

The Mustard Seed – Part 1

What was Jesus talking about in the Luke's Gospel today? Do you remember?

He was talking about a mustard seed. He said somewhere else in Matthew's Gospel that the mustard seed is the tiniest seed you can find but that when it is planted it grows into a great big tree.

Remember, Jesus said that mustard seeds were tiny. See how tiny these are?

Hold up seed between thumb and forefinger – invisible!

They're really tiny, aren't they? But Jesus said that if you have just this much faith – this tiny, tiny little bit of faith – you can do awesome things.

So I thought it would be good to plant the mustard seeds and see what happens – see if we get a great big tree.

And I've got a special seed bed here. See, it's got a nice soft, spongy bed in this clear plastic container, so that we can spread the seeds on it and we can watch them grow – and we'll be able to see them and be reminded of the awesome things we can do if we have faith in God.

If someone suggests that we have to water the seeds, tell them that that's all right – we're just going to have faith in God. We don't need to water the seeds. If no-one mentions watering the seeds, then don't mention it either.

So make sure you come back next week and we'll see how big our mustard tree has grown!

The Mustard Seed – Part 2 (a week later)

Last week we planted our mustard seed. Do you remember?

It was very tiny and when I held it up we couldn't even see it. But Jesus told us that it would grow into a great big tree. All we had to do was have faith.

Shall we look at our mustard seed, and see how big it's grown?

Go and get the seed bed, and bring it back looking shocked.

There's no tree. Nothing's grown. Why not? Didn't we have enough faith?

Invite responses from the children.

What should we do now?

Wait for someone to suggest watering the seeds.

Do you think so? You could be right. I thought that just having faith would be enough but sometimes, even when we have faith, God waits for us to get involved.

Sometimes God wants us to act on our faith, to do something to help.

What do you think? Shall we water the seeds?

Get water and invite the children to pour a little over the seeds.

Well done. We've done what we can to help out. Now we can have faith, and wait, and see.

Thank you for your help.

The Mustard Seed – Part 3 (a week later)

Well, here we are again. And we're going to see if our mustard seed has grown this time.

Go and get the seed bed, and bring it back looking excited.

Look! It's grown. It's not very big yet but it has started to grow.

See all the little shoots, where the seeds were watered? Lots and lots of little mustard plants. Isn't that wonderful!

So we planted our seed and waited but nothing happened. Then we watered the seed – because sometimes, even when we have faith, God wants us to do something to help God's will to happen. We watered the seed, and I kept it where the sun could shine on it, and I gave it a little more water from time to time, and look: God has made the mustard seed grow.

When we have faith, and we do something with our faith, God blesses us.

Amen.