



The Parables : The Mustard Seed?  
*Mark 4: 30-34*

*LESSON SUPPLY LIST*

- Bible w/ Marked Scripture
- Pencils
- Crayons
- Various Seeds
- Packet of Mustard Seeds (purchase at grocery or garden center)
- Items to create Mobile (see Craft Instruction Sheet)
- Copies of Maze
- Copies of lesson overview for children to take home

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"And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? *It is* like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear *it*. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

**Objective of Lesson:**

What faith is and how the mustard seed illustrates faith.

**Lesson Instructions:**

1. Today we are going to talk about a Parable that our Lord Jesus spoke when He was on this earth. A parable is a story our Lord used to illustrate how He saves His people from their sins.
2. Have you ever seen a seed? This is a seed (Show them a few types of seeds: pumpkin, apple, orange, and mustard, for example).
3. Do animals come from seeds? No. Do plants come from seeds? All types of plants come from seeds, even trees and bushes.
4. How do we know what types of seeds they are? When we plant them, they make different kinds of trees and bushes. This one grows into an apple tree; this one grows into a vine and pumpkins grow out of it; this one grows into an orange tree.
5. When a seed is planted in the ground and it grows, does it stay small like this? NO. Does it change shape? Yes. You cannot tell what the plant will look like from looking at this seed, can you?
6. Which one of these seeds is the smallest? The Mustard Seed is the smallest. If a seed is small, does that mean it will only grow a small plant? No. Looks can be very deceiving. Even though this seed is the smallest, it will actually grow the biggest of any of these other seeds.
7. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, uses the mustard seed here as an illustration of faith. Do you know what faith is? Let me give you an example: let's say you are really hungry, and you need a loaf of bread to eat, but it is on a high shelf. You look at the shelf and you realize you can't reach it. You are too short to reach it, and it is too high to climb to it. You are so hungry! You have to have food to live! What do you do? Is there anybody to help you?
8. Who are you going to ask? Are you going to ask someone you don't know? No! You only ask someone you know for help. Why? Because if you don't know them how do you know they CAN help you or even WANT to help you?
9. Are you going to ask your little sister or brother for help? No! Why? They are not able to reach the bread any more than you can. They are just as little as you are, and can't climb either. You would go to someone you KNOW could help you.
10. Who could you ask to help you? What about your Mom or Dad? You know them, you know they have the ability to reach the bread and you know they love you and want to give you the

- bread. That is what we call faith! Faith is trusting. You have faith that your parents can come where you are, reach the bread, open it, prepare it for you, and hand it to you to eat!
11. Faith is trusting that something can happen even though you have not seen it happen yet. How did you have faith that your parents could help you? 1. They have helped you before. 2. They are able to help you (tall enough, strong enough). 3. They are willing to help you because they love you.
  12. The same is true with our Lord Jesus Christ. Faith in Christ means knowing that: 1. Christ saves His people and has already saved a multitude in need. (Ps 107:13) 2. Christ is ABLE to save His people (Hebrews 7:25) 3. The Bible tells us Christ is WILLING to save His people and He will not stop until He has saved them all! (Phil 1:6)
  13. (Hold up the mustard seed) - This mustard seed is what the Lord uses to illustrate faith. The Lord says even though your faith and trust in Him may be as tiny and weak as this mustard seed, He will make that tiny speck of faith grow into a giant tree of faith, and it will be so big and so strong that even the birds will want to nest in it. Just like this seed, it is not the greatness of the seed that makes the tree great, but the greatness of what God has put in it that gives it the power to grow big and strong. (It is not the greatness of our faith, but the greatness of our God and Savior, the Object of our faith, that gives it merit, power, and efficacy.)

Activities:

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**The Parables: The Mustard Seed  
Take Home Overview Sheet**



**Mark 4: 30-34**

*"And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it. And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."*

**Objective of Lesson:**

What faith is and how the mustard seed illustrates faith.

**Overview of Lesson:**

The mustard seed in this parable is a picture of faith. Faith is trusting that something can happen even though you have not seen it happen yet. Faith in Christ means knowing that: 1. Christ saves His people and has already saved a multitude in need. (Ps 107:13) 2. Christ is ABLE to save His people (Hebrews 7:25) 3. The Bible tells us Christ is WILLING to save His people and He will not stop until He has saved them all! (Phil 1:6)

This mustard seed is what the Lord uses to illustrate faith. The Lord says even though your faith and trust in Him may be as tiny and weak as this mustard seed, He will grow that tiny speck of faith into a giant tree of faith, and it will be so big and so strong that even the birds will want to nest in it. Just like this seed, it is not the greatness of the seed that makes the tree great, but the greatness of what God has put in it that gives it the power to grow big and strong.

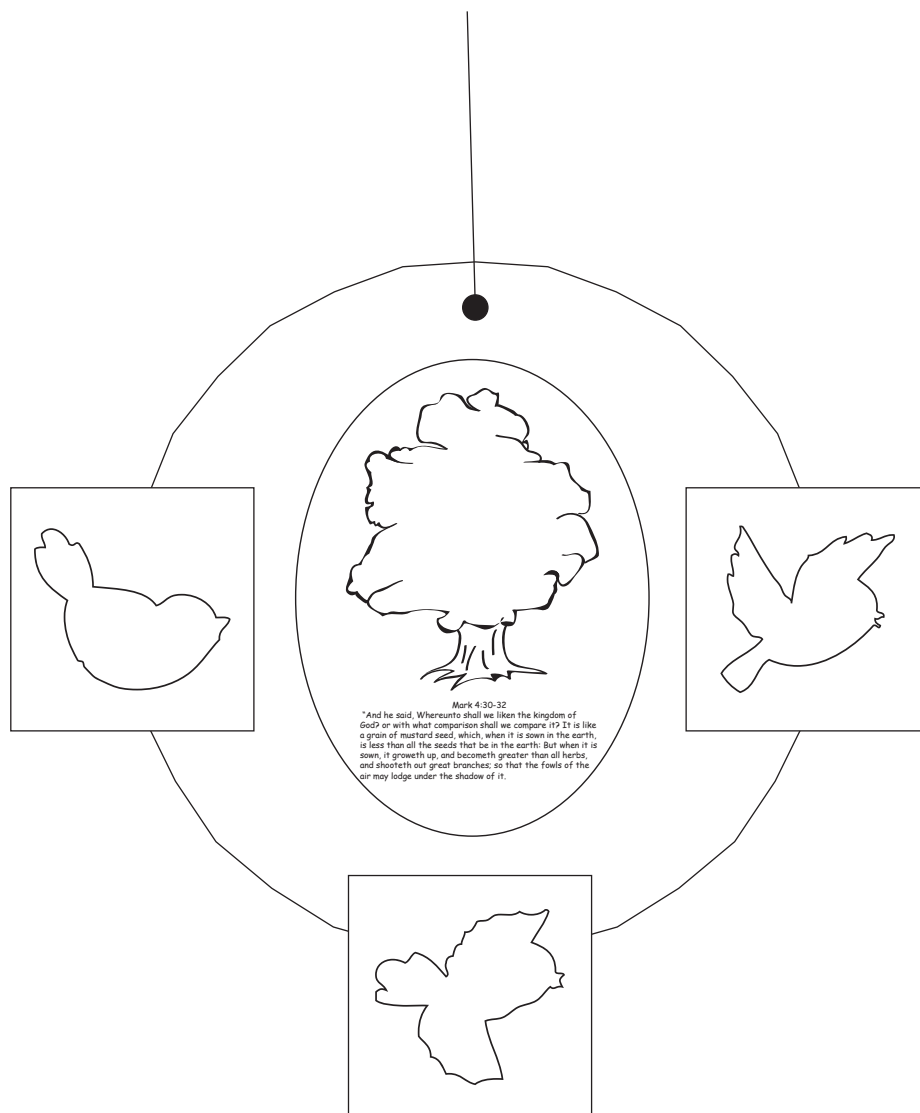
## The Mustard Seed Paper Plate Mobile

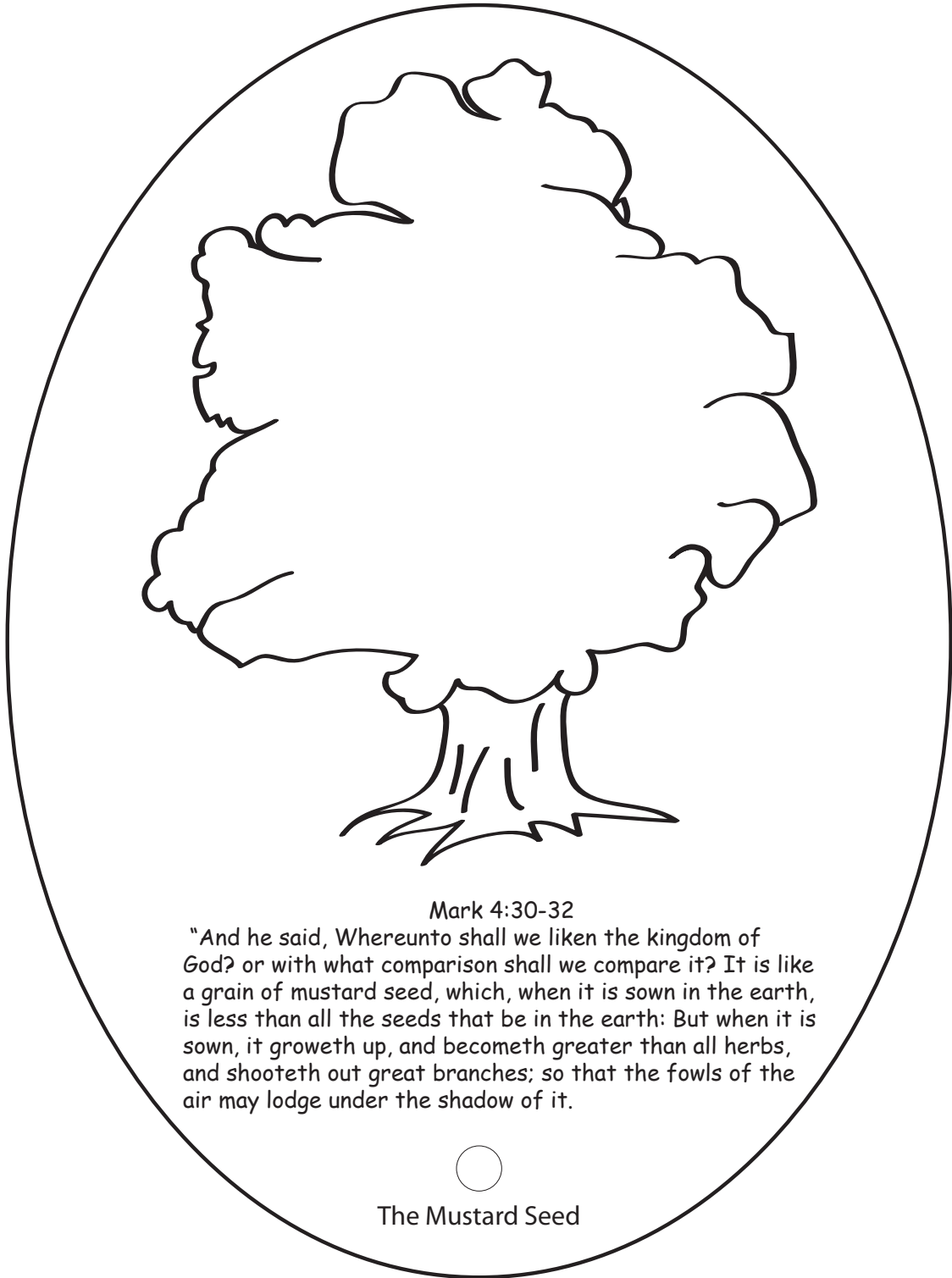
What you will need:

1. Paper Plate - hole pre-punched at the top to attach the string
2. Cut out of Tree Graphic
3. Cut out of Birds (three per child)
4. Twine or String - pre-cut into 6 inch lengths
5. One mustard seed per child

Cut out the tree and bird shapes. Give each child a tree and three birds to color. When finished have them glue the tree in the middle of the paper plate. Have them glue the birds they colored around the edges of the plate. Have them glue or tape a mustard seed under the tree.

They have a colorful and fun mobile to hang in their window!





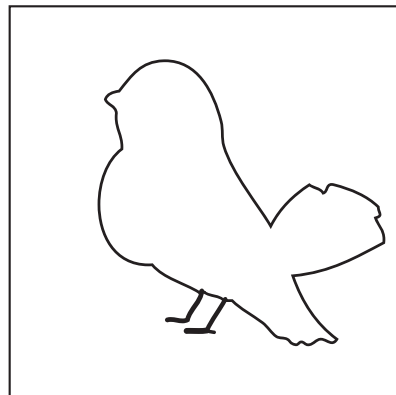
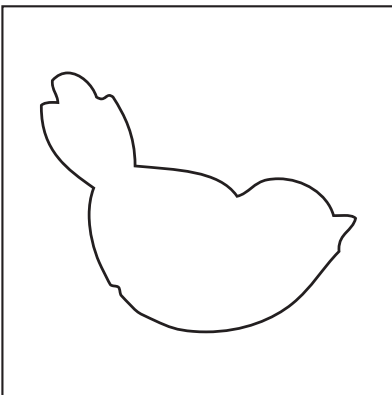
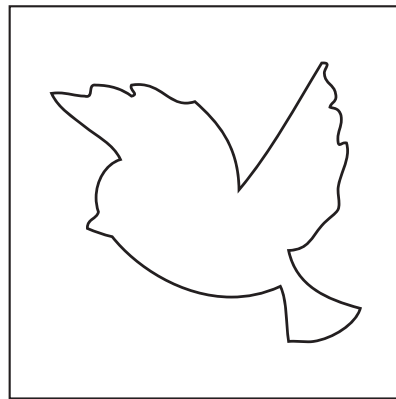
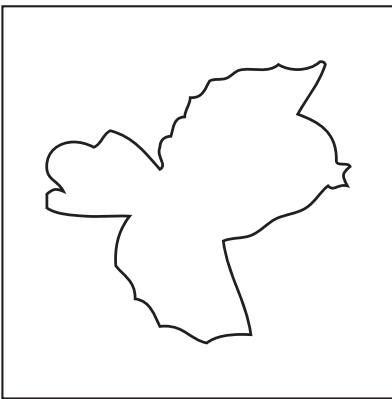
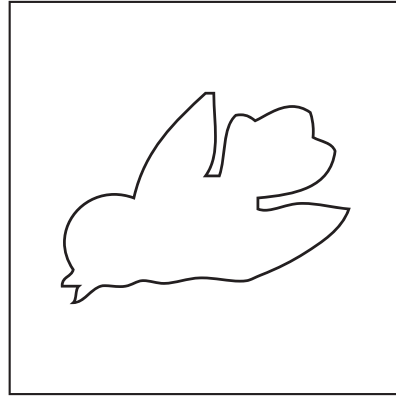
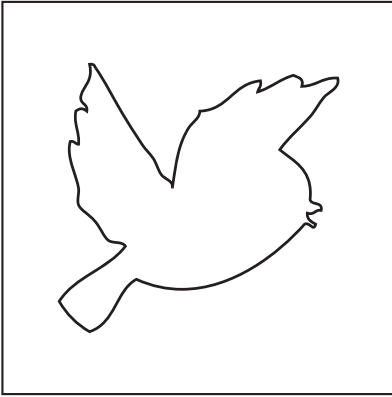
Mark 4:30-32

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The Mustard Seed

Mobile - Birds



The Mustard Seed Maze  
Follow the maze from the bottom to the top as the seed  
grows into a tree!

