



# THE KINGDOM AND YOU

THE MAIN AND THE PLAIN SERIES  
VINEYARD YOUTH CURRICULUM

**vineyardyouth**  
U.S.A



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# THE MAIN & PLAIN

| YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD |

# WELCOME!

## to Vineyard Youth USA Curriculum

**Hello friends.** What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

### Each lesson will include:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to live and reveal the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age- and gender-specific items.
- Chances for you as the leader to tune into what God is doing in you and your students' lives.
- Spaces for students to hear from God for themselves.

This curriculum is written by youth leaders for youth leaders. If you would like to join the team and contribute your voice to the conversation, we would love to hear from you.

You may not hear this enough, but thank you for what you do. It's important, it's needed, and it's laying the foundation for a new generation of leaders to continue the good things God has already done in the Vineyard movement. Keep up the good work!

## Why This Topic?

In the Vineyard we see the theology and practice of the Kingdom of God as core to who we are. It is foundational to all that we believe. Reality is that the topic of 'the Kingdom of God' can seem abstract, and may be hard to understand how it affects everyday life, for younger students. In this set of lessons, our hope is to give pre and early teens an opportunity to learn about the theology and practice of the Kingdom of God through sets discussions and activities that will help students both learn about and experience the kingdom by way of the parable of the soil from Matthew 13.

## Connecting to Vineyard Values

We intentionally connect our curriculum to Vineyard Values and Distinctives. "The Kingdom and You" connects in with the Vineyard Core Value of The Theology and Practice of the Kingdom of God. You can read more about it here: <http://www.vineyardresources.com/CoreValuesAndBeliefs.pdf>

It also connects with the Vineyard Distinctives of "The Already and the Not Yet." You can read more about these here: <http://www.vineyardusa.org/site/phil-media/vineyard-distinctives/already-not-yet>

## Helpful Reminders For You, the Youth Leader

In working with this curriculum there are a few ideas we'd like to keep in mind:

Plug in your stories wherever you can. These are bare bones here, you add the meat!

Experiential learning lasts. We've tried to make this as experiential as possible, rather than just providing head knowledge. We encourage you the leader to try it out. Take some risks!

Humor is key. It's hard for us to artificially add this from a distance, but we encourage you to find all chances you can to connect through humor!

Context matters. We don't know what's going on in your group right now, but you do. We encourage you to pray/think about how this message applies to the new ones in your group, the veterans, and the seekers! How does this tie into the message of salvation through Jesus?

# THE MAIN & PLAIN

YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD /// THE PARABLES OF JESUS



## BIG IDEA

**Jesus was a storyteller (the greatest of all time) because stories have the power to communicate in a way that helps us learn and remember.**

*It is important that you are familiar with some of the parables of Jesus. A quick skim of the Gospel of Matthew will be helpful in refreshing memory.*

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

Sometimes telling stories can trigger in us (and others) an unexpected emotional response. In the process of discipling students, your stories and those of your students will often overlap in areas that hurt to remember. In preparing for this lesson, take the time to reach out to a few of your friends/mentors and ask them to be praying that the Lord remind you of stories that will profitable for the discussions that follow this lesson.

## STARTER

Who is your favorite storyteller? Explain why to the group.

*Open the night with the group together, and talk about storytelling – specifically, about the person that you consider to be a great storyteller; and why. Transition the conversation to the students taking turns giving input. If possible, put names and details up on a whiteboard or poster board.*

# YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD /// THE PARABLES OF JESUS

## POINT 1

**Jesus was an amazing story teller and used a type of story called a 'parable'**

## TEACH

Parable / a simple story that is used to demonstrate a lesson. Take time to explain and give an example of a parable (use a modern parable like 'the boy who cried wolf').

## MAIN VERSE

*Matthew 13:1 -3a*

*That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables.*

*Matthew 13:53-54*

*And when Jesus had finished these parables, he went away from there, and coming to his hometown he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works?"*

## DISCUSS

What did you hear (read) in these verses? Do you remember any of the stories (parables) that Jesus told? Why do you think that Jesus spoke in parables?

*This is a good opportunity to put answers and examples given by students up on a white board or poster board for all to see. For large groups, it may be necessary to break up students into smaller discussions group just before the reading of the bible verses. You know your group, do it when (and if) it fits best.*

## POINT 2

**Not only was Jesus an amazing storyteller, but His stories (parables) had real meaning for all people He – including all people that would ever hear the stories.**

## TEACH

Reality is that Jesus was usually telling stories (true stories) about why He was on the earth, what He was doing, and what the Father wanted to have done through Him, for us. It may seem strange that stories from 2,000 years ago can be relevant for today, but they are truly timeless. The people back then and the people of today need the same things – even though it may look a little different in the way it plays out.

## DISCUSS

What are some of the reasons that people tell stories to each other? Can you give any examples of stories that we tell with purpose (maybe a story that was told to you by a teacher, or a grandparent, or neighbor)?

In one way, a parable can be thought of as a riddle, a puzzle, or an encoded message being told so NOT everyone can easily understand. Can you think of any examples?

## ACTIVITY

*Cipher Translation: A cipher is a secret or disguised way of writing. Have students use the included decoder key to decipher the cipher (give the hand out).*

*[make it long enough that students can't whip through it in a minute, have a prize]*

*[I have provided a pdf with a pre-made sample that can be printed as a handout]*

# YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD /// THE PARABLES OF JESUS

## ACTIVITY

*Game Activity: Use a 'story-ing game' to have kids make up a story.*

*[have a game available for students to make up their own story/stories]*

*[one option is the toy 'Rory's Story Cubes / number of sets will be based on group size]*

## RESPONSE

These activities are designed to get students thinking about storytelling, as well as thinking about how some stories have a meaning hidden inside the story itself.

## HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

While stories are being told or deciphered, it is a good time to pick up on things that the students are sharing out of their own stories. Listen for the Holy Spirit to be leading you into discussions that are opportunities for healing and prophetic encouragement.

### **VINEYARD VALUES**

*Experiencing God: The discussion specifically lends itself to a ministry moment that is focused on Experiencing God through prayer and the gifts of the Spirit. It's a good idea to make sure that your teachers are comfortable with praying for people.*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever heard or read a bible story that sounded really similar to something that happened to you (one of your real life stories)? Which bible story? How was it similar to a story of yours?
- ② We believe that the stories in the bible are real stories of what God did with real people. Are there any stories in the bible that seem just too amazing to be real? Which one(s)? What happened in the story

# THE MAIN & PLAIN

YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD / THE PARABLES OF JESUS // THE ROCKS



## BIG IDEA

**Some people hear the good news that Jesus came to rescue us from brokenness and sin and separation; and this good news gets stolen away before they can do anything with it.**

*This lesson will be using the path portion of the parable of the sower. Take the time to be familiar with this parable.*

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

As a youth leader / pastor, you regularly come into contact with the student that drops in and out the youth ministry. It's easy to become desensitized to these students. Take the time to pray for both the discernment to recognize students that 'are on the path', as well as have the ability to speak with the power of the Holy Spirit into their lives.

## STARTER

Tell the group about something that was really hard for you to learn or try to understand. This could be anything from a school thing to a video game. Be creative.

*Open the night with the group together, and talk about things that were difficult to learn. Transition the conversation to the students taking turns giving input. If possible, put names and details up on a whiteboard or poster board.*

## POINT 1

**It's easy for the good news of Jesus to be misunderstood and stolen away from us.**

## ACTIVITY

*Play the game. Here are the rules. Listen to, or read, the words. They are not words you hear every day. Pick the definition that seems the most real, correct. Circle the letter of the definition that you think best fits word.*

## DISCUSS

This game was called 'Balderdash' which means senseless talk or written nonsense. Reality is that it can take time to separate nonsense from what is important. Can you think of things in your real life that were hard to figure out, things that took time to understand or solve – not video games or musical instruments, but lessons in life?

*This is an opportunity to introduce topics in life like dealing with death of a loved one, heartbreak, or how to give/receive bad news.*

## TEACH

The message of Jesus and the Kingdom of God can seem complex, even nonsensical. It takes the Holy Spirit and a little bit of time to let it grow / develop in your life.

## MAIN VERSE

**Matthew 13:3-4**

*And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them..."*

**Matthew 13:19**

*(and Jesus explained it to mean) "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path."*

# YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD /// THE PARABLES OF JESUS

## POINT 2

**Jesus teaches us that the message of Kingdom, the good news, is easily stolen away; and that there are things that will steal the truth away before we can understand and live it.**

## TEACH

This is a simple story (parable) being told by Jesus (remember last lesson). The word of the Kingdom comes to us easy (the gospel, the good news). These words (the truth of Jesus) are easily stolen away. The birds are the things in life that steal it away from us. The truth of Jesus, the message of the Kingdom, the gospel – is NOT balderdash.

## DISCUSS

Have you heard about the news of what Jesus did to rescue you?

Is it possible that something so important can be so simple to understand?

What are the things in your life that are stealing (or are trying to steal) you away?

## RESPONSE

These activities are designed to get students thinking about storytelling, as well as thinking about how some stories have a meaning hidden inside the story itself.

# YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD /// THE PARABLES OF JESUS

## HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

This is a perfect set up to tell students about Jesus, and the good news of the gospel. Take time in the discussion – where it fits – to stop and quickly pray that the Holy Spirit move in hearts and heads. Be ready to break students into smaller groups for prayer and response during this last discussion of the lesson.

### **VINEYARD VALUES**

*Experience and Practice the Kingdom: This discussion is in the wheel house of what we talk about when we talk about the kingdom. The lesson is geared specifically to explain this concept, and bring the students to a place of seeing the already, not yet.*

*Experiencing God: The discussion specifically lends itself to a ministry moment that is focused on Experiencing God through prayer and the gifts of the Spirit. It's a good idea to make sure that your teachers are comfortable with praying for people.*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① Have you ever received a gift, and it got broken or lost before you had a chance to play with it, or enjoy it? Can you share the details of this quickly? How did you feel when you realized it was broken or lost?
- ② If you knew that there were situations or people that were going to try to steal valuable things from you – what would you do to stop these things from happening (stop anyone from stealing from you)?

# THE MAIN & PLAIN

YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD / THE PARABLES OF JESUS // THE ROCKS



## BIG IDEA

**There are people that start to follow Jesus and then stop when things in life get hard. [This will also be a platform for talking about the classic Kingdom model.]**

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

As a youth leader / pastor, you are discipling students that are on the edge of walking away from Jesus. You may even be wrestling with this pressure to give up. Take time to pray and talk with a friend or friends outside of youth ministry. It is important to have friends and mentors that will walk with you through good and hard times.

## STARTER

Tell the group about something that you tried, really enjoyed, but then stopped doing after a little bit of time. (maybe even share a fail story – something that you stopped doing after it got hard to do or challenging)

*Know that this is asking the kids to be very vulnerable.*

## ACTIVITY

*Take a peek at the picture of successful failures (attached is a slide of pictures that you can find online with a simple search). Who are they? Did they stop after initial failures? [this can be done using print outs or by projecting images on the wall, and it can be used at any point in the opener activity]*

## POINT 1

### **In life it's easy to stop anything when it gets hard, or when you get resisted**

## DISCUSS

Transition the opener discussion to this point – and build into these questions: Why do you follow Jesus, or go to church, or youth group? Do you think that you will face pressures to stop following Jesus or to go to church over time? What are some of the things that will cause these pressures? Where will it come from?

## MAIN VERSE

*Matthew 13:5-6 and 20, 21 (focus is the rocky soil)*

*Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away.*

*Matthew 12:20-21 (focus is the rocky soil)*

*As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away.*

## DISCUSS

What did you hear and think when we read these verses? Why do you think that we start following Jesus? What are some of the reasons that we stop following Jesus? Think back to the 'failure stories picture' – what can you connect to these verses?

## POINT 2

**Hard hurtful things (tribulation and persecution) will find their way into your life; and when they do, we should look to Jesus's message of the Kingdom of God for answers**

## TEACH

The reality of discipleship is that as we walk toward Jesus – living for Him with the help of the Holy Spirit – the brokenness of this world works against us. Pain and brokenness, in our bodies and lives, are used by the enemy to destroy our relationship with God.

Take time to talk through real possibilities of what this looks like in a person's life.

## ACTIVITY



### MEDIA : MOVIE CLIP

*Watch clip about a guy named John. [you can find this video on the internet by searching Doing the Stuff by explainED on J. Wimber] What do you think that the guy in the video meant by "doing the stuff"? What kind of stuff was Jesus known for doing?*

### GAME

*CRAZY RELAY RACE – passing the insanity baton (make up a relay race game with an absolutely crazy baton to be passed between runners). The baton should be awkward and easy to see who is holding onto the baton even during the transition.*

*The relay pass is visible lesson of the 'already, not yet' concept.*

## DISCUSS

Do a re-enactment of one of baton passes between people. Freeze the relay – move in slow motion – right at the middle of handling the baton – who had the baton? (demo specifically when the baton is with both runners)

## POINT 3

**The Kingdom of God is already come in Jesus Christ, and is coming to end all of the pain (tribulation) and suffering (persecution) when Jesus returns to earth again**

## TEACH

When the first racer had already handed off the baton, and the second racer had not yet fully taken the baton. The baton is already-not yet; it's in between the two runners. This is what the Kingdom of God is like right now.

*Picture Story: Take a look at the picture story – it shows us all of time with the focus around Jesus. This is the classic G.E. Ladd eschatological timeline diagram, we are in the already, not yet – if you're not familiar with it, please walk through it before class.*

## RESPONSE

These activities are designed to get students thinking about storytelling, as well as thinking about how some stories have a meaning hidden inside the story itself.

## HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

We live in the middle time (time between when Jesus came & when He is. This is a time when it is really hard to follow Jesus – because things are hard. (Reminder coming again). This middle time is a time when stuff (everything) is still broken. of examples that you know are the things that impact the kids that are in the room – divorce, health, poverty, hurt. This opportunity has been a set for ministry response.)

What are some of the things that pull you away from your relationship with Jesus?

What are some of the things that you can do to deepen your relationship in to Jesus?

What are some of the things you can do to grow your love for Jesus more and more?

Take time to pray for each other in small groups based on these discussion questions.

### **VINEYARD VALUES**

*Experience and Practice the Kingdom: This discussion is in the wheel house of what we talk about when we talk about the kingdom. The lesson is geared specifically to explain this concept, and bring the students to a place of seeing the already, not yet.*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① What are some of the things that pull you away from your relationship with Jesus?
- ② What are some of the things that you can do to deepen your relationship in to Jesus?
- ③ What are some of the things you can do to grow your love for Jesus more and more?

# THE MAIN & PLAIN

YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD / THE PARABLES OF JESUS // THE THORNS



## BIG IDEA

**There are people that start to follow Jesus and then stop when life starts to choke out the things that The Lord is doing in their life.**

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

In this lesson you will be discipling students in recognizing that life has a way of choking out their relationship with Jesus. It may not seem like it, but you are stepping out in a powerful way in this lesson. You are actively warring against one of the most aggressive spiritual attacks of the enemy on the lives of your students. For your own soul care, spend time prior to this lesson listing out areas in your own life that are choking out your walk with Jesus. Take time to talk and pray with a friend / mentor about this list.

## STARTER

Think about your life. There are things that will always be with you. What is the important stuff that you will take with you along the journey of your life? This might be material goods, keep-sakes, specific memories, friendships...really anything at all.

*This is a great activity to do on a white board and have stuff get put up on the wall.*

*For larger groups, use options that work for your crowd management in the meeting.*

## ACTIVITY

*Looking at the timeline handout let's focus 'what we can bring' to just 2 things at critical points in life. The handout has a timeline with key moments in 'life after 6th grade'. Walk the students through the timeline. Keep reminding them that the 'important things' may not be actual material things to bring along.*

*A good example is how people will remember you – so reputation is a 'thing' that is important to bring along.*

## POINT 1

**You will need to make decisions about what's important all through your life**

## MAIN VERSE

*Matthew 13:7-9*

*Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear.*

*Matthew 13:22*

*As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

## DISCUSS

What does the last part (v.22) say about the first part (v.7)?

What it mean to 'choke'? Is choking good? Explain. Let's talk about why.

What does unfruitful mean? Is unfruitfulness good? Explain. Let's talk about why.

## TEACH

### *Big Definition(s):*

*choke / fill a passage or space, especially as to make movement difficult or impossible*

*unfruitful / not producing good or helpful results, unproductive*

Think about our opening discussion and activity. These verses show us a connection between what we fill our lives with and what the outcome of your life will be. If you want to understand what “your life is filled with” – look at how you spend your time, energy, and money.

## POINT 2

**There are things in life that are not fruitful in your walk as a disciple of Jesus**

## ACTIVITY

### **GAME**

*this is a teaching through active demonstration*

*APPLE PICKING. (this game requires materials and a bit of preparation) Listen carefully to the game rules as there will be benefit for the team that is fruitful.*

*Game Rules: Apple Picking (this should be fun)*

- 1. Hang fruit (balloons) on the walls.*
- 2. Separate the class into two teams.*
- 3. One team is allowed to go pick as many balloons as possible.*
- 4. The other team needs to have thorny vines choking them out*
- 5. Larger people hanging on them, and wrap around their arms and legs) while picking fruit.*

***The point is ...which is more fruitful. Do whatever you need to do as incentive for the students. (you will need to modify the game based on the space available and the number of kids that are present, it will also require prep)***

## DISCUSS

It is hard to be fruitful (at anything) when there are bunches of thorny vines hanging all over you and your life. What do thorny vines look like in your / my life? (give examples) [this is an easy place to mistakenly avoid the gospel and miss the point of ministry]

[don't let this lesson turn into an opportunity to only say 'live a good uncluttered life']

When you go to school, or watch TV, or movies, or play video games, or go to the store– what are you being told is most important for your life?

Remembering our last discussion (specifically about the Kingdom of God and our lives), what connections do you see between this week's talk about the thorny vines and last week's talk about the Kingdom of God in your life?

Go back to look at your timeline. Can you add to your timeline what the Kingdom of God looks like at the different times of your life (different ages)?

## RESPONSE

These activities are designed to get students thinking about storytelling, as well as thinking about how some stories have a meaning hidden inside the story itself.

## HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

After students have had a chance to revisit their timelines, make sure they break into small groups and pray specifically about pieces that they talked about in the timeline.

### **VINEYARD VALUES**

*Experience and Practice the Kingdom: This discussion is in the wheel house of what we talk about when we talk about the kingdom. The lesson is geared specifically to explain this concept, and bring the students to a place of seeing the already, not yet.*

*Experiencing God: The discussion specifically lends itself to a ministry moment that is focused on Experiencing God through prayer and the gifts of the Spirit. It's a good idea to make sure that your teachers are comfortable with praying for people.*

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① In this lesson we were talking about the things in your life that can turn into thorny vines that choke out the love of God from your life. It's good when God's grace sets us free from the choking thorns. We already identified some of the things that are 'thorny vines'. How do we keep them from growing back?
- ② When you look at your timeline, do you think that there are different kinds of 'thorny vines' that want to grow at different times of your life? (different kinds grow when you're younger vs. older) Examples?

# THE MAIN & PLAIN

YOU AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD / THE PARABLES OF JESUS // THE GOOD SOIL



## BIG IDEA

**Your life is a product of what you put into it. Good soil is filled with good things (and only God is good). And, the things that we put into our lives impact everything about us.**

## YOUTH LEADER SOUL CARE

In this lesson you will be discipling students in recognizing that there are good things in life that have a way strengthening your relationship with Jesus. This is a message that the enemy does not want taught. By talking about this truth, you are painting a target on your own life. Take time to write down the good things that the Lord has done in your life. Take time to pray prayers of thanksgiving over this list. It will be helpful to remember Matthew 6:9-13 as you pray over this list of promises made real in your life.

## STARTER

This is going to be a challenge if you are not from a farming community. If you are from an urban environment, take the time to connect the students to the concept of farming, agriculture, and growing things from seed. An easy reach is the App Game Farmville.

A quick google or YouTube search will help you locate video clips of the game. Depending on the technology available, and your group - it may be a good choice to demo a round of Farmville, or even have students play the game during food & hangout.



Find a video clip of the game FarmVille (or other farm game). (Keep it short).

## DISCUSS

If you were to be a farmer (for the purpose of making money), what farm product would you want to grow? Why would you pick that crop? What do you think would be important to have and use to be able to grow as much of that crop as possible?

## ACTIVITY

*Jar of Rocks. Big Goal of the game is to get all of the rock material into a jar.*

- 1. Give each group of students a jar (try to keep similar proportions if possible for all groups)*
- 2. Give each group quantities of rocks and sand, of varying sizes and shapes – but that all fit into the opening of the jar.*
- 3. Explain to the groups that they need to fit all of the material into the jar. Set a time limit to complete this task, fit it into your format.*

*In your explanation of the game lean toward the idea of putting the smaller stuff in first, knowing that this is NOT the answer – even how you give out the materials will impact how the kids ‘remember the materials’ and eventually put them in the jar.*

*This activity will be subject to the size of your group, and is easy to adjust based on the amount of materials, the space that you’re using, and the size of your group.*

*This activity requires materials and preparation – it is a classic game activity, but make sure that you practice before you get to the group with the materials that you’ll use.*

*“Search for a video online for this activity to get a solid demonstration. As older students may have done this activity before, make sure that you manage the conversation in the room.”*

## POINT 1

**In all areas of life as a disciple – it matters what you put in, when you do it, and how**

### TEACH

What do you think the point of the rock challenge is? How is the rock challenge connected to the farming (raising crops) discussion? When you're doing anything in life, not only is it important that you think about what's going in, but also how it's going in, and when it's going in...it's also good to think about what's coming out! (true for all parts of your life – no part of your life is disconnected)

### ACTIVITY

#### **READ & LISTEN**

*Matthew 13:8-9 and 23*

*Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. He who has ears, let him hear."*

*As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."*

### TEACH

This sounds a lot like what we have been talking about today. Reality is that the idea of farming is NOT new, and it's not going away anytime soon. Not many of us will grow up to be farmers (agriculture – vegetables and animals), but all of us will (do) need to grow over our lifetime – in every area of our lives.

## ACTIVITY



### MEDIA : VIDEO CLIP

*Activity (Video): G.I.G.O. – watch this strange video clip [search for a video clip called 'Short Film GIGO' by pocket films]*

## DISCUSS

What is this film telling us? What does this video have to do with what we read earlier? What does this video have to do with any part of this week's lesson/discussion?

## TAKE AWAY

**There is a connection between your growth as a disciple and the Kingdom of God**

## SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

- ① What does the Kingdom of God look like as it grows in your life? What does the Kingdom of God look like as it changes the junk in your life?
- ② What does the Kingdom of God look like as you help / serve people?
- ③ What does the Kingdom of God look like when you're at home? School?

## RESPONSE

These activities are designed to get students thinking about storytelling, as well as thinking about how some stories have a meaning hidden inside the story itself.

## HOLY SPIRIT// MINISTRY TIME

After students have had a chance to talk through the questions, break them into smaller groups and pray specifically about pieces that they talked about in this discussion.

# The Kingdom and You

In the Vineyard we see the theology and practice of the Kingdom of God as core to who we are. It is foundational to all that we believe. The reality is that the topic of 'the Kingdom of God' can seem abstract, and may be hard to understand how it affects everyday life, for younger students. In this set of lessons, our hope is to give pre and early teens an opportunity to learn about the theology and practice of the Kingdom of God through discussions and activities that will help students both learn about and experience the kingdom by way of the parable of the soil from Matthew 13.

## Each lesson includes:

- Experiential, hands-on activities that reflect a variety of learning styles.
- Large group questions to frame a conversation (I.E., not a lecture).
- Application suggestions to reveal and experience the kingdom of God.
- Small group questions with age and gender specific items.
- A devotional for the leader to help them grow in this area.
- Planned activities to help students hear God for themselves.

## Welcome to Vineyard Youth USA Curriculum

Hello friends. What you hold in your hands is the product of lots of people, lots of prayer, and lots of purpose. The Vineyard movement is at a crucial place, and we believe that the work we do with students will have much influence on what the movement will look like over the next 10-20 years. We set out to design a curriculum that communicates and reinforces the biblical and kingdom values of the Vineyard while inviting students to embrace the reality that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Understanding the diversity within the Vineyard movement, we purposefully designed curriculum that can be utilized by groups of differing sizes led by either paid or volunteer leaders in any geographical setting or location. Easy, right? We believe we accomplish this by offering a buffet of activities that allow you – the in-the-trenches leader – to choose what works for you and your group. We're pretty sure no one will use all of the material proposed, but we're confident some of it will be a good fit for your group.

## About the Author

*Scott Mailhot*

Scott lives in New Hampshire with his wife Deb and his daughters. He has served in children and youth ministry for twenty years. Scott is one of the elders at Manchester Vineyard in NH; and with his wife are the current overseers of the youth and children ministries in Manchester.