

Lessons in Love Weekly Email

This week's lesson is about the parable of the mustard seed. For the next three weeks, the children's lesson will be on the same topic as the adult sermon.

We are continuing to make Power Packs through August 10. We are continuing to make sandwiches for Our Daily Bread through July 29.

In this email:

- Godly Play video
 - Bible story and questions
 - Thumbprint Tree
 - Nature activity
 - Power Packs
 - Our Daily Bread Lunches
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Godly Play Video

Parable of the Mustard Seed

Think of an answer to each question below and write it down or tell your parent.

1. Smallest land animal
2. Smallest air animal
3. Smallest water animal
4. Smallest pet
5. Smallest plant
6. Smallest word
7. Smallest toy
8. Smallest book
9. Smallest item in the room
10. Smallest food

Do we notice the tiny things in the world or the big things?

Make a tiny dot on your paper. That dot is the same size as a mustard seed. Now watch this video about a mustard seed.

[Click here for the video](#)

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever planted something and watched it grow? Did it grow larger than you expected?
2. What can you do to help the kingdom of God?
3. Ask your children to share what else the kingdom of God might be like. Are there other comparisons they can think of?

Prayer:

Thank God for God's kingdom. Praise God for people who are willing to share God's love with others. Ask for help in sharing God's love with those around us.

Read the Bible

Mark 4:30-34

If you have ever planted a flower, you know that it starts from a tiny seed. That seed doesn't look like much; in fact, you might lose it if you drop it. But when you put that seed in soil, cover it up, and water it, something amazing starts to happen. Pretty soon, you start to see green sprouts. And if you give it sunlight and water, that flower starts to grow. It begins to grow big and strong. Think about all the flowers you have seen. Every single one of them started with a tiny seed. Think about the trees you see all around you. Those start from seeds as well. Their seeds may look different than flower seeds (for instance, the seeds for oak trees are acorns), but they all started out as seeds. They needed some water and some sunlight to grow, but grow they did. The kingdom of God is like that as well.

Read Mark 4:30-34:

Again he said, "What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade."

With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his disciples, he explained everything.

A mustard seed is tiny. And yet, Jesus compares it to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God started with one small seed: Jesus. And then it spread through the disciples. As the disciples told people about Jesus, more and more people believed. And as they believed, the kingdom of God grew until it had touched billions of people. And still it continued to grow. Thousands and thousands of years later, the kingdom of God is still growing. Like that tiny mustard seed that can grow to be 8 feet tall (all that from a tiny seed!), the kingdom of God continues to grow big and strong. It started as something small, but then it grew into something amazing.

You are small too. But you are growing. And you are part of the kingdom of God. As you grow, you can do many things for God's kingdom. You can tell others about God's love. You can be kind to others. You can help others when they need help. You can help at church. You can help your parents and your brothers or sisters. You can do many things for the kingdom of God. And every time you tell someone about God, every time you share God's love with others, you are helping the kingdom of God grow. It started out like that tiny seed, but it grew into something amazing. You may not feel like you can do big things for the kingdom of God, but know that every small thing you do, every time you are kind to someone or show God's love, you are making the kingdom of God a bit bigger.

Thumbprint Tree

Supply List:

Green paint or inkpad

Paper

Instructions:

Draw a tree/ mustard plant on a piece of paper.

Make thumbprint leaves by using green or yellow paint/ ink pad to make leaves.

Draw birds on the tree.

Discussion:

What do you like best about this story?

How does it make you feel?

What does it make you want to do?

Nature Observation

Plants, Flowers and Trees

Take a walk outside.

Stop when you see an interesting flower or tree and talk about how it grows.

Remind your family that each plant came from a seed.

Talk about some plants that you may want to care for and watch grow.

IPM (Inter Parish Ministry) Power Packs

[Click here to watch a Power Pack Assembly Video](#)

IPM (Inter Parish Ministry) is collecting "Power Packs" in gallon-sized Ziploc bags that are distributed to school-age children. IPM distributes 200 Power Packs each week.

You can sign up to make Power Packs via sign up genius. You are also welcome to drop off completed Power Packs at anytime to volunteer houses listed below.

[Click here to sign up on Sign Up Genius](#)

What makes a good power pack?

1. Look for a **meal** for each bag (microwave mac and cheese, microwave ravioli, soups with pull tab, canned chicken/tuna lunch kits, Hormel shelf stable meals).
2. Add other items such as individual cereals, applesauce, fruit cups, shelf-stable puddings, oatmeal, peanut butter crackers, JIF peanut butter to go cups, raisins, chips, juice box, granola bar, pretzels, microwave popcorn, cheese crackers).
3. Seal items in a gallon Ziploc bag.
4. It is great when the bag is full of items.
5. Feel free to add an encouraging note to the child receiving the Power Pack.

Power Packs can be dropped off anytime at one of three church member houses. These members have volunteered to have a bin at the front porch for power packs.

Church Member Drop off locations:

Michael and Jennifer Taylor's house: 6305 Graves Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Walt and Holly Dewees' house: 9310 Old Indian Hill Road, Cincinnati, OH 45243

Phil and Suzanne Beck's house: 9983 Walnutridge Ct., Cincinnati, OH 45242

IPM Drop Off Locations:

Monday and Tuesday 10:00 am-12:00 pm at the Newtown Pantry 3509 Debolt St., Cincinnati, OH 45244

You may also donate items to be assembled into Power Packs by an IPM volunteer.

[Click here to donate items for Power Pack Assembly](#)

"In His name, lending a helping hand to others."

Our Daily Bread

Sandwiches

July 29

Indian Hill Church is providing sandwiches, fruit and desserts every Wednesday through the end of July. Desserts can be homemade or store bought, but must be individually packaged. Sign up to help by emailing Jennifer Taylor or signing up on [signup genius](#).

[Sign Up Genius Link](#)

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