



08.23.2009 Mark 4: 21-34

Materials Needed

1. Small lamp and a box to cover it up
2. Mustard Seed and Hershey's candy kisses to distribute to kids
3. Copy of Lesson Questions (attached)

Opening Activity

1. Turn off all of the lights in the room and let everyone's eyes get used to the darkness. Then turn on the lamp so that everyone has to squint. Do this again, but start with the light covered, then gradually uncover it little by little.
2. Ask kids if they know the food commercial that says, "Big things come in small packages!" Next show them the candy kisses, but do not distribute yet. (These will be used as rewards for answering the questions after the lesson). Next, show them the mustard seed, and how very tiny it is.
3. Divide the scripture reading among the older kids and let them read to the others
 - Mark 4:21-25 A Lamp on a Stand
 - Mark 4:26-29 Story of the Growing Seed
 - Mark 4:30-32 Story of the Mustard Seed
 - Mark 4:33-34 Importance of Parables

Discussion

Question 1: This is three small stories about the importance of God's kingdom. What does the lamp represent in the first story? (Jesus)

Question 2: What does the growing seed represent? (Growth of God's kingdom as He is the forever king in our lives)

Question 3: What does the mustard seed represent? (The Kingdom of God)

Summary

The story of the lamp represents Jesus, who came into the world to show us truth. He revealed it to us by living a perfect life, then dying on the cross for our sins and raising Himself up to life again to show that he had destroyed sin. Now we can return to God by trusting that Jesus has saved us.

The story of the growing seeds is a lesson on how God's kingdom grows inside our hearts and in the world around us. Seeds grow silently in the soil, which is the same way that God grows in us spiritually. We do not see seeds grow in front of us, and sometimes we don't even see ourselves grow. However, if a family member does not see you for a long time, the first thing they say, after they slobber you with kisses, is "Look how much you have grown." Wouldn't it be nice if people could watch us in our daily lives and see how much we have grown as a follower of God, based upon our actions and words.

Questions to think about:

1. What happened when we turned on the lamp quickly without putting something over it when our eyes were used to the dark? (it was uncomfortable- it hurt our eyes because it was so bright – in the same



way, Jesus is so good, and we are so sinful by nature, that if we saw Jesus' glory all at once, it would be too much for us to bear. So instead, he comes to us as a human being so that we can relate to Him and see His glory little by little. There is some secrecy to Jesus, but only for a time. In time all things will be revealed to us).

2. Why are the parables about the farmer and the mustard seed important? (Jesus is talking about His kingdom, and He also tells us that he allows us to be part of its growth)
3. How can we share the Good News about Jesus with others? (tell them, pray for them and with them, share Bible stories, ask them to come to Church)

Choose the word that best matches the definition (reward the kids with Hershey Kisses)

Twelve disciples chosen by Jesus to preach the gospel

- a. pharisees b. **apostles** c. angels d. troops

To make greater or larger

- a. obey b. shrink c. seed d. **increase**

A small kernel that is buried in the ground to grow a new plant.

- a. leaf b. branch c. **seed** d. twig

A thick, yellow liquid that tastes spicy and is eaten in small amounts on meat and sandwiches

- a. honey b. pickles c. jam d. **mustard**

To do what you are told or expected to do

- a. tattle b. gossip c. lie d. **obey**