

Hello everyone,

My name is Janis Cox. I have volunteered to help Harry with the Sunday School lessons while we are in COVID. This lesson is based on the lectionary reading for Sunday.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please email me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com. And don't forget to send pictures and videos of your work to Harry.

Scripture: Mark 4:26-34 (The International Children's Bible)

Jesus Uses a Story About Seed

²⁶ Then Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is like a man who plants seed in the ground. ²⁷ The seed comes up and grows night and day. It doesn't matter whether the man is asleep or awake; the seed still grows. The man does not know how it grows. ²⁸ Without any help, the earth produces grain. First the plant grows, then the head, and then all the grain in the head. ²⁹ When the grain is ready, the man cuts it. This is the harvest time."

A Story About Mustard Seed

³⁰ Then Jesus said, "How can I show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story can I use to explain it? ³¹ The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. It produces large branches. Even the wild birds can make nests in it and be protected from the sun."

³³ Jesus used many stories like these to teach them. He taught them all that they could understand. ³⁴ He always used stories to teach them. But when he and his followers were alone together, Jesus explained everything to them.

Thinking about the Lesson

Talk to your child about what makes a seed grow. Water, Light, Good Soil. Ask if we must do anything else to make that seed grow into a plant? (No, God has the life of that plant figured out.)

The man does not know how it grows. ²⁸ Without any help, the earth produces grain. First the plant grows, then the head, and then all the grain in the head. (Mark 4:27-28, The International Children's Bible)

Jesus talks in parables. A parable is a complex story taught in a common way. The people at Jesus' time understood about plants and would be interested in listening to Him.

When Jesus is talking about seeds growing, He is comparing it to growing God's Kingdom.

What can you tell me about the mustard seed? (verses 31 and 32)

- Smallest seed
- When it grows it becomes the largest of the garden plants
- The mustard plant produces large branches
- Birds can make nests and be protected from the sun

Why did Jesus say He used parables? (to teach what people could understand)

How did Jesus help His disciples understand His parables? (When they were alone together, Jesus explained what the parable meant)

Growing God's Kingdom is like growing a seed. When we talk about Jesus to others, we are teaching them about Jesus. God will help to grow their knowledge so they can choose whether to believe and trust in Him. We plant the seeds. God grows the plant.

We grow like a seed too. We grow in God when we worship, pray, and talk about the Bible stories. We also grow by asking questions. As we do this day by day and year by year, we grow in our knowledge of Who God is. Then we can share what we learn. And God's Kingdom will grow too.

Remember the size of the mustard seed and how it grew into the largest garden plant. Think of other seeds. The acorn – grows into a large oak tree. Something small can grow big and strong.

Our faith starts like a tiny mustard seed. As we go to church, pray, read the Bible and learn, our faith grows. Remember the tiny mustard seed.

Memory Verse for youngest ones

God's Kingdom is like a tiny mustard seed.

Memory verse for older ones

The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants. (Mark 4:31-32, The International Children's Bible)

Here are a few ideas to memorize verses:

1. Cut the words out separately and then mix them up. Now try to put them back together.
2. Using actions say the verse.

For this week you could use these actions: (Mark 4:31-32, The International Children's Bible)

The kingdom (Make a large triangle with your hands above your head) of God (point up) is like a mustard seed (hold a little pretend seed in your hand). The mustard seed is the smallest seed

(make a small sign with your fingers) you plant in the ground (plant in the ground). ³² But when you plant this seed (plant in ground), it grows (show a plant growing up) and becomes the largest (made your arms go wide) of all garden plants (point all around).

3. Print out the words on a card. On the back of the card, print the first letter of each word. Now try to say the verse.

Pray together

Repeat after the adult: Father Thank You for teaching us Through Your Word, The Bible, ... so we can grow... and learn.... More about You... In Jesus' name. Amen.

Activities

1. Word Search – The Mustard Seed

2. Divide a piece of paper in half. On the left half draw a tiny mustard seed. On the right half draw a large mustard plant with a bird in a nest. Label it “God’s Kingdom Grows Big Like a Tiny Mustard Seed”.

3. Colouring Page

Additional Resources

Why did Jesus speak in parables? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hvfz0HPHYw>

The Parable of the Mustard Seed <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YoARY3J2zco>

Blessings,

Janis

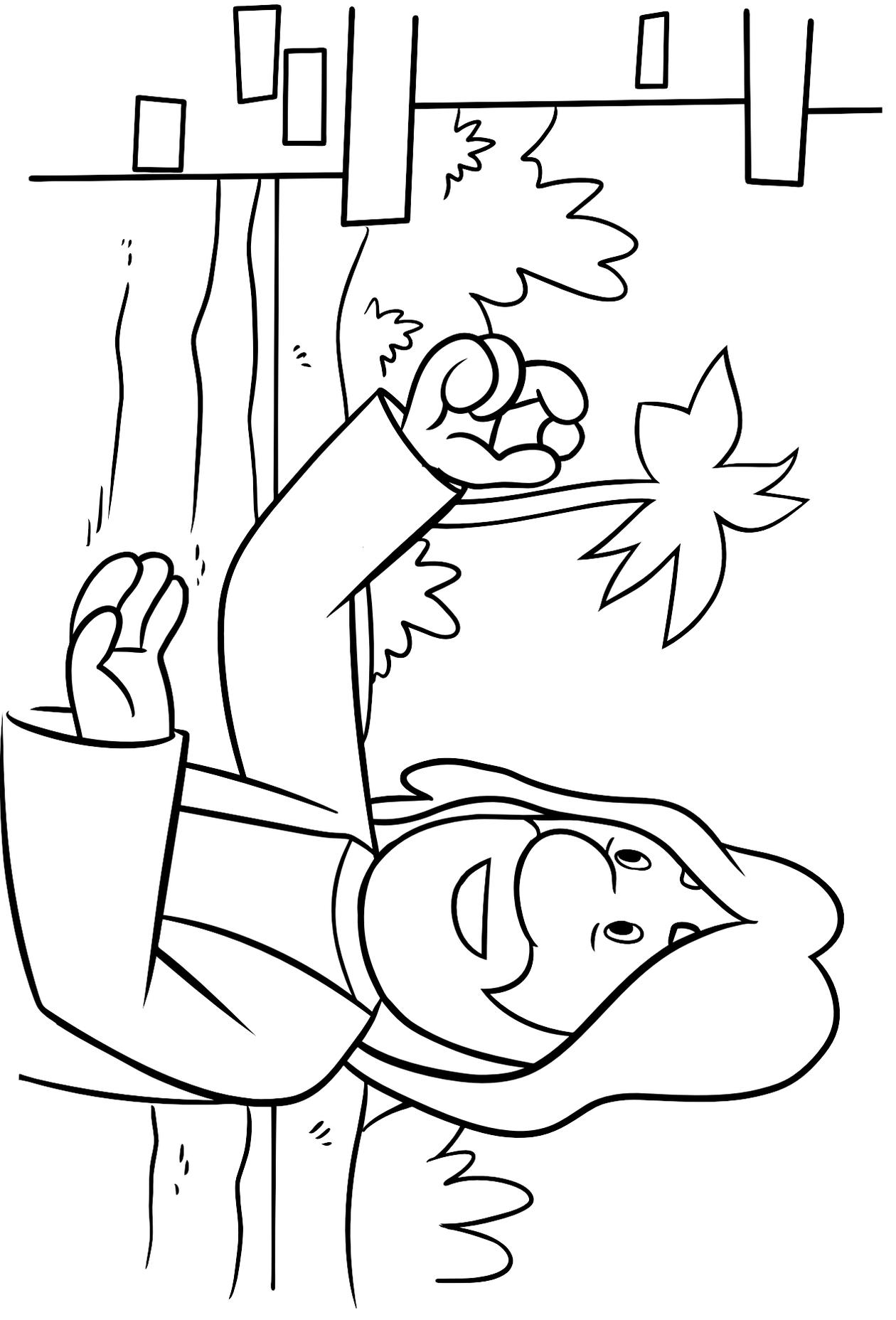
You can reach me at authorjaniscox@gmail.com for questions or comments.

The Mustard Seed

S	S	A	E	P	A	R	A	B	L	E	F	G	N
J	O	R	N	T	E	N	W	R	G	R	O	W	E
F	O	A	E	W	T	N	A	L	P	D	R	S	R
G	S	B	O	W	T	U	T	E	B	S	D	M	S
E	E	R	T	S	O	B	R	S	A	R	B	A	U
P	R	A	R	R	U	L	G	G	A	A	R	L	S
R	O	N	K	A	E	N	L	T	G	G	P	L	E
O	S	C	G	I	E	N	S	O	O	A	S	E	J
T	A	H	D	R	N	U	N	S	F	R	E	S	B
E	E	E	O	M	M	G	L	R	R	D	S	T	O
C	N	S	L	C	L	E	D	R	G	E	I	L	S
T	E	S	L	R	R	S	U	O	U	N	L	B	E
E	S	D	B	I	R	D	T	N	M	L	S	S	E
D	T	S	O	O	L	A	R	G	E	S	T	L	D

SUN
 BRANCHES
 SMALLEST
 NEST
 BIRD
 KINGDOM
 FOLLOWERS
 MUSTARD
 GOD
 LARGEST
 JESUS
 PARABLE
 SEED
 PROTECTED
 GARDEN
 PLANT
 GROW

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/2506843/>



Jesus told parables to teach people about the Kingdom of God.
In one famous parable, he said that the Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed -
it will start small and then grow! (Mark 4:30-32)