



Summer Seedlings

July 26 Mustard Seed



Jesus, speaking to large crowds by the Sea of Galilee, told a parable story about a mustard seed. The mustard plant is not a tree but a big bushy shrub that grows in the wild up to three metres tall. It can spread easily and if big enough, birds can make nests in the branches. Many in the crowd in Jesus' time would have seen mustard bushes around where they lived. Jesus was again using something that the crowds knew about to explain what he wanted to say in the parable story.

Play the video and think about what Jesus was trying to explain to the crowds.



https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DSB_At4H8kA

Jesus was illustrating what the Kingdom of God was like. Something that begins as very small and can keep growing to an enormous and very hardy bush. Birds can build nests in the bush and make their home there.

I wonder who Jesus thought the birds might represent?

Many in the crowd when they heard about a Kingdom might have wondered what kind of kingdom Jesus was talking about.

Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of God.

I wonder what Jesus thought the Kingdom of God was like that he was talking about? Sometimes we think of the Kingdom of God as the time and place where God's power is present. The kingdom of God began with Jesus but is also still coming about through the things we all do in response to God's love.

Why not try...?

Making a game about the mustard seed parable.

Work out how to draw a mustard bush using 10 lines. If you want, play the video again to see what one looks like. On the bush there should be 2 birds represented just by 2 lines for a beak for each bird.

Then decide on a word from the list below and put a short line for each letter, without writing the letter and with spaces between the lines, across a piece of paper. Don't tell anyone what the word is.

Ask someone to choose a letter from the alphabet and if your word has that letter in it, write the letter on the line where the letter should be.

If the letter is not in your word, use one line to start drawing the bush. Continue to ask for letters and add them to the word or to draw the bush.

Will the word be finished or the bush drawn first?

You could change the words to others or the number of lines to draw the bush if you think it might make the game better.

Seed	Parable
Birds	Smallest
Mustard	Kingdom
Bush	Largest

Dear God,
Your kingdom is bigger, closer, and more amazing than we can imagine! Help us to see it working right in front of us. Surprise us with something small becoming something very big!

Amen