**RE- The Kingdom of God**

The children will be learning about people who live their life as though they are in the Kingdom of God. People like Nelson Mandela will be studied as someone who lived his life in this way.

**Lesson 7:**

LO: To recognise what a parable is

HOM: Remain open to continuous learning.

Read together Matthew 13:24-33 and 44-47

### The Parable of the Weeds

**24**Jesus told them another parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man sowed good seed in his field. **25**One night, when everyone was asleep, an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. **26**When the plants grew and the heads of grain began to form, then the weeds showed up. **27**The man's servants came to him and said, ‘Sir, it was good seed you sowed in your field; where did the weeds come from?’ **28**‘It was some enemy who did this,’ he answered. ‘Do you want us to go and pull up the weeds?’ they asked him. **29**‘No,’ he answered, ‘because as you gather the weeds you might pull up some of the wheat along with them. **30**Let the wheat and the weeds both grow together until harvest. Then I will tell the harvest workers to pull up the weeds first, tie them in bundles and burn them, and then to gather in the wheat and put it in my barn.’”

### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

**31**Jesus told them another parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. **32**It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches.”

### The Parable of the Yeast

**33**Jesus told them still another parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A woman takes some yeast and mixes it with a bushel of flour until the whole batch of dough rises.”

### The Parable of the Hidden Treasure

**44**“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man happens to find a treasure hidden in a field. He covers it up again, and is so happy that he goes and sells everything he has, and then goes back and buys that field.

### The Parable of the Pearl

**45**“Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man is looking for fine pearls, **46**and when he finds one that is unusually fine, he goes and sells everything he has, and buys that pearl.

### The Parable of the Net

**47**“Also, the Kingdom of heaven is like this. Some fishermen throw their net out in the lake and catch all kinds of fish.

Discuss and answer these questions in full sentences.

• What do we call this kind of story?

• Does this story make us think about things?

• If so, what does this story make us think about?

• Where are the phrases ‘kingdom of heaven’ in the passages?

• What is the common theme in these stories?

Stories are a wonderful way of making us think and that our next area of study is a story that Matthew has written to make us think about a special time – a time when God is in charge of everything in the world and we all live together just as God had dreamed we would.

Some people call this time ‘Gods dream’, other people call it ‘God’s rule’, some call it God’s reign (because they think God will ‘reign’ like a magnificent king).

**Matthew calls this time, the ‘Kingdom of Heaven.’**

GREEN HAT: What do you think this means?

Explain what a parable is (it is a story with a meaning – “an earthly story with a heavenly meaning”)

Parables are stories that Jesus used to explain how people should live their lives.

**Task**: You will be given 3 parables from Matthew’s Gospel

Matthew 13: 44-50

The Hidden Treasure

Parable of the Pearl

Parable of the Net)

Under each one you will need to explain the message in the parable.

