power. Not only will the students hear some of Jesus' well-known kingdom parables, but they will also consider how they can seek God's kingdom first and enter it one day.

On the reverse side of this page, you will find an outline and a description of the lessons that comprise this unit. Included with each lesson is a Scripture Memory Verse for you to review with your child at home.

Your active involvement outside the classroom is essential and will truly make the Kingdom Kids Curriculum a great success for your child. Here are some suggested ways you can reinforce these lessons at home:

- Talk as a family this month about all the things that you love about church. Make a list of the ways your family has been helped, encouraged, supported and loved by people in the body. Help your child to understand that God's plan for the church is to show us what heaven will be like one day. Based on this view of God's kingdom on earth, ask your child to imagine what God's kingdom in heaven will be like.
- Have a family devotional based on the parables in Matthew 13:44-46. Talk about things that people buy. Ask your child what they think is the most important possession in your life, and then tell them what you think it is in their life. Decide what it will take to make God's kingdom and righteousness the first priority for your family.
- As a family, plan a Parable Party or Treasure Hunt. Make up simple clues based on the parables in Matthew 13 to lead your family through a fun search for the ultimate treasure—the kingdom of heaven! For example, a clue might read: "I am the smallest of all seeds, but I grow into the largest of garden plants. Go to the spice rack in the kitchen." (For extra help, tape a mustard seed to the clue.) Plan to have each participant take home a "treasure" at the end, such as an artificial pearl to symbolize the parable, or a new Bible, etc. Invite other friends or families to join you for the fun. Prepare the following parable snacks, or make up your own: "Good Soil" made from crushed Oreo cookies layered with a rich chocolate pudding. (This dessert is also known as "dirt.") "Mustard Seed" cookies made from sugar cookies covered with frosting and topped with sprinkles to represent the mustard seeds. "Parable Juice" made from a mixture of pear and apple juice.

We look forward to being partners with you to help your child grow to know and love God more.

Thank you,

Your child's teachers