

Activities for "Parable of the yeast" - Matthew 13:33 (5th July)

These activities may be more appropriate for younger children. We return to the theme of kingdom parables. The kingdom of heaven is like yeast in dough. Yeast makes the dough grow bigger even though you can't see the yeast at work. God's family is growing bigger and bigger, even though we can't always see this.

Make some bread

Make some bread with your child. There are various recipes on the internet such as this one <https://www.bakingmad.com/recipe/very-simple-white-loaf> Notice how you need a lot of flour but only a little bit of yeast. Notice how the yeast makes the dough rise and grow. People who love God can help God's family grow (like yeast making bread rise) by telling people about God and Jesus.

Loaves and flatbread

Look at different types of bread. What differences do you notice? Some have got yeast in and are fat and puffy. Others have no yeast in and are flat and dense. Cut open a loaf made with yeast. Look at the bubble holes where the yeast has helped to make the dough get bigger. It's amazing what a little yeast can do. We don't have to be big to help to make God's family grow bigger.

Blow up a balloon

To demonstrate the effect of yeast on flour, blow up a balloon. The bread mix without yeast is like the flat empty balloon. When you blow in air it is like adding yeast. The air makes the balloon grow bigger and bigger. We can be like yeast or air, telling people about Jesus, and helping God's family to get bigger and bigger.

Play with play dough

Make some play dough. There is a recipe in the resources section. The things you need to make play dough are very similar to things for making bread, but there is no yeast so it won't get bigger. Act out the parable, pretending you are making bread. You could pretend to make some fat bread rolls or some flat pitta bread.

Story illustration

Use the picture in the resources section to illustrate the story. Cut out the bowl shape and the bread shape. Use a split pin to join them together. Tell the parable that Jesus told in Matthew 13:33. Start with the dough rotated downwards so that only a bit shows. Then swivel the dough upwards to indicate how the yeast makes the dough rise. We are like yeast. Even when we are small, we can tell people about Jesus, so more people join God's family, and it grows.