

Mark 4:30-32 contains the Parable of the Mustard Seed. Jesus' parables are stories or sayings that Jesus uses to help us understand aspects of the Kingdom of God. Parables are open to interpretation and are meant to be discussed and pondered over.

1. What are some of your favorite parables of Jesus? Which parables stand out to you?
2. Do you have any parables that confuse you?

When a parable appears in multiple gospels, the gospels will often have changes to it.

3. Read Matthew 13:31-32 and Luke 13:18-19. What differences do you notice between these different parables?
4. What could be the reasons for these differences?
5. What might each gospel be trying to teach us with its version of this parable?

In Mark's version of this parable, the mustard seed becomes a shrub, rather than a tree. In the natural world, this is exactly what a mustard seed would do, as mustard seeds don't turn into trees.

6. Why might Mark have presented this version of Jesus' parable, rather than presenting the version where the Mustard seed turns into a tree?
7. How has the Kingdom of God presented itself in your life in the form of a "shrub?"

Questions for families with children:

1. What are some small ways that God has provided for you recently?
2. How can the small ways God provides for you give you hope that God will continue to provide for you?

Weekly Bible Readings:

Feb. 3 - 1 Samuel 16:6-7 (read in worship on Sunday)

Feb. 4 - Mark 7:1-8

Feb. 5 - Mark 7:9-13

Feb. 6 - Mark 7:14-16

Feb. 7 - Mark 7:17-23

Feb. 8 - Mark 7:24-30

Passage for Sunday, January 26:

Mark 5:1-20