



Bible trees; or, From little things big things grow

By Rob and Robyn Douglas

How can our faith grow? How is the kingdom of God like a tree that grows from a tiny seed?

Activity time

Here are some activities to get you thinking about our theme. Why not take the opportunity to do these activities outside if the weather is fine? Before you start, read [Matthew 13:31-32](#) and [Luke 17:6](#). There are two places where Jesus talked about a mustard seed. In Matthew, he talks about the kingdom of God being like a mustard seed that grows into a great tree and many birds making their home in it. In Luke, he talks about our faith being like a tiny mustard seed that can grow, and, through that, we can achieve great things for God.

1 Make a tree



You will need: a garden or outdoor space

Go for a walk outdoors and identify the things that God has made around you. Collect some items, for example, different coloured leaves, small and big leaves, twigs, seeds, seedpods, dry leaves, flowers, and even some insects.

Find a spot on the ground and, using the items you have collected, create a tree. You may like to add a garden, stones and landscaping. Take a photo of your creation so you have a memory of what you have made, then place the items back in the garden.

Talk about what faith means to you.

2 Weaving with nature



You will need: a forked twig; scissors; string or wool; items collected from outside

Tie the string at the bottom fork of your twig and begin weaving it around until you get to the top. Tie it off, then using the items from outside such as leaves and flowers, weave them into your artwork. Use the same pattern to develop your own creative artworks.

Talk about how you think faith can grow as we do what God wants of us.

3 Grow your mini garden



You will need: cress seeds (or similar); cotton wool; small plate

Place the cotton wool on to your plate, wet it and sprinkle your seeds on top. Place it on the window sill and watch your seeds sprout. Don't forget to water it every day.

Talk about someone you know who you think has even as much faith as a mustard seed. What does that faith look like? How can you show faith in this way?

4 Paint or draw a picture

You will need: paper; coloured pencils, crayons or paint and paint brushes

You might want to do this activity if you can't get outside, or as a fun added extra! Draw or paint a picture of the largest tree you can imagine. Fill the whole page.

Talk about God's care and concern for all people and for all his creation.

Celebration

Read [Matthew 13:31-32](#) and [Luke 17:6](#) for yourself, or [watch the story on YouTube](#). You could also [watch this short presentation](#) (2 mins 12 seconds).

What have you learned about faith today? What does faith mean to you?

Talk about where you see faith in the life of someone you know.

Music

Enjoy these songs together:

- [Faith as small as a mustard seed](#)
- [Talkin' about faith](#)
- [Grow](#)

Pray

Pray together for God to give you faith to grow each day, so that your life will point others to God and they will see God in the things you say and do.

You could say [Lord's Prayer](#) and the [Messy Grace](#).

Mealttime

Why not go outside and have a family picnic or barbecue? Here are some ideas that incorporate mustard to remind us about having faith like a mustard seed and how the kingdom of God will grow as we grow in faith. While you're at your picnic, see if you can find some tiny seeds to remind you of our theme.

- barbecue sausages with mustard sauce
- club sandwiches with honey mustard
- hot dogs with mustard sauce
- picnic salad with honey mustard dressing
- smoked ham and English mustard sandwich
- potato salad with mustard
- Quiche Lorraine with Dijon mustard