



# The Mustard Seed

When God is there, Big things come from small ones.



Presented by Jennifer Hakim

# Small-to-Tall Prayer

God, please hear our prayers as we ask you to bless small things that you can help grow into large things.

Please help people who are poor grow by . . . (pause)

Please help the small children in our church grow by . . . (pause)

Please use us in your kingdom in both large and small ways, God.  
Amen.

Your Logo or Name Here





- This story is actually an illustration, but it's a powerful one. That mustard you glop on your hamburger doesn't start out as sauce. It's made from the seeds of a bush that can grow upwards of 10 feet tall. And that plant starts out as a seed so small that, in Jesus' day, it was the tiniest seed most of his audience had ever seen.
- At one time only his disciples heard all of Jesus' teaching. Now, anyone with a Bible and the ability to read can know what he told his disciples.
- No question about it: when God is there, big things come from small ones. You'll share that principle with your kids today!

## متى ١٣ : ٣١-٣٢

قَالَ لَهُمْ مَثَلًا آخَرَ: «يُشْبِهُ مَلَكُوثَ السَّمَاوَاتِ حَبَّةَ خَرْدَلٍ أَخَذَهَا إِنْسَانٌ وَزَرَعَهَا فِي حَقْلِهِ وَهِيَ أَصْغَرُ جَمِيعِ الْبُرُورِ. وَلَكِنْ مَتَى نَمَتْ فَهِيَ أَكْبَرُ الْبُقُولِ وَتَصِيرُ شَجَرَةً حَتَّىٰ إِنَّ طُيُورَ السَّمَاءِ تَأْتِي وَتَتَأْوَىٰ فِي أَغْصَانِهَا»

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, " which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."



# OPENING ACTIVITY

- Show how you feel about this past week—except exactly on the 5. That’s because there’s no such thing as a week that’s exactly half good and half bad!
- Stand left If it was a great week you wish you could repeat.
- Stand right If this past week was so awful you wish you’d slept through it.
- After kids have signed in, give them 30 seconds each to explain why they placed their initials where they did.
- Kids will begin to express themselves more over time—and hearing their stories will help you adapt this lesson to make it relevant to your kids’ lives.

# 30-Second Service

- Form children into pairs. Ask children in each pair to decide who's the Mustard Seed and who will be the Tomato Seed.  
Give kids 10 seconds to accomplish the task, and then continue.
- Mustard Seeds, in a moment you'll send your partners off to do a mission project. Not a week-long project in a foreign country; instead, it can take no more than 30 seconds and has to happen right here in this room.
- Remember, everyone, a service project isn't about what *you* want. And it may not be easy! It's all about helping someone else.
- Ready? Mustard Seeds, assign projects now. (pause) Tomato Seeds, get started right . . . now!
- After the first round, have Mustard and Tomato Seeds change roles and play again.

# Then discuss

- *Which did you like more—doing the project or assigning one?*
- *What was hard about your project? What was easy?*
- *Your 30-second mission was a small thing—how could it have a big impact?*
- *What's something in your life that seemed small, but turned out to be big?*

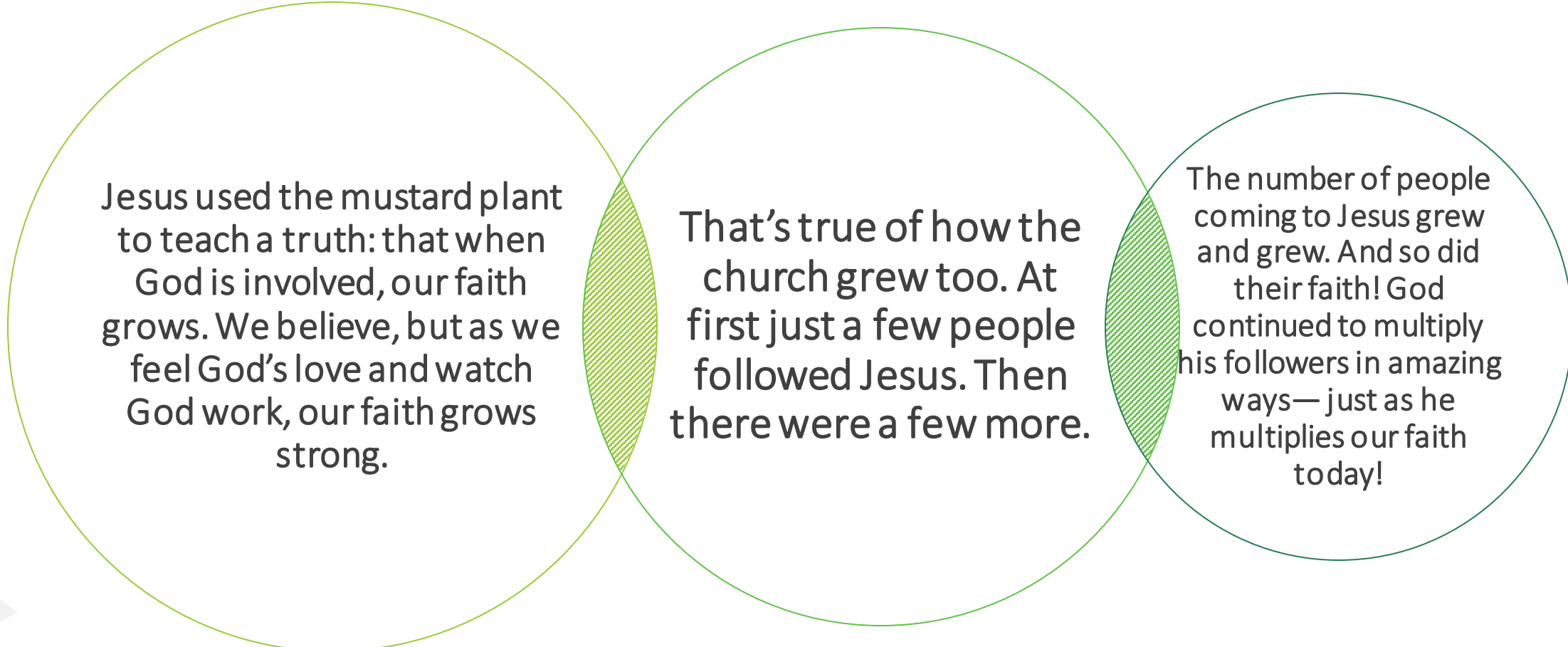
Today we're looking at a story Jesus told about a small thing that turned into something big. We'll see how, with God's help, that happens to our faith too!



# Pass around a jar of Mustard



Strong taste! And this isn't as strong as pure mustard. The seed of a mustard plant is about the size of a pinhead. It's tiny. Yet when a mustard plant is well tended, it can grow to 10 feet or more. The people listening to Jesus knew that.



Jesus used the mustard plant to teach a truth: that when God is involved, our faith grows. We believe, but as we feel God's love and watch God work, our faith grows strong.

That's true of how the church grew too. At first just a few people followed Jesus. Then there were a few more.

The number of people coming to Jesus grew and grew. And so did their faith! God continued to multiply his followers in amazing ways—just as he multiplies our faith today!

# EXTRA-TIME ACTIVITY

Sit in a circle on the floor. Say: **You started out in life small. You were a baby—and I'm sure you were all cute babies too. Let's play a game called Baby Face. There are two simple rules:**

- 1. When I call out an emotion or situation, you make a baby face that matches. Keep making the face as you look at the faces of your friends here in the circle.**
- 2. Do not laugh! The goal is to get other people to laugh! Use the list below to prompt baby faces. Add your own situations.**

- You're a happy baby.
- You lost your blankie.
- You're a scared baby.
- You're hungry.
- You are a sleepy little baby.
- You're a grumpy baby.
- Uh-oh, you're about to fill your diaper!

**Way to go, baby faces! I can see why your mommies thought you were cute when you were little! And even though you started out small, now you're big—kind of like mustard seeds!**

Thank You

