**Parables Assembly Series Key Stage 2**

Parable of the Mustard Seed

**Bible passage** Matthew 13:31-33

**Introduction** Introduce the theme of parables. Ask the children if they know what a parable is (explain if not “earthly story with a heavenly meaning”). See if the children know any of Jesus’ parables and then say that for the next few weeks we are going to be looking at some lesser known parables that Jesus told.

**Game** Have a few balloons and ask for the same amount of volunteers as you have balloons. The aim of the game is for the volunteers to blow up their balloon, and then on the word “go” they have to let their balloon go. Whoever’s balloon travels the furthest (towards the back of the hall) wins the game. Explain that they will only have a few seconds to blow up their balloon but obviously the more air they put into their balloon the further it will travel.

**Illustration** Bring out an apple and cut it into quarters. Take out the seeds and hold them up and ask what happens to the seeds. Obviously they will say it grows into an apple tree. Say that it is hard to imagine that something so big could come from something so small. Introduce today’s parable by saying that Jesus told a story about a very small seed.

**Bible story** Tell the story from the Bible. Matthew 13:31-33

**Talk** There is an old saying that says, “Tall oaks from little acorns grow” Ask if anyone knows what that might mean. If nobody knows say that it means the same as they story that Jesus told – from small beginnings something big can happen. Indeed even the Christian faith which has billions of followers round the world started with just one man.

Sometimes you might feel small or unimportant but that should never ever stop you from achieving amazing things.

Let me read this to you to finish. In the quiet, think about the words I’m saying.

Picture in your mind the night sky full of stars.
Think of how many stars there must be - too many to count!
Think of the huge number of people there are in the whole world - many more than the stars.

Think of the vast, wide world, and think of yourself.
What can you do to make a difference to the world?

Think of today.
What will you do to make a difference to the world around you?
Will you say a kind word to someone who is sad?
Will you help someone to do something difficult?
Will you take care of the earth's resources by recycling something?
Will you cheer up the people around you with your smile?
Will those you meet today find that the world is a brighter place because of you?

Dear God,
Though we are so small and the world is so big,
help us to make a difference to all whom we meet today.
**Amen.**

Parable of the Mustard Seed

**Bible passage** Luke 14:7-11

**Introduction** Explain that this week’s parable is a little bit topsy turvy.

**Game** Invite some volunteers out to play some games but all the games are the opposite to what they usually are. For example, play boules but the children have to get furthest away from the white ball, penalty shoot out where they have to try and miss, snakes and ladders where they have to come last and go up the snakes and down the ladders. You could have all three games going on at the same time and move around them, commentating.

**Bible story** Tell the story from the Bible. Luke 14:7-11

**Talk** Just like our games this morning, Jesus’ parable seems a bit upside down or topsy turvy. That’s because it isn’t automatically what we would do is it?

If someone important invited us to a meal we would look to get the best possible seat. We would want to be as close to the action as possible. We don’t want to be stuck down the other end of the table with the “boring” people.

Sometimes we do that in life don’t we? We push ourselves forward and barge in because we think we are the most important person. That’s OK but sometimes the problem is that we hurt other people because we think they are less important than us.

Jesus’ parable shows us an upside down way. He says that it is far better to sit at the lower seat and be moved up to a better seat than to sit at the highest seat and be moved lower.

It is true in our lives too, if we treat other people as well as we would like to be treated then people will notice and be keen to help you when you need it.

**Challenge** Every time we help somebody else it costs us something. That’s why it’s difficult to do. It might not cost us money but it could cost us our time. Helping someone else might mean we don’t play with our friends at play time or we don’t sit with them at lunch. But the more we learn to help others, the more likely they are to help us.

**Pray**

Parable of the Lost Sheep

**Bible passage** Luke 15:4-7 or Matthew 18:12-14

**Introduction**

**Game** Before the assembly hide some stuff around the assembly hall. Get out a few volunteers and then tell them the items (one at a time) you have lost. They must then race to find it and bring it back to you. Make the last one a toy sheep.

Finish the game by explaining that Jesus told a parable about a sheep that had managed to get itself well and truly lost.

**Bible story** Tell the story from the Bible. Luke 15:4-7 or Matthew 18:12-14

**Talk** Why would the shepherd leave 99 sheep and go and look for one sheep that had got lost? What does it tell us about the shepherd? Jesus said that God was like the shepherd and we are like the sheep. Christians believe, he told the story to show just how much he loves you and me. He risked himself for that one sheep because he could have been attacked as he searched. I wonder who you love? I’m not talking about soppy, kissy kissy love but the love that means you would risk something for? Jesus told people just how much he loved people, I wonder if maybe you should do the same? It’s very easy to take people for granted especially those we love the most. But they do so much for us, love and care for us so much that we need to remember just how special they are and treat them well. Oh, and we need to tell them we love them too!