



Mustard Seed Influence - Seeing Big In Small

WEEK 1 DISCUSSION GUIDE

OVERVIEW

In the first message of the new series entitled, *Parables*, we will look at the Scriptures and learn life lessons taught by Jesus.

DISCUSSION

He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

Matthew 13:31-32

1. The Sower

In order to seize or "take" (verse 31) the kingdom of heaven, we must listen, grasp, and employ intentionality.

Listen: *He presented another parable to them, saying...*

- Are you a good listener? What has God been speaking to you recently?

Grasp: *"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took..."*

- What are you grasping or holding on to? Are you clinging to the Word of God or other earthly things?

Read **Matthew 6:19-21**: *"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."*

- How can we store treasures in heaven? How does what we store or sow reveal what's in our heart?

Employ Intentionality: *“The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field...”*

- Why should we be intentional with what sow?

In order for us to sow a seed, we must release it and target good soil. Psalms 92:13 says, *Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.*

- What does it mean to be planted in good soil? What will happen if things are planted in bad soil?

2. The Seed

Small is big. *“...and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree...”* When we take small steps to sow into the kingdom of God, we will reap a big harvest.

- What is a small step can you take today that could result in a great harvest?

Cultivation increases opportunity. As God continues to grow us, we will be given more opportunity to reach others for Christ and expand God’s kingdom. When we sow more, we can reap more, and with a greater harvest, we can plant more.

Stretch. Stretch your faith. The small seed you sow may not look like it will produce a large harvest, but when God calls us to invest something, no matter how small it is, we need to stretch our faith and believe it will be a great harvest.

When you sow a mustard seed, it grows to be larger than all the garden plants. When we plant ourselves in God’s kingdom and in His Word, we will stand out from the rest of the world.

A mustard seed grows to be a very large tree with nestable branches for the birds. It creates a safe place that others will desire to come to.

- How can we stand out from the world and provide a safe space for others?

LIFE CHALLENGE

Think about what you’re sowing and how you can be a better sower. Ask God to show you how you can be a better sower, and act on the opportunities He gives you!

PRAYER REQUESTS & CLOSE IN PRAYER