

THE MUSTARD SEED

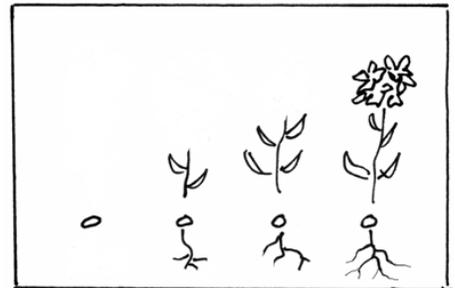
"I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."
(Matthew 17:20)

Show the children tiny mustard seeds. (These may be available in the spice section of your local grocery store.) The Lord is telling us that it is important to have faith in Him, even if it starts out as tiny as one of these seeds. The Lord can help our faith grow larger, just as a mustard seed grows into a huge plant (see Matthew 13:32).

Project Idea

Materials:

mustard seeds
paper or cover stock
crayons, markers, or colored pencils



Procedure:

After showing children tiny mustard seeds, let them glue some in a line on a piece of paper or cover stock. Then draw the roots and growing plant to illustrate the way our faith may start out being as tiny as a mustard seed, but with the Lord's help it will grow and grow!

Activity: Conditions for Growth

Will a mustard seed grow if we don't give it the right conditions? Try this experiment:

1. Put a mustard seed (or some other kind of seed) in a box and then put it away in a closet or another dark place.
2. Put another mustard seed (or the kind you put in the box) on a rock and set it in the sun.
3. Plant a third seed in a container of dirt and give it water, warmth, and sunlight.

Which of these seeds sprouts and grows?

Putting seeds of truth in a box that is set in a closet is like learning a truth but setting it aside without doing anything with it. Setting a seed on a rock in the sun gives it light and perhaps warmth, but it has nowhere to send its roots and find nourishment. Planting the seed in the ground or container of dirt is like learning a truth and taking it into our minds with the plan to use it in our lives. And when we do use it, it grows and grows!