

Parable Of The Mustard Seed

LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

Theme: From little beginnings come great things!

Scripture: Mark 4:30-34

Memory Verse: "How can we illustrate the kingdom of God or what parable can we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade." - Mark 4:30-32

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

“How can we illustrate the kingdom of God or what parable can we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the soil, though it is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown, it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and forms large branches; so that the birds of the air can nest under its shade.” - Mark 4:30-32

You Will Need:

- A packet of mustard seeds
- Small pots or cups
- Potting soil
- Water
- Color markers or paint
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Gather all materials on a large table where children can easily reach everything.
- Fill the small pots or cups halfway with potting soil.

Do This:

1. Have each child decorate their pot or cup with markers, paint, and stickers to make it their own special garden.
2. Let each child plant a mustard seed in their pot by making a small hole in the soil with their finger, dropping in the seed, and covering it with soil.
3. Teach them to water their seed gently, explaining that just like the mustard seed grows into a big plant, small acts of kindness and faith can grow into something great. Encourage them to take their plant home, care for it, and watch it grow, remembering the lesson of the mustard seed.

Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A small packet of mustard seeds
- Small planting pots (one for each child)
- Potting soil
- Watering can or cup for water

- Mark 4:30-34 printed on paper or a large poster
- Coloring pages with mustard trees and small seeds
- Crayons or colored pencils

Get Ready:

- Fill a table with the small planting pots.
- Place a small spoon or scoop in the potting soil for easy handling.
- Set up a watering station with the watering can or cups filled with water.
- Display the printed scripture where all the children can see it.
- Arrange the coloring pages and crayons/colored pencils on a separate table.

Do this:

1. Begin by reading Mark 4:30-34 aloud to the children, emphasizing how something so small like a mustard seed can grow into something big and great. Explain that Jesus uses this story to teach us that even small things can make a big difference.
2. Guide each child to plant their own mustard seed. Let them scoop soil into their pot, place a mustard seed in the soil, cover it with a little more soil, and then water it gently. As they do this, remind them that the seed starts small but will grow into a big plant.
3. While the seeds are set to grow, move the children to the coloring station. Have them color the mustard tree and seed coloring pages. Encourage them to think about and discuss small acts of kindness or faith that can grow into something great, just like the mustard seed grows into a large tree.
4. Conclude the activity by reminding the children to take their planted mustard seed home, care for it, and watch it grow. Encourage them to remember the lesson of the mustard seed: from little beginnings come great things, and even they, though young, can make a big difference in the world through small acts of faith and kindness.

Snack Activity: Mustard Seed Gardens

You'll Need:

- Chocolate pudding cups
- Oreo cookies (crushed)
- Gummy worms
- Mustard seeds
- Small plastic spoons

Get Ready: Crush the Oreo cookies into fine 'dirt' and set aside. Make sure each child has a pudding cup and a small plastic spoon.

Do this:

1. Open your chocolate pudding cup - this is your garden plot!
2. Sprinkle the crushed Oreo cookies on top of the pudding to create 'dirt.'
3. Gently press a few mustard seeds into the 'dirt.' Explain how these tiny seeds can grow into something much larger, just like in Mark 4:30-34.
4. Add a gummy worm to your garden for fun, showing that all parts of creation, big and small, work together to grow something beautiful.
5. As you eat your Mustard Seed Garden, remember that from little beginnings come great things!

Game Activity: Mustard Seed Hop

You'll Need:

- A large open space (either indoors or outdoors)
- Chalk (if outdoors) or tape (if indoors) to mark the ground
- Small stones or beanbags to serve as 'mustard seeds'

Get Ready: Use the chalk or tape to draw a large hopscotch grid on the ground. Each square should be large enough for a child to hop into. Number the squares from 1 to 10, and at the start of the hopscotch grid, draw a small mustard seed. At the end of the hopscotch grid, draw a large tree.

Do this:

1. Explain to the children that just like a small mustard seed grows into a big tree, small acts of kindness and faith can grow into great things. Share the story from Mark 4:30-34 about the mustard seed.
2. Give each child a 'mustard seed' (the small stone or beanbag). They will stand at the start of the hopscotch grid, holding their mustard seed.
3. One at a time, each child will toss their mustard seed into the first square, hop through the hopscotch grid on one foot, picking up their mustard seed when they reach it, and continue hopping to the end. They should shout a small act of kindness or a way to show faith as they pick up their mustard seed.
4. Once they reach the 'tree' at the end of the hopscotch grid, they can plant their mustard seed by placing it in a designated 'garden' area next to the tree drawing. This symbolizes their small act of kindness or faith growing into something great.
5. Encourage children to cheer each other on and celebrate the growth of their mustard seeds into great trees of kindness and faith.

Craft Activity: Tiny Seed, Mighty Tree

You'll Need:

- A small clay pot for each child
- Potting soil
- Mustard seeds

- Water
- Markers or paint
- Stickers with trees, leaves, or inspirational words

Get Ready: Gather all the materials on a large table where children can easily reach everything. Make sure each child has enough space to work on their pot.

Do this:

1. Start by reading Mark 4:30-34 together. Talk about how something as small as a mustard seed can grow into a big tree. Discuss the theme 'From little beginnings come great things!'.
2. Let each child decorate their clay pot with markers, paint, and stickers. Encourage them to think about what 'great things' they can do or grow into, just like the mustard seed grows into a large tree.
3. Fill the pot halfway with potting soil. Have each child plant a mustard seed in their pot and then cover it with a little more soil. Water it lightly together while talking about how we need to care for small beginnings to see them grow.
4. Finish by discussing how our faith, even if it's as small as a mustard seed, can grow into something great with care and love.

Prayer Activity: Tiny Seeds, Mighty Prayers

You'll Need:

- A small mustard seed or any small seed
- A pot with soil
- Water in a small watering can

Get Ready: Place the pot filled with soil on a table where all the children can see it.

Do this:

1. Show the children the small seed and read Mark 4:30-34 to them, explaining how Jesus used the mustard seed to show how something very small can grow into something great. Emphasize the theme 'From little beginnings come great things!'.
2. Invite each child to come forward and plant the seed in the pot. As they do, encourage them to say a small prayer for something they hope to grow in their lives (it could be patience, kindness, a new skill, etc.).
3. Once everyone has planted their seed, gather the children around the pot and pray together, asking God to help their small beginnings grow into great things, just like the mustard seed grows into a large tree. Finish by watering the seed together, reminding them that just like plants need water to grow, our prayers and faith help us grow too.