

**“SMALL IS BIG”
Family Faith Formation Lesson**

Today’s Gospel text is the parable about the mustard seed. A story about how little things can become big, strong and full of growth. Something to think about this week.....

READ the story in **Mark 4: 26-34**

TALK about the story:

What was Jesus talking about - what was he trying to teach people about in this parable?

What is a “parable”? If you don’t know have a family member look up the definition. He used everyday things in his parables so people could connect. Why was that important? And why is it still important today for us to understand when we hear these teaching stories?

What makes your faith grow?

What are ways small acts of faith can become big? Think of things you personally do out of faith. Think of ministries our church does. Think of ministries organizations in our community, nation and world do.

ACT on the story:

ALL AGES:

Go on the computer and look up what a mustard seed looks like and what the resulting tree turns out to be.

Talk about some of the smallest objects you can think of and how they can benefit people and nature.

Give each person an index card and marker. Have everyone make a dot in the center of their card. Explain that those dots are about the size of a mustard seed. Pretty small! But they can grow into trees over 2 stories high! And as that mustard tree grows it makes many more mustard seeds. And if they are planted, think about how many mustard trees can be grown! Ask family members to place their cards somewhere they can see it daily and ask God to help their “mustard seeds of faith” to grow, so that they can share that faith with others.

Use mustard on something you eat and give thanks to God for that little mighty seed that brought that big wonderful flavor to you!

Take a walk outside and look closely at nature. Where can you find examples of something small that is growing? Talk about what “gifts” that growth will bring.

YOUNGER CHILDREN:

On a piece of paper have your child draw a tree trunk with branches. Cut out smaller pieces of paper for leaves, about 5 to 8 leaves per child. At the top of the paper write “I can grow by...”.

Have your child write one way on each leaf they can grow in their faith, i.e. I can pray each day, I can read my Bible, I can do a kind deed for someone, I can listen well to someone, etc. Glue the leaves to the branches. Feel free to keep adding leaves to see how full your “tree of faith” can become!

PRAY the story:

Dear Creator God, who out of something so small grows something so big, help us to have that little seed of faith, even when things aren't going so good. Help us to grow that faith-seed to be large and strong, so that we will have much to share about our faith and your love with others. Make us good gardeners! In your name we pray, Amen!