

The Mustard Seed

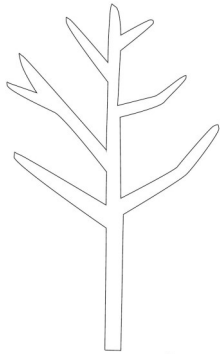
*Light a candle and remember the presence of God is with you.
Lay out the yellow felt underlay.*

Jesus told us sacred stories called parables.
Sacred means that something is extra special.
Jesus was extra special.

The stories Jesus told were messages about how to love
God and love each other.

Let us wonder how this parable helps us love. (pause)

Place the mustard seed at the bottom of the yellow felt in the middle.



Imagine a place where everyone can
feel God's love. That may be hard to
imagine, but Jesus once told a story a
parable to help us imagine such a
place.

Lay out the green tree on top of the mustard seed.

Jesus began by saying that the place of great love starts
with a very, very, very, very small mustard seed. Even
though it is very small it can grow to become a large
plant if people take care of it. (Taking care of a plant
includes water, sun, and a little bit of care.)

*Very, very, very, very
small mustard seed*



When the once very, very, very, very small mustard
seed has grown, it can be a place that protects
others.

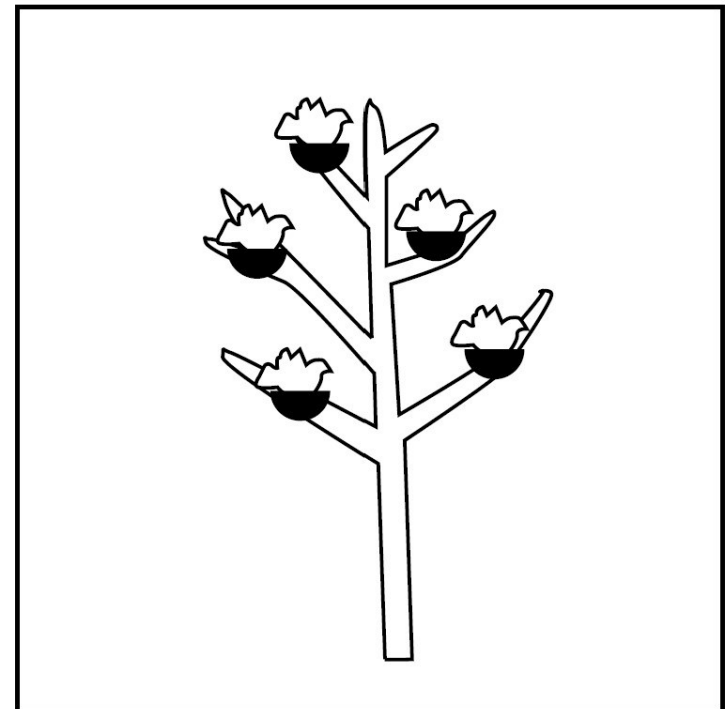
Share the nests and birds with each person in the family.

It becomes a home where many different birds can
live with their families.

Have everyone place a nest and a bird in the tree.

Homes are places where we can feel protected and
know God's love.

Diagram



Wondering with God's Story

I wonder...

- ... if the birds have names?
- ... how many birds can live in this tree?
- ... if the birds feel safe in this tree?
- ... where this place is?
- ... how such a small seed can become a tree?

Working with God's Story

1. Have each person retell the story without reading the words.
Just use items.
2. Find the story in your Bible and highlight it. You can also look in a Storybook Bible or online.

3. Ask the wondering questions more than once. Dinner? Car? Bed-time?

Check the "Weekly Faith FITNESS Plan" card.



Illustrator: Nicole Lapointe
Pictures: Worship Woodworks, worshipwoodworks.org

The Mustard Seed



Come close to this story/parable of Jesus.

Matthew 13:31-32
(Common English Version)

Jesus told them another story:
The kingdom of heaven is like what happens when a farmer plants a mustard seed in a field. Although it is the smallest of all seeds, it grows larger than any garden plant and becomes a tree. Birds even come and nest on its branches.

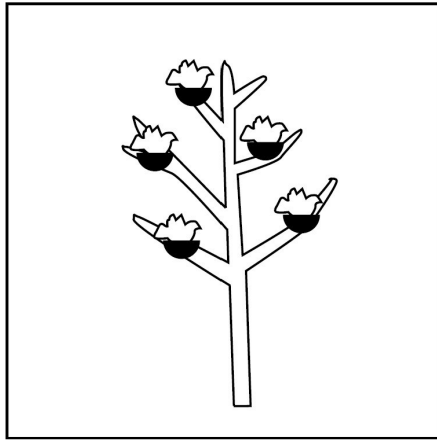


Ministries Across Generations
docfamiliesandchildren.org

Disciples Home Missions
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



Diagram



Working with the Story (Parable)

1. Lay the green tree on the yellow felt. (Can you roll it up in your hand and make it grow?)
2. When using the mustard seed (which is very, very, very, very small), place the seed under the bottom of the green tree.
3. Have each family member put their nest in the tree.
4. Have each person have their birds fly to their nest/home.

Now you are ready to share this parable.

*I wonder if the story has all it needs?
Can you tell the story differently?*

More Wondering... I wonder...

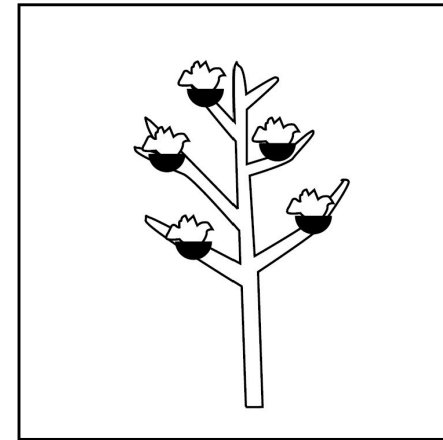


- ... how many birds have nests in the tree?
- ... do birds share their nests?
- ... if a bird has more than one nest?

- ... if there are nests without birds?
- ... if there are birds without nests?



Diagram



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- ... do birds share their nests?
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- ... if there are birds without nests?



Draw the Parable

Family Prayer

There are so many ways to pray. This week's prayer challenge is to write a family prayer that shares with God about how a small moment made a big difference.

Here is a moment(s) that made a big difference,

Let us remember you make a difference, God.

Amen.

Draw the Parable

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