

## The Parable of the Mustard Seed - Mark 4:30-34

*Topics:* Example, Greatness, Growth, Kingdom of God/Heaven, Productivity, Teaching, Understanding

### Open It

1. If Jesus Christ had been sent to earth during our generation, how do you think He would have chosen to tell us His message?
- \* 2. What are some examples of something small that grows into something big?

### Explore It

3. What did Jesus use to explain the kingdom of God? (4:30)
4. In what ways is this parable different from the previous one Jesus told? (4:30-31)
- \* 5. How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed? (4:32)
6. What is the kingdom of God like? (4:31)
7. What does the mustard seed represent in this parable? (4:31)
8. What do you think this parable meant to Jesus' original audience? (4:31)
9. How could the beginning of the kingdom of God be compared to such a small, insignificant seed? (4:31)
- \* 10. What promise is given in this parable? (4:31-32)
- \* 11. Why did Jesus use the smallest seed known to the Galilean farmers in His audience as the example in this parable? (4:31-32)
12. How did Jesus teach the crowds? (4:33-34)
13. How did Jesus teach His disciples? (4:33-34)
14. How did Jesus' approach to teaching the crowds differ from the way He taught His disciples? (4:33-34)
15. What did Jesus do for His disciples to ensure that they learned from His parables? (4:34)
16. How did Jesus make sure His disciples understood His teaching? (4:34)

### Get It

17. How might this parable have encouraged Christians being persecuted by the Roman state?
18. Why do you think Jesus spoke only in parables to the crowds at this point in His ministry?
- \* 19. What does this parable tell us about trying to persuade others to believe in Christ?
20. How can you apply the principle of this parable to your situation in life right now?
21. In what ways does this parable encourage you to persist in your faith?
22. Why do you think God chose to introduce His kingdom through a controversial man with a handful of obscure followers?
23. To what extent do you think you should model your style of evangelism after Jesus' example?
- \* 24. What does this parable teach you about sharing the message of Christ with your non-Christian friends?
25. What difference can it make in your everyday life that Jesus' kingdom will prevail over the sin and corruption of this world?

### Apply It

- \* 26. How can you get involved this week in spreading the Good News and participating in the growth of the kingdom of God?
27. What word or message from the Bible can you share with someone else? How?
28. Who is one person with whom you could share the promise of the kingdom of God?