

The story of the mustard seed



I wonder if you planted any seeds this spring? How big were the seeds? What did they grow into? Did any of them grow as big as a tree?

When Jesus was with his friends he told them this story; you can find it in the Bible in Matthew 13:31-32

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Watch together:

Jenny tells this story in a video, the link is with this resource on the online services page of the website

Chat together:

I wonder what surprised you about this story?

I wonder what Jesus was saying to his friends through this story?

What do you think Jesus might be saying to you?

When you look at a little seed you might think it is impossible for it to grow into a tree, but God turns that tiny seed into a wonderful tree where birds can perch and build their nests. When Jesus told this story he was saying that it was a bit like us loving God. When we start to love God or ask Jesus to be our friend, our love is like a tiny seed before it is planted. It starts out very small but when we keep listening to Jesus and understand and learn more about God our love grows bigger and bigger, just like a seed growing into a tree! And just as a tree makes more seeds, so we can share God's love with others too, there is plenty of room for us all!

Pray together:

If you have some bubbles you might like to use them to pray together. Blow the bubbles and watch them as they grow. Then you can say the prayer below or say your own prayers as you think about the story of the mustard seed.

Thank you Jesus that you are our friend, please help grow our love for you and help us to share your love with our friends and families. Amen

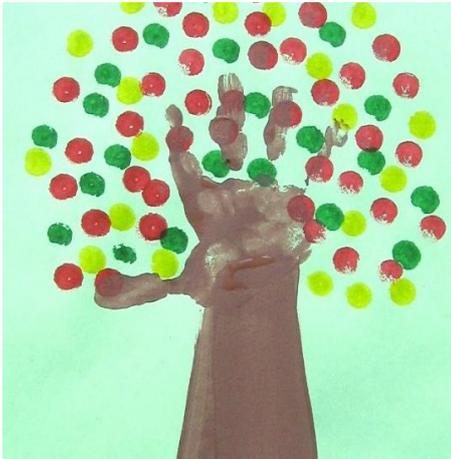
Make together:

You might like to make a **birdfeeder** for your garden, you will need a cardboard toilet roll inner or a pinecone, string, peanut butter and bird seed.

Toilet roll - sprinkle bird seed on a plate, spread peanut butter over the cardboard tube and rollover the plate so that the seeds stick to the tube. Thread a piece of string through the tube and hang in a tree or just slip the roll onto a branch!



Pinecone - attach some string to your pinecone by wrapping the string around the upper levels of the cones. Leave some string hanging on either side so that you can make a loop and knot over the tree branch later. Cover the edges of the pinecone with peanut butter and roll the sticky pinecone in a bowl of birdseed. Then hang it from a tree.



You could make a **poster** to remind you of the story. Find a large sheet of paper and either draw a tree or you might like to paint one. You could use a handprint for the branches, you could draw or cut out leaves or you could stick on real ones from the garden. Why not write some prayers on your leaves and turn it into a prayer tree? Maybe draw some birds too.

Make a **rocking paper bird** from a paper plate or a circle of card (from a cereal box would work fine)

Fold the paper plate in half and decorate, don't forget to add a beak and eyes. Use your imagination to make an amazing bird!



Sing together:

The mustard seed song from Spring Harvest, why not join in or play along with some musical instruments? <https://youtu.be/AFEUjy42xNk>

It's based on the verse Matthew 17:20 where Jesus says "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

I wonder how these words make you feel? Maybe you would like to look the verse up in the Bible and find out a bit more about what Jesus was saying and who he was talking to?

Think together:

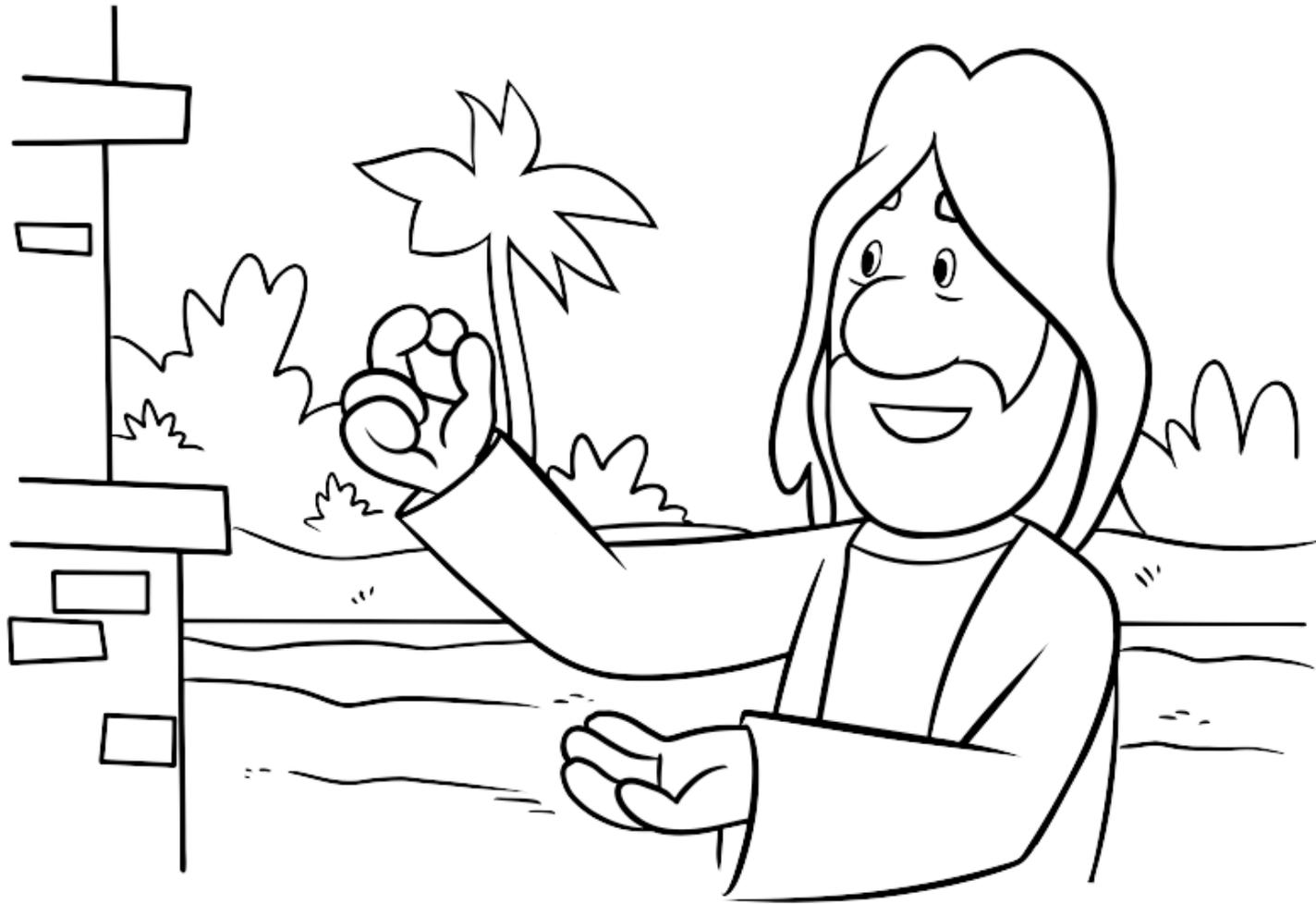
Maybe you are going to eat an apple or an orange today?

I wonder how many seeds you will find inside?

Think about how, if you were to plant those seeds and they were to grow into a tree and produce fruit, how many apples or oranges with more seeds inside would there be?

Maybe you could research some facts about seeds and fruit. I read that an apple tree may produce 150 to 300 apples a year and be productive for up to 50 years! How many apples is that from one tree!

I wonder if this might help you to understand what Jesus was saying about the kingdom of God?



Jesus told parables to teach people about the Kingdom of God.
In one famous parable, he said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed -
it will start small and then grow! (Mark 4:30-32)