

Parable Of The Mustard Seed

PRESCHOOL LESSON PLAN

Theme: From little beginnings come great things!

Scripture: Mark 4:30-34

Memory Verse: Mark 4:32, 'Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.'

The Children's Sermon

Parables are special stories that Jesus told to help people understand big ideas in a simple way. He used things that people knew about, like seeds and plants, to teach them about God's love and how we can grow in our hearts. Today, we're going to learn about a very special story called the Parable of the Mustard Seed.

In this parable, Jesus talks about a mustard seed. It's one of the tiniest seeds you can find, but when it grows, it turns into a big plant where birds can come and rest. Jesus used this story to show us how something very small can grow into something very big and important.

The mustard seed is like the Kingdom of God that Jesus talks about. It starts small, with Jesus and his few friends, but it grows and grows until it's big enough for everyone in the world. It's a way of showing us that even if we start small, with just a little bit of faith, we can grow into strong and caring people who help spread God's love everywhere.

When Jesus started teaching, he didn't have a lot of followers. But he didn't give up. He kept sharing his message of love and kindness. Slowly, more and more people started listening to him, and the group of followers grew bigger and bigger. Today, there are millions of people all over the world who follow Jesus and his teachings.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed also teaches us about hope and faith. Even when we feel small or think that what we do doesn't matter, Jesus tells us that's not true. Just like the tiny mustard seed can grow into a big tree, the small good things we do can grow into big changes in the world.

We can be like the mustard seed in our own lives too. When we are kind to others, when we help our friends, or when we share what we have, we are planting seeds of love and kindness. And just like the mustard seed, these small acts of kindness can grow and spread, making the world a better place.

It's important to remember that growing takes time. Just like a plant doesn't grow overnight, becoming the best version of ourselves takes time too. We need to be patient and keep doing good things, even when it seems like nothing is changing. God sees our efforts and will help our "seeds" grow.

Now, let's think about how we can be like the mustard seed in our daily lives. Maybe we can share our toys with someone who doesn't have any, or we can help our parents without being asked. Every good thing we do, no matter how small, is like planting a seed of kindness.

So, let's take the lesson of the Parable of the Mustard Seed to heart. Let's be patient and keep doing small things with great love. And always remember, Jesus loves us and

wants us to grow in love and kindness. He's with us, helping our "seeds" of faith and goodness grow every day. Let's spread kindness and love wherever we go, just like the mustard seed spreads its branches for the birds.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed teaches us about faith, hope, and love. It shows us that no matter how small we start, we can grow into something great. Let's carry this message in our hearts and share it with others through our words and actions. Let's be like the mustard seed, growing and spreading God's love everywhere we go.

PRAY: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Bible Memory Verse

Mark 4:32, 'Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.'

You Will Need:

- Paper
- Crayons or markers
- Scissors
- Bird stickers or pictures of birds

Get Ready:

- Cut the paper into large leaf shapes, one for each child.
- Write the memory verse on each leaf shape before class.

Do This:

1. Give each child a leaf shape with the verse and some crayons or markers. Ask them to decorate their leaf with colors or patterns.
2. Once they are done decorating, help them stick bird stickers or pictures on their leaf, explaining how the mustard seed grows into a big tree where birds can rest.
3. Encourage the children to take their decorated leaf home and tell their family about the parable of the mustard seed and what they learned about how something small can grow into something great.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- Small mustard seeds
- Potting soil
- Small pots or disposable cups
- Watering can or spray bottle
- Mark 4:30-34 printed or illustrated on a poster

Get Ready:

- Fill each pot or cup halfway with potting soil.
- Have the mustard seeds, pots, and watering can on a table accessible to the children.

Do this:

1. Read or summarize Mark 4:30-34 to the children, emphasizing how something so small like a mustard seed can grow into something great.
2. Give each child a pot and let them place a mustard seed in the soil, then cover it with a little more soil.
3. Help them water their seed gently with the watering can or spray bottle, talking about how we need to care for small things for them to grow.
4. Explain that just like the mustard seed, they may be small now, but they have the potential to grow into something great with care and love.

Snack Activity: Mustard Seed Trees

You'll Need:

- Round crackers
- Cream cheese or peanut butter
- Pretzel sticks
- Raisins or small fruit pieces

Get Ready: Spread a clean tablecloth or paper on the table where the children will work. Make sure each child has a small plate and a plastic knife or spreader.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that a tiny mustard seed grows into a big tree, just like in Mark 4:30-34. We're going to make our own little trees to remind us that great things start small.
2. Help each child spread cream cheese or peanut butter on a round cracker using their plastic knife or spreader. This will be the ground.
3. Let the children stick pretzel sticks into the cream cheese or peanut butter to make 'trees'. They can break the pretzels to make different sizes.

4. Finally, have them add raisins or small fruit pieces around the 'tree' to represent leaves or fruit. Encourage them to see how a little tree can produce something wonderful.

Game Activity: Tiny Seed, Big Tree

You'll Need:

- A large roll of paper
- Markers or crayons
- Small stickers or stamps

Get Ready: Draw a large tree with many branches but no leaves on the roll of paper. Spread it out on the floor or tape it to a wall at kid's eye level.

Do this:

1. Tell the children the story of the mustard seed from Mark 4:30-34, emphasizing how something so small can grow into the largest of garden plants.
2. Explain that each of them is like a tiny seed with the potential to grow into something great. To represent their growth, each child will add 'leaves' to the tree using stickers or stamps.
3. Encourage them to place their 'leaves' on the branches, filling up the tree. As they do, discuss how each small act of kindness or learning can help them grow big and strong in faith, just like the mustard seed.

Craft Activity: Tiny Seed, Big Tree

You'll Need:

- A small flower pot for each child

- Potting soil
- Mustard seeds
- Water
- Markers and stickers for decorating the pots

Get Ready: Fill each pot halfway with potting soil before the class.

Do this:

1. Read or summarize Mark 4:30-34 to the children, explaining how the tiny mustard seed grows into a big tree.
2. Let each child decorate their flower pot with markers and stickers.
3. Help the children plant a mustard seed in their pot and cover it lightly with soil.
4. Teach them to water their seed gently, explaining that just like the mustard seed, they can grow big and strong in faith and kindness.

Prayer Activity: Little Seeds, Big Prayers

You'll Need:

- A small pot for each child
- Soil
- Mustard seeds

Get Ready: Fill each pot with soil before the activity begins.

Do this:

1. Gather the children and tell them the story of the mustard seed from Mark 4:30-34, emphasizing how something so small can grow into something great.

2. Give each child a pot and a few mustard seeds. Help them plant the seeds in the soil, explaining that just like these seeds, our prayers might start small but they grow into something beautiful.

3. Encourage the children to say a small prayer as they plant their seeds, asking God to help their faith grow. Finish by watering the seeds together, reminding them that just like plants need water, our faith needs prayer to grow.