

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Just a little faith can lead to big things.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that when we put our trust in God, he can turn a little faith into something great.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:31-34, The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

MEMORY VERSE:

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)

SUMMARY:

A pumpkin seed is huge compared to the tiny mustard seed, but even a mustard seed grows into something large and beautiful.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Give us the faith to do great things for You.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

MEMORY VERSE

"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)

"Show me your ways, Lord, teach me your paths." Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

"Show me the right path, O Lord; point out the road for me to follow." Psalm 25:4 (NLT)

"Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths." Psalm 25:4 (KJV)

LARGE GROUP:

See which group can recite the memory verse from memory the loudest - the boys or the girls.

SMALL GROUP:

Read the verse in a normal speed with the kids. Then read it super slow. Then read it super fast!

SKIT

THE NOT SO CREEPY TALE OF THE PUMPKIN SEED

ITEMS NEEDED:

A cape and old fashioned suit for the Count
A lab coat for Maureen
A storybook

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN:

1M, 1F

CHARACTERS:

Count Pumpkin - A not at all spooky storyteller
Maureen Igor - The Count's sarcastic sidekick

The Count and Maureen enter.

COUNT: Hello children. Welcome to Creepy Tales with Count Pumpkin. I am Count Pumpkin. And this is my assistant, Igor!

MAUREEN: That's Maureen Igor, thank you. Not that anyone cares.

COUNT: Every week, I will be telling you a chilling, terrifying tale guaranteed to give you—

MAUREEN: To give you a new understanding of how to follow God.

COUNT: I was going to say goosebumps.

MAUREEN: Ha! I'd like to see that happen!

COUNT: Hand me the book, Igor.

MAUREEN: You can't say Miss Igor, Count?

COUNT: Today's creepy tale is... The Monster Seed!

MAUREEN: No it's not. That says Mustard Seed! Big difference.

SKIT

COUNT: Once upon a time, a farmer found a monster seed.

MAUREEN: He means mustard seed.

COUNT: The monster seed was very, very tiny.

MAUREEN: Yes, Count. MUSTARD seeds are very tiny.

COUNT: The farmer thought, "What could possibly grow from this teeny, tiny monster seed?"

MAUREEN: Not monsters, because it's not a monster seed. It's a MUSTARD seed!

COUNT: He planted the monster seed, and what do you think happened? It grew into a great big monster plant! Muah ha ha ha!

MAUREEN: Okay, I'm going to stop you there. Yes it was great and big, and you know what? It kind of was monstrous in size. But it wasn't actually a monster plant because it was a mustard plant grown from a tiny mustard seed.

COUNT: And you don't find that frightening?

MAUREEN: No, I find it inspiring. Jesus said that just a little faith can go a long way, just as a tiny mustard seed can grow into a "monster" of a plant. If I have even a little faith, I can do great big things for Jesus.

COUNT: Well, I suppose that's one way to look at the story. Fine. So you are not scared. Next week I will be back with an even creepier tale on... Creepy Tales with Count Pumpkin.

Count Pumpkin exits.

MAUREEN: You want to know a secret? The Count hates mustard. He's actually kind of afraid of it. So I guess for him, this was a creepy tale, right?

OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pumpkin seeds

Have you ever grown pumpkins from seeds? Pumpkin seeds are very small and lightweight, and you can start a pumpkin plant in a tiny cup of dirt. But it can't stay in that cup very long. Pumpkin vines grow and spread on the ground, producing pumpkins that weight on average between 12 and 18 pounds. Amazing to think all that can come from these small seeds.

Just as a small seed can grow into a giant vine or a tree, a little faith can go a long way. It only takes a small amount of faith to do great things for God, and the more we invest that faith in God, the greater it will grow. Let's ask God to grow our faith. Let's ask Him to use us to do great things in our lives. You'll be amazed what God can do with just a little bit of faith.

LARGE GROUP GAME

SEED DROP

ITEMS NEEDED:

Pumpkin seeds
A plastic trick or treat pumpkin
A step stool

INSTRUCTIONS:

Choose four players for this game. Each player will take a turn standing on a stool with the pump-kin in front of them and attempt to drop ten seeds into the bucket. The player who gets the most seeds into the bucket wins.

VARIATION:

Instead of having kids drop seeds into a bucket, you could have them launch seeds at a bucket a short distance away with a plastic spoon.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

Just a tiny seed of faith is enough for God to do great things in our lives.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

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KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 13:31-34, The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast

INTRO:

When you go to visit the pumpkin patch – or the bin at your grocery store – you see the finished result of months of hard work by a farmer. We see the fruit of their labor – literally – in the form of big, orange, fully grown pumpkins. We don't see the hard work that went into growing the pumpkin. We don't see the vines that nurtured them or the sprinklers that watered them along the way.

That said, we only need to crack the pumpkin open to see where it came from. Like every other plant in the world, the pumpkins we enjoy this time of year started with seeds. For many people, the seeds are the best part. Cleaned and roasted and salted, pumpkin seeds make for a delicious snack. But if we were to plant those seeds in good soil, keep them watered and give them lots of sunshine, we would see how these pumpkins came to be. We would watch those not-so-tiny pumpkin seeds sprout, grow into vines, flower, and grow pumpkins, right in our own backyard.

Every plant, great or small, has the similar beginning of life. One of the tiniest of seeds is the mus-tard seed, a seed so small it's only two or three millimeters in diameter. Yet a mustard plant can grow to be anywhere from six to twenty feet tall. In some circumstances, mustard plants have grown as big as thirty feet! Hard to believe something so big could start as something so tiny.

It's no coincidence Jesus chose the mustard seed to talk about faith. Jesus wanted us to know that even a small amount of faith in God can lead to big things. He wants us to trust God with our lives, and if we do, He will nurture that faith and grow it into something very big.

READ MATTHEW 13:31-34

LARGE GROUP LESSON

MAIN POINT:

A tiny mustard seed doesn't stay tiny for long. Given the right circumstances, it grows from a tiny spec into a giant tree, big enough to offer shelter to nesting birds. If this is what God can do with the tiny mustard seed, imagine what He can do with our lives.

Jesus isn't asking us to take a huge leap of faith. Not at first. He says give me just a little. Trust me with a little, and see what I can do. The more we trust Him, the more our faith will grow as God does His work in our lives. Our faith may start like a tiny seed, but like the mustard plant, God will nurture it into something big!

DRIVE IT HOME:

Jesus uses two things to describe how our faith grows. He talks about the mustard seed, and He talks about yeast. Yeast is a tiny microorganism. It is mixed with warm water and then mixed into flour and other ingredients to make dough that is used to make things like bread and pizza crust. It's that tiny yeast that makes a small lump of dough rise into a larger ball of dough.

The mustard seed teaches us that our faith will grow as we trust God more and more. The yeast tells us that faith will fill every part of us. The more we spend time cultivating our relationship with God, the more we will love Him and give all of our selves to Him.

Every time we step out on faith and God proves faithful, our faith will grow. It will not stay a tiny seed but grow into a giant plant. Our faith will become a part of every decision we make – at church, at home, at school, at play. From that tiny seed of faith, God will build us into followers of Christ who boldly share what we believe and love others so that the world can see Jesus in our lives. We can plant mustard seeds in the hearts of our friends so that they, too, can have a faith that grows and matures like our own.

A little mustard seed grows into a giant plant. A little yeast yields a large ball of dough. A little faith can make a big difference in our life and everyone around us. Give Jesus just a little faith, and you'll be amazed how fast and how big it will grow!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear Jesus,

Give us the faith to do great things for You.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your favorite fun size candy bar?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:4

Have the kids recite this week's verse. Then test them - and ask who can recite the memory verse from the previous series you just finished a few weeks ago!

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

Play a game of hot potato with a plastic pumpkin loaded with treats. (This can be candy, but it can also be something healthier like raisins or pumpkin seeds.) Whenever someone goes out they have to sit down, but they get to take something out of the bucket too.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:31-34

How do small seeds grow into such big plants?

What does Jesus compare those tiny seeds to?

How much faith do we need before God can do anything big in our lives?

How many of you have seen God answer a prayer or do something big?

It takes water and sun to grow plants. What can we do to help grow our faith?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Grow our faith so we can see you do amazing things in our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER:

What's your favorite fun size candy bar?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Psalm 25:4

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SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Read Matthew 13:31-34

Why does Jesus compare faith to tiny seeds?

What does it take to grow a big plant from a seed?

What does it take to grow our faith?

How much faith do we need before God can work in our lives?

What are you doing to grow your own faith?

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Grow our faith so we can see you do amazing things in our lives.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

TRUE OR FALSE

Mustard plants are tiny because their seeds are tiny.

FALSE

A tiny microorganism like yeast make our bread big and fluffy.

TRUE

Jesus says if our faith is small, God can't do much in our lives.

FALSE

A tiny bit of faith goes a long way.

TRUE

The more time we spend with God, the less our faith grows.

FALSE



MAKE IT STICK

4 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Pumpkin Parables Lesson 2

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: PUMPKIN SEEDS



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

A pumpkin seed is huge compared to the tiny mustard seed, but even a mustard seed grows into something large and beautiful. When we put our trust in God, he can turn a little faith into something great. Matthew 13:31-34, The Stories of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Pick some pumpkin seeds out of a pumpkin or buy a bag of seeds to snack on. How small are those seeds compared to the pumpkin, both in physical size and weight? Ask your kids what the parable of the seeds teaches them about faith.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- Why did Jesus compare faith to a tiny seed?
- What are some things we can do to grow our faith?
- Have you ever seen God do something amazing that made you have more faith?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

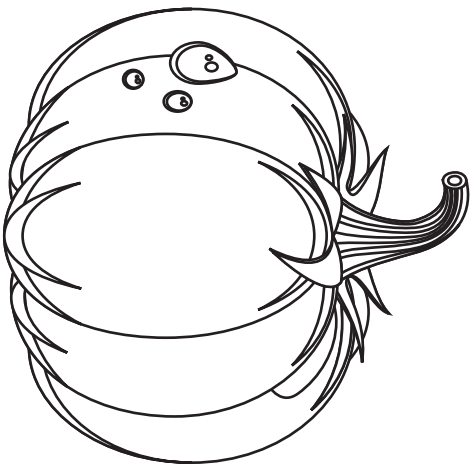
"Lord, show me your ways. Teach me how to follow you." Psalm 25:4 (NirV)



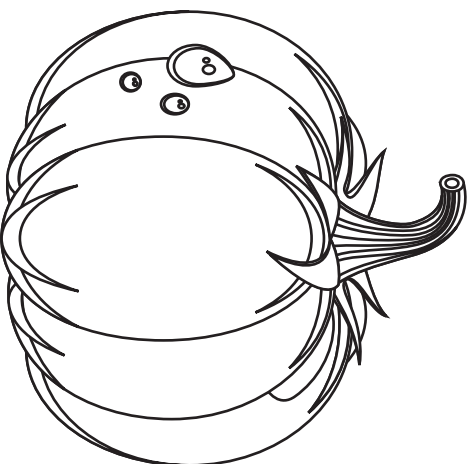
PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

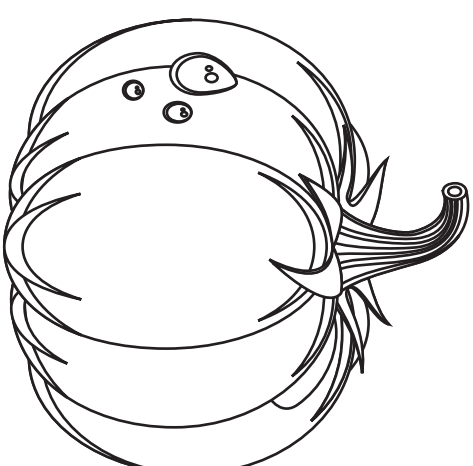
It only takes a little faith for God to move, but once God moves, that faith begins to grow. How are you nurturing your faith? How are you helping your kids to grow their own faith? Pray that God will move in your family, and that as a family, your faith will grow.



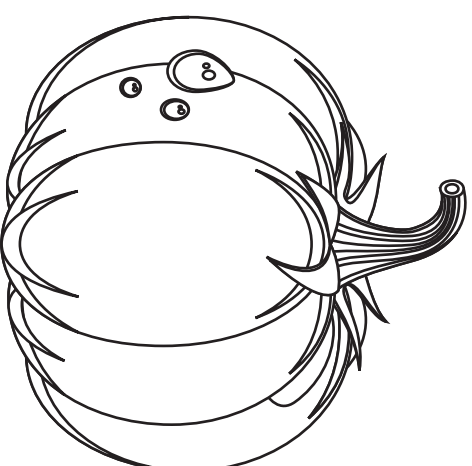
"Lord, show me your ways.
Teach me how to follow you."
-Psalm 25:4 (NIV)



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"Lord, show me your ways.
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-Psalm 25:4 (NIV)

CRAFT ACTIVITY

Give each of the kids a bag of pumpkin seeds they can plant or (with their parents help) roast and snack on. Write a note to stick on the bags about having a pumpkin seed of faith as a reminder of this lesson.