

Rhythms of Grace Worship • February Year 3

Theme: Parable of the Mustard Seed

Scripture: Matthew 13: 31-32

Date: _____

Location: _____

Volunteer Roles:

Facilitator _____

Storyteller _____

Celebrant _____

Center Leader _____

Guide _____

Items needed for this Session

Gathering: an artificial tree/bush or a large wall size drawing of a bush, drawings or pictures printed on heavy paper of birds, bird's nests, bees, flowers, butterflies, etc. some with string attached to hang others to place on bush (if using wall drawing tape to attach to drawing). See pictures of examples in Resources.

Storytelling: Bush from gathering, picture of a full grown mustard seed bush from the internet, a small clear container with a mustard seed inside, Bible, Jesus doll, Storytelling page

Response Activities:

Mustard Seed Jars- clear plastic container with top, clear glue or glue that will dry clear, mustard seeds- prefill containers half way with glue and let dry

Spring Pictures- sunflower seeds, brown and blue construction paper, parts of artificial flowers, glue, markers, crayons

Dirt box with peanuts- Styrofoam packing peanuts, scoops, rakes, whole artificial flowers.

Bird Nests- clay or playdough, if available small artificial birds.

Regathering: "Thank You Prayer" with hand motions found in resources, *Jesu, Jesu*, elements for the Eucharistic table (see Eucharist-Book 1)

Eucharist: altar table and elements (pita bread/rice crackers, juice, chalice, paten, purificator, corporal, altar cloth), Eucharistic Prayer (see Book 1 p. 100), *Gather our Hearts* song lyrics (see book 1 p. 99)

Dismissal: *Jesus Loves Me* song lyrics (see Book 1 p. 99 and CD Yr. 2 additional resources)

Sessions Plan • Parable of the Mustard Seed • Feb. Yr. 3

Gathering: Participants will gather the scattered; birds, bees, flowers, etc. around the area and attach to the “mustard bush” you are using (either place, hang, or tape).

Storytelling: Sit using Bible, Jesus doll, and Storytelling page, in front of the mustard seed bush with your seed in the container and your picture tell the story by Matthew about the time Jesus describes the Kingdom of God like a mustard seed.

Response Activities:

Mustard Seed Jars- Have participants place a mustard seed in a prior half filled (with dried glue) container so seeds suspend in the center of the jar. Fill the rest of container with glue. Put top on container. Tell parents when home take lid off and let them dry then reseal.

Spring Pictures- Using a full piece of blue paper and a portion of brown (for sky and dirt) glue sunflower seeds under the brown “ground” and flowers pieces above ground. Finish picture with markers or crayons. See example in resources.

Dirt box with peanuts- Participants play in the dirt, planting peanuts “seeds” in the box. Add artificial flowers with stems above for grown flowers.

Bird’s nests- Show pictures of birds and nests found in magazines or internet. Talk about how birds use bushes and trees to hold their nests. Using clay roll long pieces of clay to coil or pinch to make bird nests. If available place artificial small birds in nest.

Regathering: Leader explains the *Thank You* prayer with hand motions then participants pray the prayer. Singing *Jesu, Jesu*, participants pick up an element for placement at the altar, and as the clergy sets the table all create a circle around the altar.

Eucharist: Sing: *Gather our Hearts*
Gather our hearts, oh God
Gather our thoughts, oh God
Bring us together around you

Celebration of the Eucharist

Dismissal: All sing and sign *Jesus Loves Me*
Celebrant provides the blessing:
Celebrant: “*Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord*”
Participant: “*Thanks be to God!*”

Storytelling • Parable of the Mustard Seed • Feb. Yr. 3

Place the Bible and Jesus doll by the Storyteller.

Storyteller sits in front of mustard seed bush with a picture of full grown bush and the container with a mustard seed.

Our story today is from the Bible, (*show the Bible*) our book that tells the stories of God and God's people, of Jesus (*show Jesus doll*), God's son, and of how much God loves us (*place hands over heart*).

Our story comes from the part of our Bible that tells about Jesus's life. It is called the New Testament. This story was written down by a friend, a disciple of Jesus, named Matthew. Jesus taught the people by using stories and things that they knew about at the time; like we know about airplanes and cars. Would the people of God in Jesus' time have known about airplanes and cars? (*wait for answers*) Jesus used familiar things like animals, plants and treasures to teach the people how God wanted them to live, what following God might look like, what the Kingdom of God looked like and much more.

Matthew shares with us a time when Jesus was telling the story of what the Kingdom of God is like. He said the Kingdom of God is like a very small mustard seed. Now the people knew that the mustard seed was the smallest of seeds. See how small a mustard seed is. (*pass around a mustard seed in a container*)

Jesus said that God's world is like a mustard seed that begins so small but when it grows it becomes a huge mustard bush. (*refer to the bush from gathering and the picture*) where birds and other animals find rest, homes, food, and protection. It's like that for many of us. When we first begin to learn about God our understanding is very small. The more we talk to him, read about him, and listen to his teachings the more we understand God, Jesus, and our friendship and love grow.

Amen!

After an appropriate pause, the Storyteller goes to explain the activities of the day.