



A TINY SEED

Lesson 14

BIG IDEA

The mustard seed is a picture of faith. Faith is trusting something can happen even though you have not seen it happen yet.

KEY VERSES

Matthew 13:31-34, Mark 4:30-34

MEMORY VERSE

Matthew 13:31b-32

“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 birds come and perch on its branches.”

• PREPARATION & MATERIALS •

BIBLE OBJECT LESSON

- Gather several different types of seeds including mustard seeds (can be purchased very inexpensively in any store that has bulk foods such as a co-op or natural foods store.)

GAME

- No prep or materials required.

CRAFT

- Experience Mission provides scissors, hole punch, stapler, staples, rulers
- White construction paper, one per child
- Brown construction paper, one per child
- Green construction paper
- Glue

WORKSHEETS

- Photocopies of Coloring Sheet (1 per child)
- Photocopies of Maze (domestic communities only)





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BIBLE OBJECT LESSON

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Note: This lesson is reproduced in its entirety from truthforchildren.net. Mission teams may feel free to adapt the lesson to the children in their location.

1. Today we are going to talk about a Parable that our Lord Jesus spoke when He was on this earth. A parable is a story our Lord used to illustrate how He saves His people from their sins.
2. Have you ever seen a seed? This is a seed (Show them a few types of seeds: pumpkin, apple, orange, and mustard, for example).
3. Do animals come from seeds? No. Do plants come from seeds? All types of plants come from seeds, even trees and bushes.
4. How do we know what types of seeds they are? When we plant them, they make different kinds of trees and bushes. This one grows into an apple tree; this one grows into a vine and pumpkins grow out of it; this one grows into an orange tree.
5. When a seed is planted in the ground and it grows, does it stay small like this? NO. Does it change shape? Yes. You cannot tell what the plant will look like from looking at this seed, can you?
6. Which one of these seeds is the smallest? The Mustard Seed is the smallest. If a seed is small, does that mean it will only grow a small plant? No. Looks can be very deceiving. Even though this seed is the smallest, it will actually grow the biggest of any of these other seeds.
7. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, uses the mustard seed here as an illustration of faith. Do you know what faith is? Let me give you an example: let's say you are really hungry, and you need a loaf of bread to eat, but it is on a high shelf. You look at the shelf and you realize you can't reach it. You are too short to reach it, and it is too high to climb to it. You are so hungry! You have to have food to live! What do you do? Is there anybody to help you?
8. Who are you going to ask? Are you going to ask someone you don't know? No! You only ask someone you know for help. Why? Because if you don't know them how do you know they CAN help you or even WANT to help you?
9. Are you going to ask your little sister or brother for help? No! Why? They are not able to reach the bread any more than you can. They are just as little as you are, and can't climb either. You would go to someone you KNOW could help you.
10. Who could you ask to help you? What about your Mom or Dad? You know them, you know they have the ability to reach the bread and you know they love you and want to give you the bread. That is what we call faith! Faith is trusting. You have faith that your parents can come where you are, reach the bread, open it, prepare it for you, and hand it to you to eat!



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BIBLE OBJECT LESSON (CONT.)

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11. Faith is trusting that something can happen even though you have not seen it happen yet. How did you have faith that your parents could help you? 1. They have helped you before. 2. They are able to help you (tall enough, strong enough). 3. They are willing to help you because they love you.

12. The same is true with our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ means knowing that: 1. Christ saves His people and has already saved a multitude in need. (Ps 107:13) 2. Christ is ABLE to save His people (Hebrews 7:25) 3. The Bible tells us Christ is WILLING to save His people and He will not stop until He has saved them all! (Phil 1:6)

13. (Hold up the mustard seed) – This mustard seed is what the Lord uses to illustrate faith. The Lord says even though your faith and trust in Him may be as tiny and weak as this mustard seed, He will make that tiny speck of faith grow into a giant tree of faith, and it will be so big and so strong that even the birds will want to nest in it. Just like this seed, it is not the greatness of the seed that makes the tree great, but the greatness of what God has put in it that gives it the power to grow big and strong. (It is not the greatness of our faith, but the greatness of our God and Savior, the Object of our faith, that gives it merit, power, and efficacy.)

SIMPLIFIED LESSON OPTIONS

- *Tell the parable of the seeds in simple story form or read from a children's bible. Matthew 13.*
- *Show the kids different seeds, have them guess what type of plant they grow into.*
- *Put seeds in order of seed size*
- *Put seeds in order of plant size*



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CRAFT & GAME

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• CRAFT •

OBJECTIVE: HANDPRINT TREE

Make a tree using hand shapes and leaves.

MATERIALS PROVIDED BY EM

- Scissors, staplers, rulers, hole punches

DIRECTIONS

- Trace hand on brown construction paper
- Cut out hand
- Glue hand onto white paper
- Cut out leaf shapes from green paper
- Glue leaf shapes onto white paper

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- White construction paper, one per child
- Brown construction paper, one per child
- Green construction paper
- Glue

EXAMPLE



SIMPLIFIED CRAFT OPTIONS

- Precut hand prints.
- Precut leaf shapes

• GAME •

OBJECTIVE: TREE TAG

Fly away from the predator and seek safety in a tree!

MATERIALS BROUGHT BY TEAM

- None for this game

INSTRUCTIONS

- Divide the group in half. One half will start the game as trees. The other half will start the game as birds.
- Choose one person to be the predator (you can call the predator a cat, cougar, or anything else that might chase a bird).
- Trees spread out in the play area and raise their arms in the air like tree branches.
- Birds spread out in the play area.
- Predator tries to tag the birds.
- Birds seek safety by touching a tree branch at which point the bird becomes a tree and the tree becomes the bird.
- When the predator tags a bird, the bird becomes the new predator.
- Variations: If your group is large try having 2/3 of the kids start as trees and 1/3 as birds.

SIMPLIFIED GAME OPTIONS

- Arrange half of the kids as trees and have the other half play a regular game of tag in the "forest"
- Call "switch". The runners freeze and become trees. The trees become runners

THE MUSTARD SEED
Matthew 13

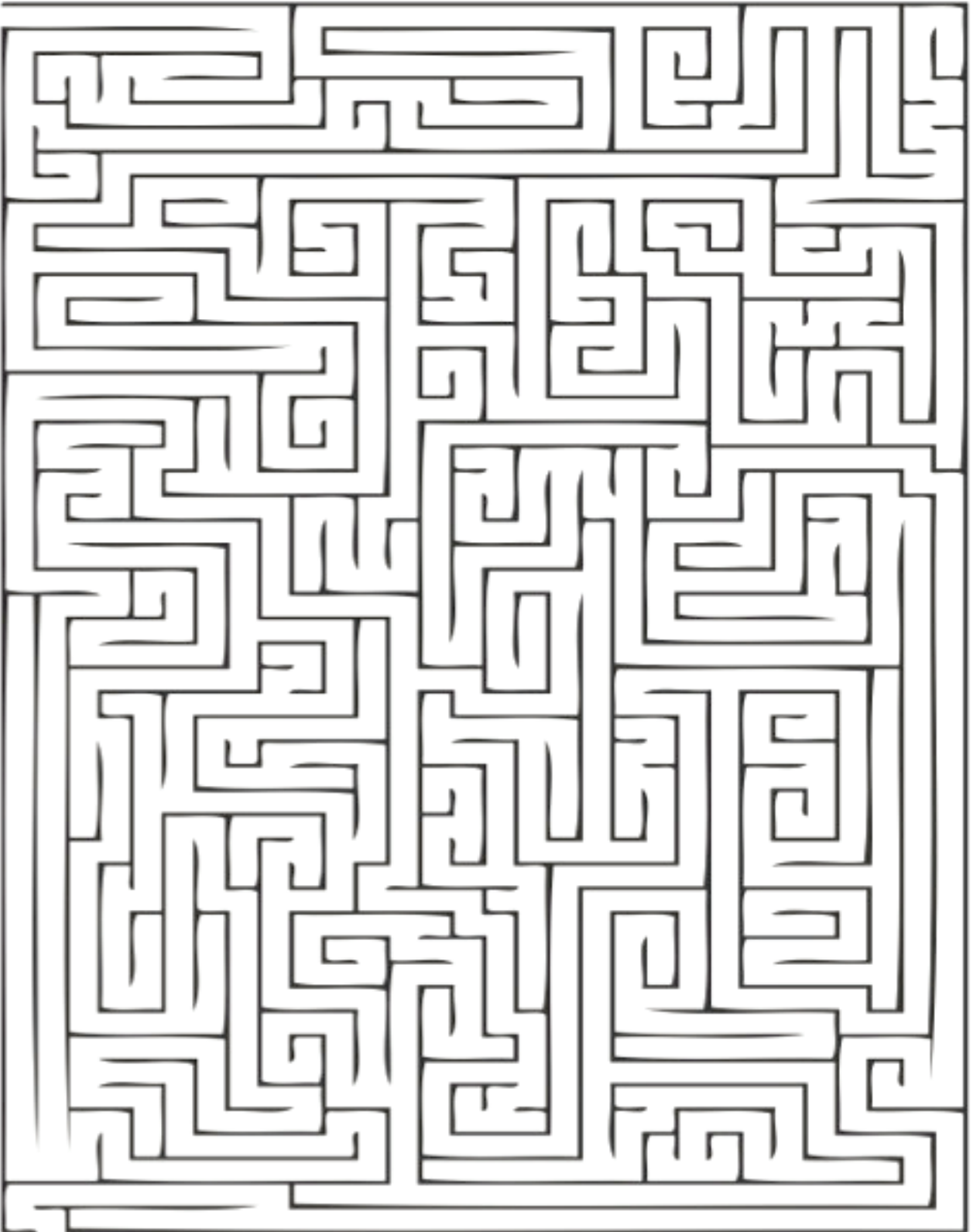


Jesus told another story. "The mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds.
But it quickly grows into the biggest plant in the garden."



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● THE MUSTARD SEED