



COMING EVENTS

What's coming
up in middle
school @NCC:

- **Vertical Edge • Tuesday, November 12 - VE Night!** West Court from 7:00-9:00pm. Bring a friend & some change for checkers!!

november 9/10 lesson

Series: Buried Treasure

Lesson: Kingdom of God

Scripture: *Isaiah 40:9-12; Matthew 13*

Chew Time:

Read **Luke 6:16-23**



Stepping Up:

A) READ: Isaiah 40:9-12. Isaiah 40:9-12 (New Living Translation) 9 O Zion, messenger of good news, shout from the mountaintops! Shout it louder, O Jerusalem. Shout, and do not be afraid. Tell the towns of Judah “Your God is coming!” 10 Yes, the Sovereign Lord is coming in power. He will rule with a powerful arm. See, he brings his reward with him as he comes. 11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young. 12 Who else has held the oceans in his hand? Who has measured off the heavens with his fingers? Who else knows the weight of the earth or has weighed the mountains and hills on a scale?

THINK:

1. Skim **Isaiah 40:9-12** and identify ways in which God is great. What can He do that even the most intelligent and powerful of men cannot? (*He can hold all the water on earth and in its atmosphere in the palm of His hand. He weighs the nations like a drop in a bucket. He puts rulers in place and takes them down.*)
2. God is the creator of all things living and breathing. How is what God created different from what man creates? (*The major difference in God’s creation is that He made everything out of nothing “by the word of His power.” Men create things out of already existing materials. Besides, God created mankind. Without that initial creative act, we wouldn’t exist to create anything. But our creativeness is an example of being made in the image of God: Genesis 1:27*)
3. Skim the passage again. This time look for ways God cares for creation and humanity. (*He cares for His flock like a shepherd, carrying the weak ones in His arms. He names the stars and keeps track of them.*)



- B) “Jesus spoke Aramaic; the Gospel writers translated Jesus’ sermons and parables into Greek.

Mark, Luke, and John translated Jesus’ words as “kingdom of God.” Matthew sometimes used this phrase too, but often he preferred to translate Jesus’ Aramaic words as “kingdom of heaven.” The two phrases mean exactly the same thing, because they are translations of the same Aramaic words of Jesus. Jesus taught that the kingdom of God has come & yet will not be fully realized till He returns”. Here is a link to read more on the Kingdom of God.



<http://classic.studylight.org/dic/hbd/view.cgi?number=T3650>

- **READ &** think about the following questions to determine how the **kingdom of God is like a mustard seed.**

Matthew 13:31-32 (New Living Translation) Parable of the Mustard Seed *31 Here is another illustration Jesus used: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. 32 It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.”*

1. What characteristics of the kingdom of God does this parable illustrate?
2. What does this parable say about God’s kingdom right now? *(It is growing and provides a safe place for His children.)*
3. What does this parable say about God’s kingdom in eternity? *(It’s much bigger and more beautiful than we can imagine right now.)*

- **READ Matthew 13:33 &** think about how the following questions to determine how the kingdom of God is like yeast.

Matthew 13:33 (New Living Translation) Parable of the Yeast *33 Jesus also used this illustration: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like the yeast a woman used in making bread. Even though she put only a little yeast in three measures of flour, it permeated every part of the dough.”*

1. What characteristics of the kingdom of God does this parable imply? *(It is alive and growing. It spreads and influences whatever situation it is in. It can’t necessarily be seen, but it changes things.)*

2. What does this parable say about God's kingdom right now? *(It is alive and active in the lives of believers. It makes life much easier to bite into. The difference between a hard cracker and a doughnut is yeast. It doesn't take much of it to change a person or even a whole people group.)*
3. What does this parable say about God's kingdom in eternity? *(It is alive, powerful, and good.)*

***** Check out this link to a science video on yeast**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4N0m95PExHY>

- **READ &** think about the following questions to determine how the kingdom of God is like a very valuable treasure.

Matthew 13:44-46 (New Living Translation) Parables of the Hidden Treasure and the Pearl

44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

45 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

1. What characteristics of the kingdom of God does this parable imply? *(Those who search for it can find it. It has great value, enough that it is worth giving up everything for. People are searching for Truth.)*
2. What does this parable say about God's kingdom right now? *(People search for it. We experience great joy when we discover the kingdom of God.)*
3. What does this parable say about God's kingdom in eternity? *(God's kingdom is worth more than we could possibly imagine. It is better, more fulfilling, and satisfying than anything earth has to offer. It is also long lasting like a glorious jewel..)*