



Background

This Sunday we explore the Parable of the Leaven or Yeast. We can't make leavened bread in a hurry. Yeast takes time to work its way through the dough. When the people of God escaped from Egypt and went through the water into freedom, they didn't have much time to get ready. So they had to quickly make flat bread for the journey without any yeast at all.

The work of God also takes a long time. Arotahi people have been at work in Tripura for nearly 100 years. Early workers walked along muddy jungle paths, encountered elephants, visited tribal people in bamboo huts, taught bible studies, and translated the bible into tribal languages.

When we live a life of love, our love touches people and their love touches people until whole communities and places become transformed by love. God's love is like that, it is silent and invisible, but just a tiny bit of it can make a big difference.

When we pray for Tripura and send money to support the work, we become part of making a difference too. In Tripura today, our Arotahi partner Samuel is working in schools to grow followers of Jesus.

To make your parable box you will need:

A shoe box spray painted gold

A rounded equilateral triangle 75cm in height cut from brown paper or tan felt.

A woman shape (outline provided)

A triangle shaped piece of leaven

Three bread shapes - small, medium and large.

Pre-Story Wondering (You can skip this, if you aren't making the box))

I wonder if there could be a parable in this box?

Parables are very old and this box looks old.

This box is gold like treasure, parables are even more precious than gold.

It is kind of like a gift. Parables are gifts. They were given to you before you were born. They already belong to you even before you understand them.



Look, it has a lid like a door. Sometimes it feels like a parable has a door that is closed, but if you keep coming back... (knock knock) eventually it will open to you.

I wonder what this is?

It is brown and yellow mixed together- It's a tan triangle. It does look like a mountain. Or the end of a Toblerone box. I wonder what it could really be?

Parable Introduction

There was once someone who said such amazing things and did such wonderful things that people followed him. As they followed him, they heard him talking about a kingdom, but it was not like the kingdom they lived in. It was not like any kingdom anyone had ever visited. It was not even like any kingdom anyone had ever heard of. They couldn't help it. They had to ask him what the kingdom of heaven was like.

One time when they asked, he said,....

Story

"The kingdom of heaven is like leaven (yeast) which a person takes and hides in one... two... three measures of flour and mixes together and then waits for the dough to swell rise expand and spread out until the whole loaf is large, puffy and leavened all over"

Wondering

You don't have to ask all the wonder questions, just choose a few...

I wonder if this person has a name?

I wonder who she really is?

I wonder how this person feels?

I wonder what the bread could really be?

I wonder if you could take the loaf of bread and put it back to where it was before it was leavened?

I wonder what the leaven might really be?

I wonder what this person was doing while the loaf was rising?

I wonder if the person spoke any words while the loaf was rising?

I wonder if you have ever been close to where this happens? Not just in the parable or making bread but in life?

Response Ideas

You could pretend that you are dough that swells up to become a loaf of bread... You could draw a picture of how you feel when you think about the bread getting big and puffy.

Maybe we could even make some bread together.