Good morning boys and girls!!!

This Sunday of parable lessons, we focus our lesson today on the parable of the Mustard Seed (probably one of my favorite lessons that I’ve taught the students.)

BIBLE BIT: In the gospel, Jesus sometimes tells parables to the crowds, and then goes on to explain them to his disciples in private. Some scholars think Jesus might not have explained his parables, but that the author of the gospel filled in the gaps to help readers understand.

In the name of the Father **(touch your forehead)**,

And of the Son **(touch your chest)**,

And of the Holy Spirit **(touch your left and then right shoulder)**.

Amen! **(give a high five)**

Tiny Faith Lesson

Take an index card or piece of folded paper,  and draw a tiny dot in the center with a marker. Hold it up, look at the dot and say Perfect!

Those dots are about the size of a single mustard seed.  Pretty small isn’t it?
But mustard seeds don’t stay small.  Once you plant them, they grow up to be huge!  I mean they are taller than you, taller than me, and sometimes they even get to be taller than a building!

I would never think such a tiny thing could ever grow to be like that.

Now, look at your dot, because here comes the really cool part.  Jesus says that faith the size of a mustard seed is all you need.  Really, that small! Jesus knows we can’t start out as a fully grown, two-story mustard tree.  It’s just not going to happen; we have to start somewhere.
Any time someone believes in Jesus and accepts His gift of salvation, they are planting their tiny mustard seed of faith.  And what happens when you plant that tiny seed?  It grows up into a huge mustard tree. You know what makes all of this even better?  Once that mustard tree gets big, it starts to make more mustard seeds.  And if those mustard seeds are planted, they will also grow up to be huge mustard trees.
As Christians it works the same way.  Once someone is a Christian, they can tell others and share their faith with them.  Then they might become a Christian too!

***What is happening in these parables?***

Jesus teaches with stories to communicate the feeling, sense, and impact of God’s kingdom. He describes the kingdom of heaven as surprising (like a little seed that grows into a huge bush); subtle (like a pinch of yeast that leavens a whole batch of dough); precious (like discovering priceless treasure); and including judgment and discernment (as when fishermen separate the good catch from the garbage).

***Why do these parables matter for kids?***

Kids may have an idea about what “heaven” is or looks like. These parables challenge assumptions. They don’t include clouds, harp music, or finding deceased loved ones. Jesus is describing a coming kingdom: God’s reclamation of and reunion with the world and its people. The stories provoke imagination about what life with God will look and feel like.

***What is the church season connection?***

The days after Pentecost invite the church to look outward to others, and forward to the future God is making. These parables of the kingdom remind us that God’s kingdom comes all the way into the daily duties and routines of our lives—and changes them.

PRAYER:

Thank you Lord, for all things tiny and big.

Thank you for growing your Spirit in us each day.

We pray for those who don’t know you yet,

Please let the Holy Spirit grow in them and me.

We pray for the world we live in,

Bless those around me near and far.

In Jesus name we pray.

Amen.

May God be . .

In my head and in my thinking,

In my eyes and in my seeing,

In my ears and in my listening,

In my mouth and in my speaking,

In my heart and in my understanding,

In my hands and in my serving.

May God be in my practicing,

Because . . . I WANT TO ACT LIKE JESUS!

IN JESUS’ NAME, AMEN!

Mark 4:26-34

**The Parable of the Growing Seed**

**26**He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. **27**Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. **28**All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. **29**As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

**30**Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? **31**It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. **32**Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”

**33**With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. **34**He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when he was alone with his own disciples, he explained everything.