

MUSTARD SEEDS AND YEAST

Theme

Size doesn't matter in the kingdom of heaven.

Object

Mustard seeds and a packet of yeast

Scripture

Another parable Jesus put before the crowds: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough." Matthew 13:31-33 (NIV)

Today I brought with me two things that may not be familiar to some of you. The first thing I want to show you are these mustard seeds. See how tiny the mustard seeds are? They are the smallest seeds I have ever seen. And look at the yeast. The yeast comes in very small packets. Both are very small, yet, in our Bible lesson today, the mustard seed and yeast are used by Jesus to describe what the kingdom of heaven is like.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." What can we learn from the mustard seed? Well, I think we can learn that we are never too small to be important in God's eyes. You and I may be small, but we can help to grow the kingdom of God.

Some of you may not be familiar with yeast. Do you know what happens when you take a tiny amount of yeast and mix it with water and flour, salt and little bit of sugar? The yeast spreads all through that mixture and produces dough that gives you big, soft, fluffy, delicious loaves of bread. The flour and water and sugar and salt just can't do it alone. The yeast has an affect on everything – just from one tiny piece.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." That is what Jesus wants us to do. He wants us, as part of his kingdom, to change the world around us and make it better.

The ministry of Jesus started very small—twelve men in an obscure corner of Galilee—but it has spread throughout the world. Like a small amount of yeast affects the entire loaf, the disciples of Jesus have affected the entire world. The nature of yeast is to grow and to change whatever it contacts. When we accept Christ, his grace grows in our hearts and changes us from the inside out. As the gospel changes lives, it changes the entire world.

You may be small, but like the mustard seed and the yeast, you are important in the kingdom of heaven.

Father, help us to remember that size is not important in your kingdom. You can use even the smallest one of us to grow the kingdom and bring change to the world around us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Mustard Seeds and Yeast Group Activities

Sermon Title: "[Mustard Seeds and Yeast](#)"

Scripture Reading: Matthew 13:31-33

BALLOON BLOWING:

Give each child a balloon to blow up. Talk about how the balloon starts out small, but gets bigger and bigger as it is filled with air. That is much the same way it is with us. Our influence becomes bigger as we are filled with the Holy Spirit. (Note: If blowing the balloons is too difficult, the teacher could blow up a balloon for them.)

RUBBER BAND BALL:

You will need a large bag of colorful rubber bands for this activity. Each child will have a pile of rubber bands to begin making a rubber band BALL! As the children wrap the bands around each other, the ball will grow. Let the children continue to wrap the bands as time allows and soon a bouncing ball will be enjoyed by the children as they learn from today's lesson that "great things grow from small beginnings." (There are many tutorials for making rubber band balls on YouTube.)

A HANDY MUSTARD TREE:

Give each child a legal-sized sheet of light colored construction paper. The children will use their upper wrist and hand dipped in brown tempera paint to form the trunk and branches of a tree. Use green markers to add leaves on the tree. Use a marker to create birds flying around the mustard tree. Underneath the tree write, "Matthew 13:32"

SEED NECKLACE:

Each child can be given a mustard seed to be laminated and add a string or ribbon for a necklace. (The mustard seed can be glued to a small round piece of card stock paper first before laminating.)

YEAST SPRINKLES:

Give the children supplies to make a YEAST/BREAD poster - Yeast sprinkled onto glue and a picture or drawing of a loaf of bread! Today's Bible verse or words from today's lesson can be written in bright markers. For example: A LITTLE YEAST LEAVENS THE WHOLE LOAF

MUSTARD SEED AND YEAST PARABLE BOOKLET:

Provide several; small squares of various colored construction paper for each child to make a booklet about today's lesson. Each page will represent a part of the lesson. For example: Glue some mustard seeds on one page, draw a large tree or cut a picture out of a magazine to glue on another page. Glue some yeast on another page, draw a loaf of bread or cut a picture out of magazine for another page. Write a key Bible verse on each page to describe the teaching of Jesus.

YEAST ACROSTIC:

Write the word Y-E-A-S-T down the left side of a large sheet of paper or poster board. Let the children create an acrostic using the letters. (For example: "YOUR EXAMPLE ALWAYS SHINES THROUGH"! Colorful markers on neon colorful poster board will make a great reminder of today's lesson. Tape a folded "stand" to the back so this Acrostic can be placed on a table or dresser at home.

SEED ART:

Mustard seeds can be given to each child to add to the glue that has formed a flower on a colorful piece of paper. Write words from today's lesson around the flower to remind children of what we have learned today.

LEAVENED and UNLEAVENED BREAD SNACK:

Give each child a small sample of unleavened bread as well as a piece of leavened bread, as a snack today. Some type of spread could be added to the bread, if desired.

Song: "Little Is Much When God Is in It" - By Kittie L. Suffield

[Sheet Music](#) (PDF)

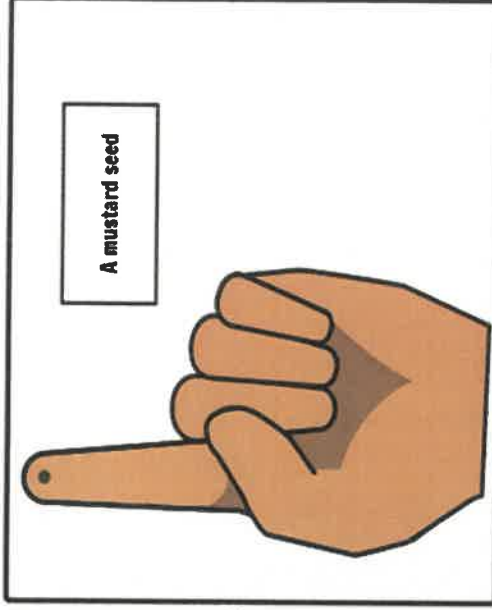
[Piano Accompaniment](#) (MP3)



Jesus was talking to his followers, when one of them asked "What is the kingdom of God like?"



Jesus decided to tell them a parable so they could understand better.



Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed..."



"...which a man took and planted in his field..."



"...Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree..."

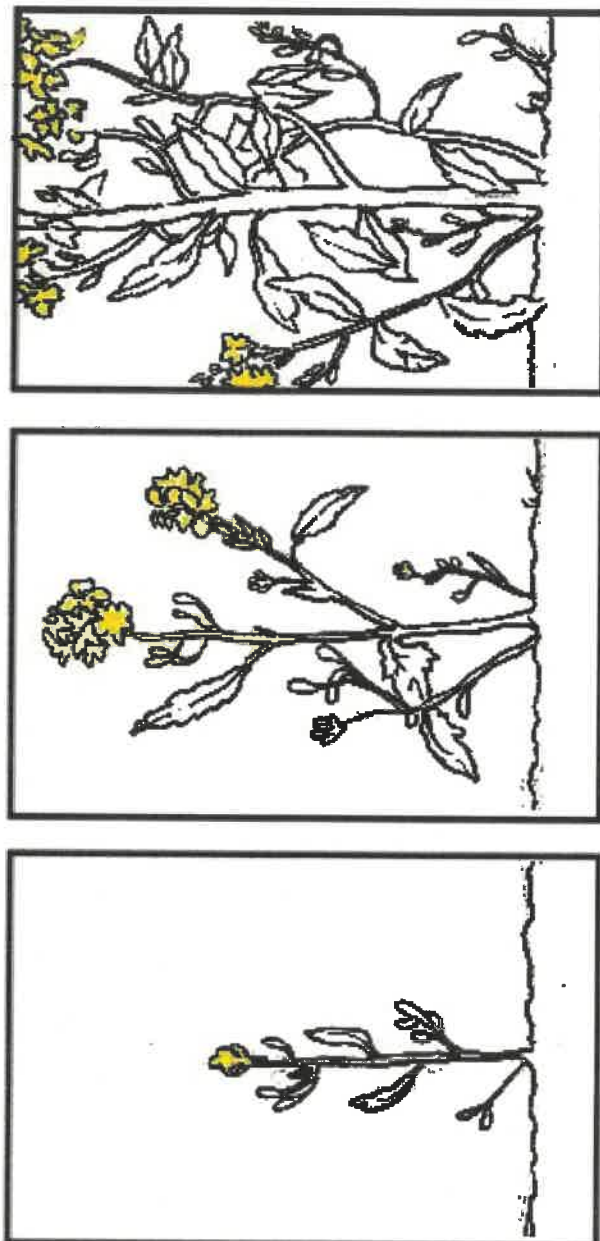
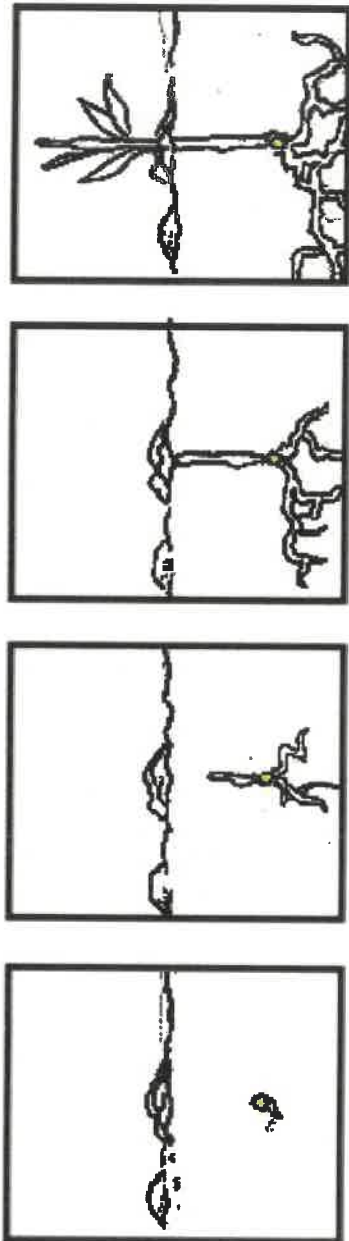
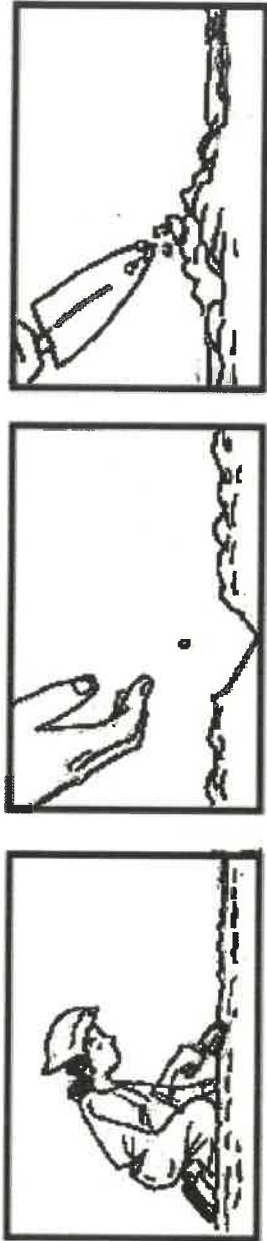


"...so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Create your own at Storyboard That

JESUS TOLD THEM
ANOTHER STORY:

“THE KINGDOM
OF HEAVEN
IS LIKE A
MUSTARD SEED



...IT IS THE
SMALLEST
OF SEEDS...



The Parables of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast
Matthew 13:31-33

Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 13:31-33

1. Find the hidden words. The words have been placed horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When you locate a word, draw a circle around it.

D	O	U	H	T	C	S	B	M	D	P	T	T	V	P
N	N	R	Q	Z	K	S	U	B	G	D	Q	W	Z	T
Y	R	N	W	G	H	E	Z	P	O	U	N	D	S	O
E	O	H	E	A	V	E	N	U	S	R	C	E	T	H
A	W	J	X	K	I	D	S	M	A	L	L	E	S	T
S	V	J	D	L						W	O	M	A	N
T	M	N	O	A						U	Q	T	M	M
K	W	A	U	R						G	R	O	W	S
I	G	B	G	G						R	Y	H	I	J
N	T	Z	H	E						B	I	R	D	S
G	L	K	W	S	M	U	S	T	A	R	D	Y	R	D
D	W	L	O	T	H	W	F	L	O	U	R	P	G	N
O	P	B	S	I	X	T	Y	H	S	D	I	J	T	B
M	J	N	H	K	S	M	F	Y	X	D	I	N	N	J
D	D	G	Y	H	X	J	B	P	A	R	A	B	L	E



MUSTARD	KINGDOM	GROWS	FLOUR	LARGEST
SMALLEST	HEAVEN	WOMAN	PARABLE	SIXTY
POUNDS	YEAST	DOUGH	BIRDS	SEED

Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)



This activity is based on Matthew 13:31-33.

The words below have been written in code. Use the hints in the decoder at the top of the page to help break the code (the letters on top are the correct answers, the letters on the bottom are the code). Write the correct word on the line provided beside each code word.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 13-21-19-20-1-18-4 _____
- 6-12-15-21-18 _____
- 4-15-21-7-8 _____
- 16-1-18-1-2-12-5 _____
- 19-5-5-4 _____
- 25-5-1-19-20 _____
- 19-9-24-20-25 _____
- 19-13-1-12-12-5-19-20 _____

MUSTARD SEED	FLOUR YEAST	DOUGH SIXTY	PARABLE SMALLEST
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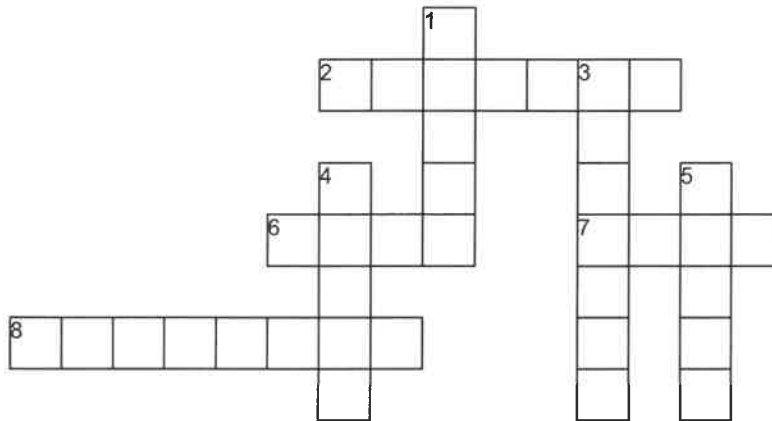
Mustard Seeds and Yeast



Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)

This activity is based on Matthew 13:31-33.

Using the Across and Down clues, write the correct words in the numbered grid below.



ACROSS

2. A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
6. A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
7. To become larger; to increase in size or amount
8. Not as big as any of the others

DOWN

1. A food made from dough of flour or meal
3. Bigger than any of the others
4. A member of the fungus family used in baking to help make the dough rise
5. A mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients to make bread

LARGEST

YEAST

DOUGH

BREAD

SMALLEST

SEED

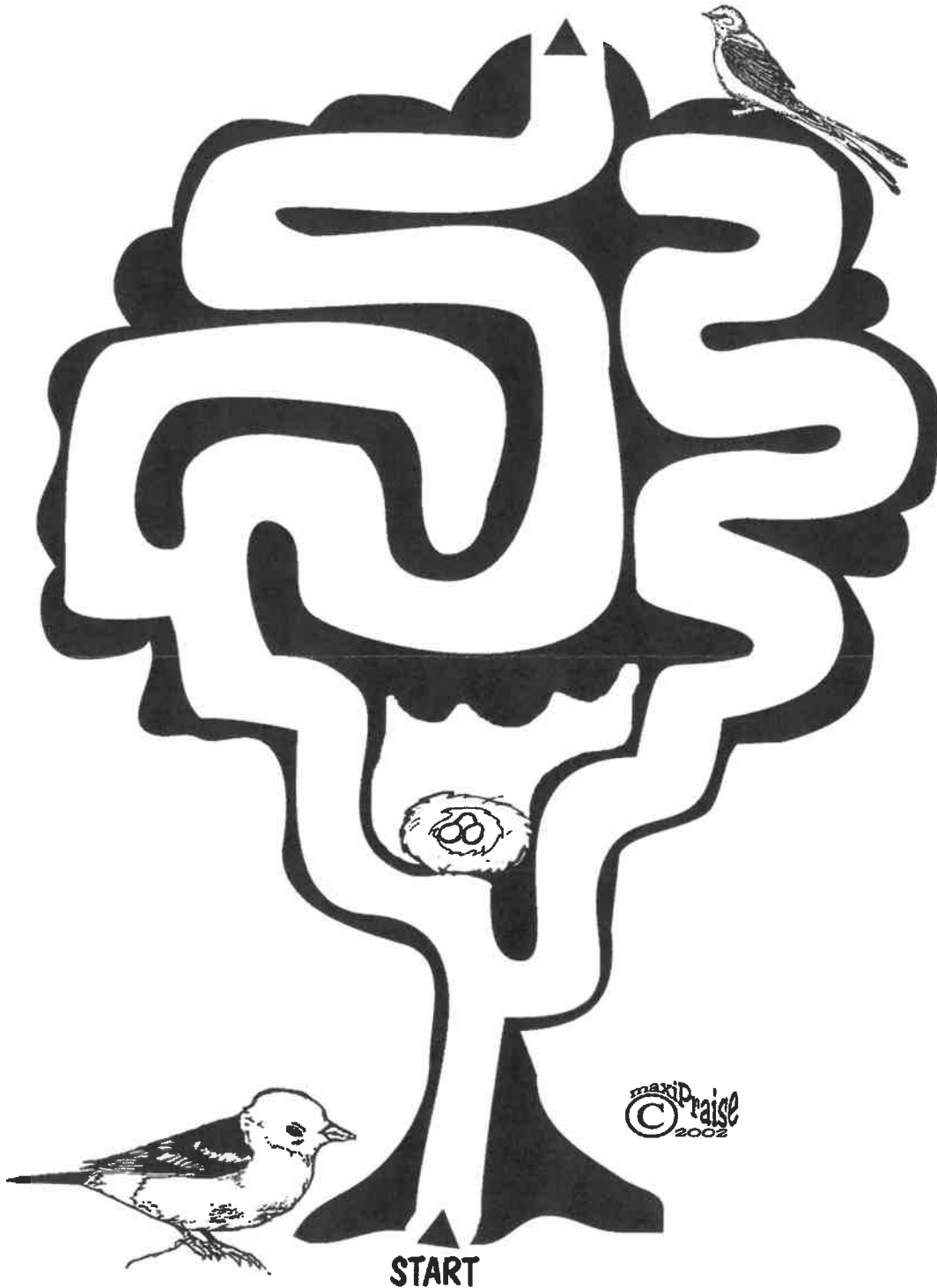
PARABLE

GROW

Variable

The Mustard-Seed

Help the bird get to the top of the mustard tree.



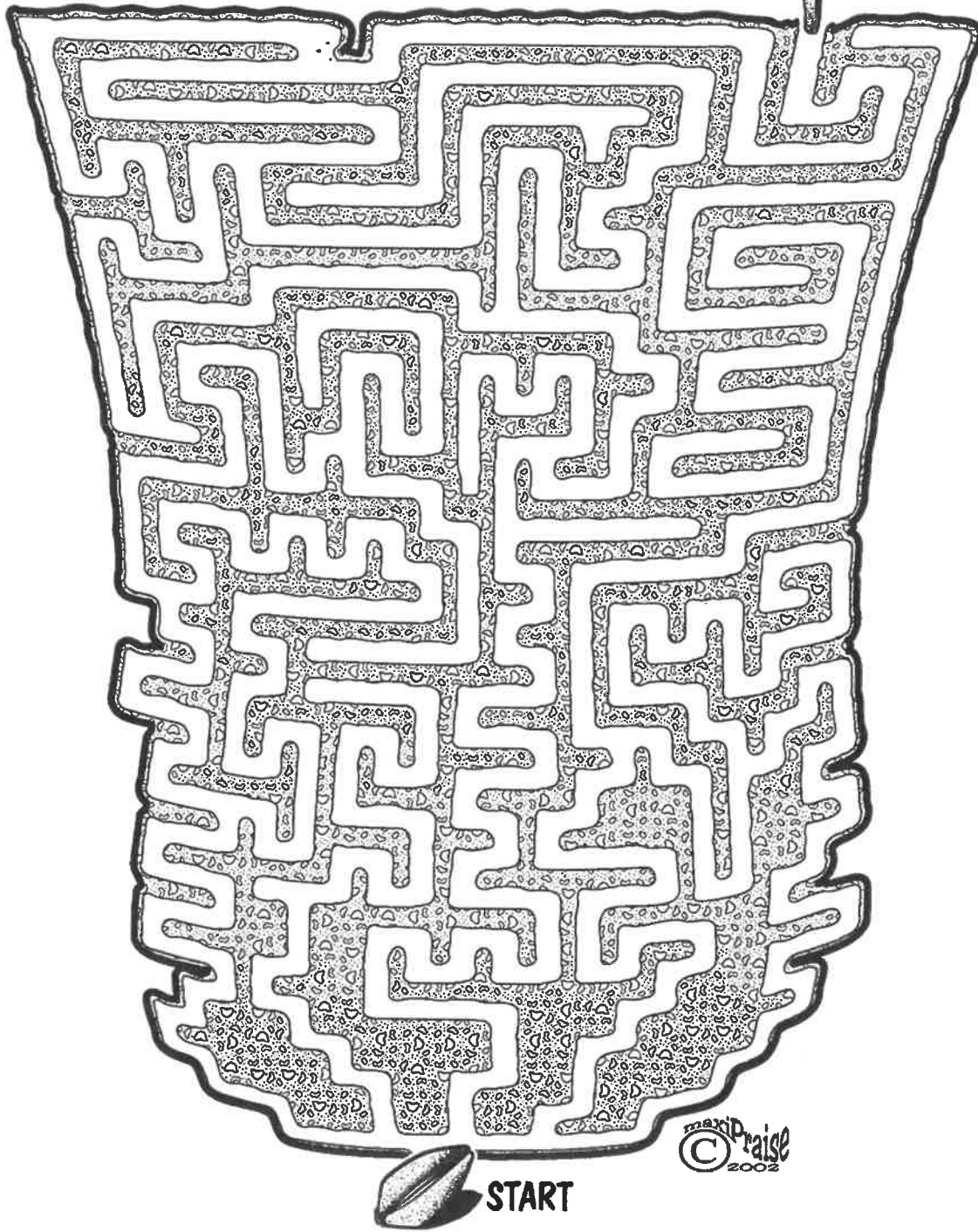
Jesus said that the Kingdom of Heaven was like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is the smallest of seeds, but when a man planted that seed in the ground it grew into a great tree. That mustard tree made a safe place for all the birds to come, rest and build nests.

Variable

The Seed Growing Secretly

The seed needs to rise up through the earth and sprout.
Find the right route for the shoot to travel.

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God is as if a gardener sows seed in the earth. He then can go and rest, sleep, get up the next day and live his life. While he does this, the seed will rise, sprout, become a blade and then grow into a plant with grain, corn or fruit ready for harvest. When the harvest is ripe and ready, the gardener will go out and will reap, cutting and taking the grain, corn or fruit and leaving what is not useful to him.



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Mustard Seeds and Yeast



Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. Matthew 13:34 (NIV)

Complete the activity. If you need help, you can find the answers in Matthew 13:31-35. (NIV)

A number of words have been removed from the text and placed in a word bank. Use the words from the word bank to fill in the blanks in the text. Write the words in the blanks provided.

He told them another p : "The kingdom of h is like a m seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the s of all s, yet when it grows, it is the l of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the b come and perch in its branches."

He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like y that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of f until it worked all through the d."

Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

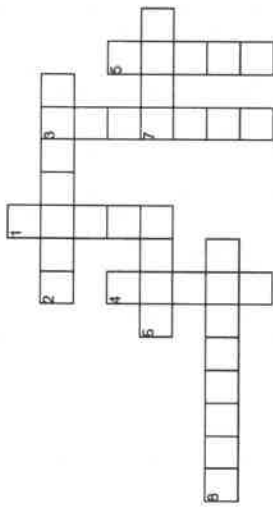
"I will open my mouth in parables,

I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

Matthew 13:31-35 (NIV)

dough	flour	yeast	mustard	heaven
birds	parable	seeds	smallest	largest

Crossword Puzzle



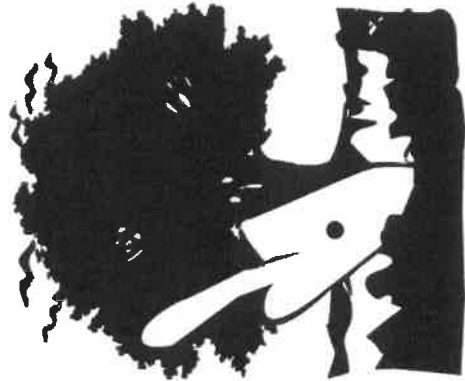
ACROSS

- A story told by Jesus to help explain his teachings
- A small grain of a plant placed in the ground for growing another plant
- To become larger; to increase in size or amount
- Not as big as any of the others

DOWN

- A food made from dough of flour or meal
- Bigger than any of the others
- A member of the fungus family used in baking to help make the dough rise
- A mixture of flour, water, and other ingredients to make bread

LARGEST YEAST DOUGH BREAD
SMALLEST SEED PARABLE GROW



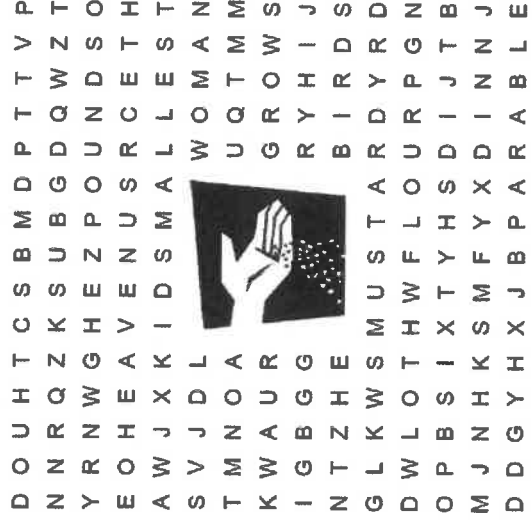
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Children's Worship Bulletin

Mustard Seeds and Yeast

Matthew 13:31-33

Word Search Puzzle



MUSTARD SMALLEST POUNDS KINGDOM HEAVEN YEAST GROWS WOMAN DOUGH FLOUR PARABLE BIRDS LARGEST SIXTY SEED

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Killeen, Texas

Coloring Page



The Parable of the Mustard Seed and the Yeast
Matthew 13:31-33

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

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MUSTARD SEED	FLOUR YEAST	DOUGH SIXTY	PARABLE SMALLEST
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