

The Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-32



Jesus used a parable about a mustard seed to illustrate what the kingdom of God is like. A mustard seed is a teeny tiny seed, but it grows into an enormous and very hardy bush. Birds can make their homes in the bush, just like we can make our home in the kingdom of God.

Take a Look

Here are some of the people and things in today's story. What can your child tell you about them?



The **mustard seed** is a proverbially small seed that grows into an incredibly large plant.

The **mustard plant** is not actually a tree; it is a shrub that can grow up to 9 feet tall.



The **crowd** would have expected the kingdom to mean Israel's liberation from the Roman Empire.

About the Video

Someone in the crowd asked Jesus what the kingdom of heaven is like. Jesus was inspired to use the metaphor of the tiny mustard seed, which grows into one of the largest plants. Like the mustard seed, a small bit of faith will grow into a magnificent kingdom.

- How did the crowd react to Jesus' parable?
- What do you think the kingdom of God is like?
- What's the smallest seed you've ever seen? How about the biggest plant?

Try This!

Buy some mustard seeds at the grocery store (in the spice section). Compare them to other seeds you have in your house. How are they the same and different?

Prayer

Teaching God, thank you for helping us see that even the smallest seeds can grow into something bigger than we can ever imagine! Help us plant seeds of your love everywhere we go. Amen!