

KINGDOM PARABLES (PART 1)

New Testament Lesson #42

Today's selections contain three short parables. The first is about growing seed (Mark 4:26-29). The kingdom of God, Jesus said, is as if a farmer scattered seed. The farmer's life goes on as usual, and the seed begins to grow without his knowing how. The earth causes it to grow in an orderly fashion, "First the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head." When the grain is ripe, the farmer harvests it.

In sowing the seed, he has done what he could. To dig the seed up to check its progress would only destroy the young plant. The plant grows as the farmer goes about his routine business. He knows that if good seed is sown, growth will follow and there will eventually be a harvest. He also knows he can neither speed up nor slow down this process. His part has been done. Now he must wait patiently. In due time, the harvest will come, and then he will resume his work.

In the next parable (Mark 4:30-32, also in Matthew 13:31-32 and Luke 13:18-19), Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a mustard seed. It is a very small seed, yet grows into a tree large enough for birds to nest in.

The third parable (Matthew 13:33), which Jesus said also illustrates the kingdom of God, was about a woman who mixed yeast with flour to bake bread; the small amount of yeast influenced the whole batch. It could not be removed, and apart from baking, its action couldn't be stopped.

POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- With modern fertilizers and cultivation methods, today's farmer can speed up the harvest to a degree, but the basic point, that the farmer cannot make the growth happen, remains true.
- The mustard seed parable echoes Old Testament passages. Compare Ezekiel 17:22-23 and Daniel 4:10-12.
- In Jesus' day, yeast was in the form of leaven, which was dough from an earlier batch that had gone sour.

Kingdom Parables (Part 1)

- I. Jesus said the kingdom of God is similar to a farmer scattering seed.
 - A. The seed grows in an orderly fashion.
 - B. The farmer cannot explain exactly how growth occurs.
 - C. He has done his part in the planting and must wait patiently for the harvest.
- II. Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a mustard seed.
 - A. The seed is tiny.
 - B. It grows into a tree large enough to hold bird nests.
- III. Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a woman who bakes bread.
 - A. She mixes yeast into the flour.
 - B. Then the yeast cannot be removed.
 - C. The yeast determines the outcome of the entire loaf.

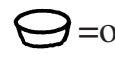
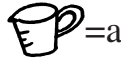
ANSWER KEY:












"The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."












water, honey, salt, flour













The Parable of the Yeast








Use the code to fill the blanks.



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Find the ingredients in these verses.

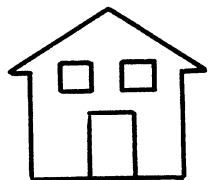
(Matthew 6:11)

Basic Yeast Bread

- 3 cups warm _____ (Genesis 24:43)
- 2 packages dry yeast _____ (Psalm 19:10)
- 1/2 cup (sweet) _____ (Job 6:6a)
- 3 teaspoons _____
- 5 tablespoons shortening _____ (Matthew 13:33)
- 8-10 cups _____



Dissolve yeast in warm water. Add honey, salt and shortening. Add flour until no more can be mixed in. Knead and place bowl in warm place. Cover with a clean towel. Let it rise until it is double in size. Push it down with your fist and knead again. Make it into 3 sections. Grease 3 pans with shortening. Put the dough in the pans. Brush tops with shortening. Let rise 1 hour. Bake at 350° for 40 minutes.



SPECIAL FUN FOR HOME OR CLASS

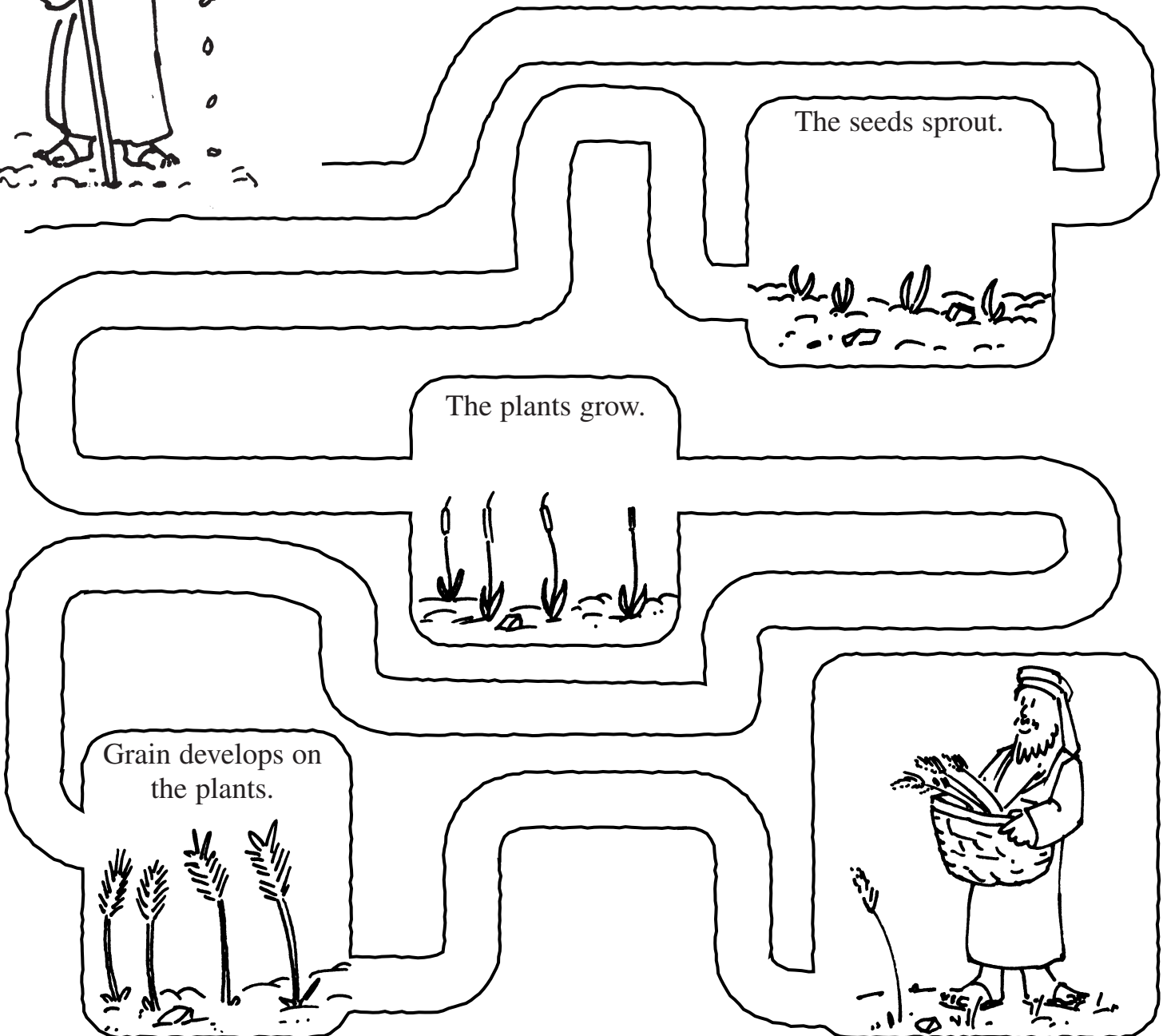
Discover how yeast works by making this recipe!

Name _____



Jesus told a parable about how the kingdom of God is like a farmer planting his crops.

Follow the path to see what happens in the kingdom of God.



Name _____