

REFERENCES: MATTHEW 13:31, 32; CHRIST'S OBJECT LESSONS, PP. 76-79.

The Big, Big Tree

Have you ever planted a seed? Did it grow fast or slow? Did it stay short or become tall? Are you growing?

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any of the people who came to listen to Jesus were farmers who grew things in the ground. So

Jesus used a little story about a seed to help them understand God's kingdom, the place where He is King.

"God's kingdom," said Jesus, "is like a mustard seed."

The people who were listening to Jesus knew a mustard seed is tiny—one of the smallest seeds they grew. But when a farmer plants that tiny seed in his field, it grows and grows until it becomes a big tree. Then birds come and build nests in its branches.

What did Jesus mean by saying that a tiny seed is like God's kingdom?

Jesus meant that the first time you choose Him to be in your life, He plants a seed of love inside you. Every time you hear Bible



Memory Verse

"Grow in the grace
... of ... Jesus."

2 PETER 3:18, NIV.

The Message

God's love helps
us grow to be
more like Him.

stories, and every time you ask Him into your life, every time you talk with God, the plant grows bigger and stronger. Soon everyone can see it. They know that you have God's love in your heart. They know that Jesus is your best friend. Other people will want to be around you, just as the birds came to build their nests in the branches of the mustard tree.

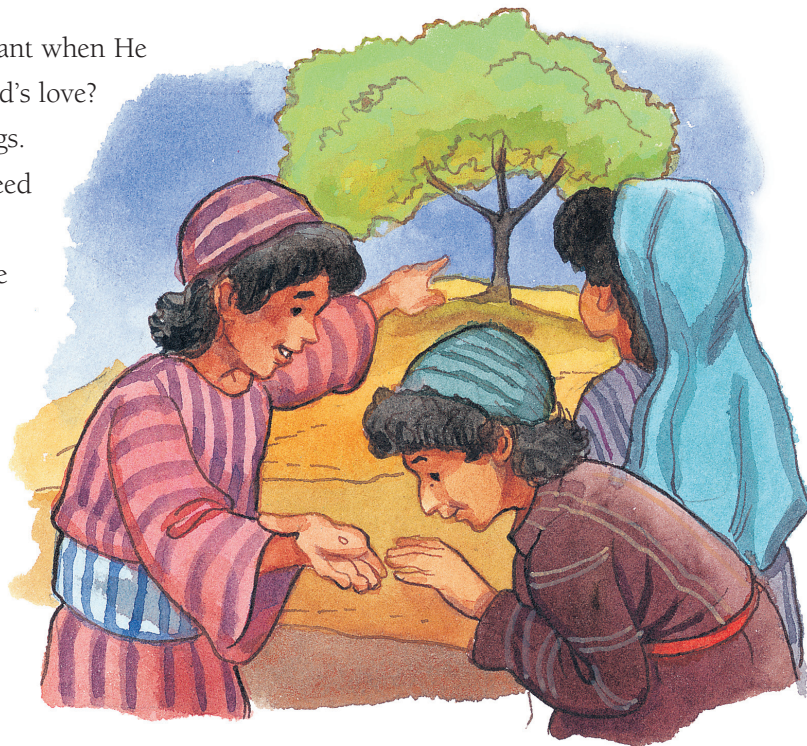
That's what Jesus meant when He said that God's kingdom is like a mustard seed.

But He also meant that the story of His love would begin with just a few people. The people who knew Him when He lived on earth are like the tiny seed. As they told other people about Him, more people followed Him, like the plant that grew bigger.

Each time someone shares a Bible story or tells someone else about Jesus' love for them, the plant of God's love grows bigger. When everyone who loves Jesus tells someone else about Him, the plant turns into a tree. More and more people want to hear about Jesus, just as people want to rest under a cool, shady tree, and birds want to build their nests in its branches.

Is that what Jesus meant when He said a tiny seed is like God's love?

Jesus meant two things. God's love is like a tiny seed that grows in your heart every time you learn more about Him and as you choose to follow His way each day. And God's kingdom grows bigger and bigger each time someone else learns about His love. God's love does help us grow to be more like Him.



Do and Say

SABBATH

Each day this week read the lesson story and use the following to review the memory verse:

- “**Grow** Crouch down and gradually stand up.
- in the grace** Clasp arms over chest.
- of . . . Jesus.”** Point upward.
- 2 Peter 3:18** Palms together; then open as if opening a book.

Put a small plant in a sunny window and remember to water it. It will remind you that God’s love helps us grow to be more like Him.



today. Has it grown? How much did it grow? Measure your child to see how tall they are. Tell him or her how much they have grown since their last birthday. Have them call a friend and tell them how much they have grown. Remember that God’s love helps us grow to be more like Him.

SUNDAY

Help your child “read” the pictures in the lesson story. Talk about growing up physically, mentally, and spiritually in God’s love. Help your child pray and thank Jesus that God’s love helps us grow to be more like Him.

MONDAY

Visit a place where plants and flowers are displayed (flower shop, garden store, etc.). Help your child select a plant or flower to give to someone they love. Deliver the gift together. Encourage your child to say “Jesus loves you, and so do I.” Thank Jesus for loving friends.

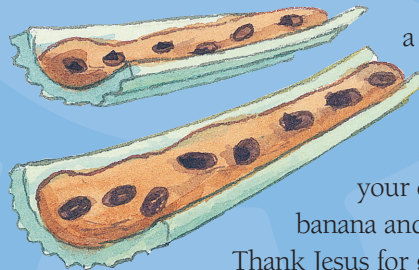
TUESDAY

Help your child measure their plant again

WEDNESDAY

Have everyone in your family tell about one way they showed love to someone today. Thank Jesus that God’s love helps us grow to be more like Him.

THURSDAY



Help your child make a healthy treat. For “Ants on a Log” spread some peanut butter (or a spread that is safe for your child) on some celery or a banana and sprinkle it with raisins.

Thank Jesus for good food that helps you grow.

FRIDAY

Help your child show your family how a tree starts out as a tiny seed and slowly grows into a large tree. (Roll up into a small ball, then slowly stand up straight until hands are stretched above your head, like tree branches.)