Today’s parables – stories with hidden meaning - help us to learn more about God’s kingdom: what it’s like, how much it’s worth and who it’s for. We can be thankful that we are invited to share in these secrets of God’s kingdom. Let us pray that we can value God’s kingdom in the way that this Bible passage asks us to.

Jesus said to his disciples, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away.”

There is an activity sheet and a colouring sheet for today, but here are some other things you could try:

Put about 2cm of warm water in an 500ml empty water bottle. Add 2 teaspoons of dry yeast. Swirl the bottle and add 1 teaspoon of sugar, then stretch the balloon over the bottle neck and see the balloon stand up (this could take up to 20 mins to work).

Next time you go for a walk, collect lots of leaves and twigs. Stick them to the tree picture on the next page to make a beautiful mustard tree for lots of birds (and an owl!) to live in!

