

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

We can do big things for God right now!

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that they can start trusting God and living life His way right now.

KEY PASSAGE:

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

INTRO:

Does it ever frustrate you how many things you can't do because you are a kid? You can't drive yet. You can't get a job and earn real money. You can't go places without adult supervision. You can't watch rated R movies. You can't play video games that are rated M. You can't take a vacation on your own. You can't ride the big rides at amusement parks. You can't order off the adult menu. You can't cook on the grill. You can't watch whatever you want on TV. You can't go to concerts or sporting events, unless a parent takes you, and you can't stay up all night watching TV.

I'm sure all of you have more things you're not allowed to do that you could add to this list. As much fun as it is being a kid, there's a lot of waiting involved. Waiting until you're old enough for school. Waiting until summer time. Waiting until you're old enough to do this or that. You'll get there eventually, but when you're only 7-8 and you just want to drive a sports car, it can feel like that opportunity is forever away.

If you've felt like your life is on hold, waiting to start, today's parable is for you. Jesus gives us two parables that show us the power of faith. More importantly, they show us that just a small amount of faith, even from a "small" person, can have a big impact on our world.

READ MATTHEW 13:31-33

MAIN POINT:

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? What about yeast? Have you ever helped one of your parents in the kitchen and opened a pack of yeast?

Yeast are tiny. They look like power inside the packets we get from the store. You'd be hard pressed to single out just one piece of yeast. That's how tiny they are.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

A little yeast is all it takes to make a small lump of dough into a fluffy loaf of bread. Mix that yeast with some warm water, work it into some flour, let it sit, and a fist-sized ball of dough can swell up and fill a giant mixing bowl.

And just as the little bit of yeast can have a big impact on dough, a tiny mustard seed can grow into a huge tree. All it needs is the right soil, some water, and sunlight, and something small becomes something very large.

That's what God can do with your life, even now, even as a kid. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you can do big things. You may just be a kid, but our God is great, and with His help, there's no limit to what you can do.

DRIVE IT HOME:

Kids do incredible things. Kids change the world. Phil Farnsworth was only fifteen when he created his design for the electric television. A sixteen-year-old acrobat named George Nissen invented the trampoline. Frank Epperson was only eleven when he invented the popsicle. Chester Greenwood was fifteen when he invented earmuffs. Louis Braille was fifteen when he invented the Braille writing system for the blind.

What did these inventors have in common? Faith! They believed in themselves. They believed in their ideas. They believed they could make a difference in the world, and sure enough, they did.

Jesus' parable shows us we don't have to have a grown up amount of faith to do great things. Just a little faith is enough. That little bit of faith can help us to share what we believe with someone we love. That little bit of faith can lead us to a ministry where we can use our hands and our talents to share God's love. A little bit of faith can change a friend, a school, a community, even the whole world.

God doesn't expect us to do it all. God is big and strong, and if we have the faith, he will make miracles happen. If we believe even just a little, God will make a way to do big things in our lives.

Are you tired of waiting? Then ask God to give you that mustard seed of faith. Ask him to show you how to change the world. You don't have to wait until you are grown up. You don't have to do it all on your own. Have faith, and God will do the rest!

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

*Dear God,
Give us the faith to serve you.
In Jesus' name,
Amen*