



Diocese of Bristol

Families growing faith at home

Church@Home is a fantastic all-age resource that has been created to encourage and help families enjoy a time of worship, explore the Bible, pray together and grow in their faith in the comfort of their own homes.

Church@Home provides a fun, engaging and easy-to-follow session every Sunday using a Bible reading selected from the Church of England Lectionary. Each session lasts approximately twenty minutes and provides age-related material for toddlers to teenagers to accommodate everyone in the family. Thought-provoking questions, fun activities and crafts bring the Bible story to life as well as creative prayer ideas to help families focus, learn and grow in their faith together. Additional teaching and craft suggestions are also provided for families with very young children.

Church@Home can also be used as a fun way to help families connect with other families on Sunday mornings too during this time of distancing. Invite everyone to begin **Church@Home** at the same time and perhaps set up a WhatsApp group where families can share what they have done, or discuss the topic further together.

If your family or families in your church are using **Church@Home** please let us know. We would like to keep in contact, find out how you are doing as well as hear how **Church@Home** is helping families grow in their faith, so that we can share and inspire others during this time of distancing.

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Thank you 



Sunday 13th June 2021
2nd Sunday after Trinity

Hidden potential

Mark 4:30-34

Time to focus...

Find a place where the family can all sit comfortably - around the table, on the lounge floor etc. As you gather, if possible, light a candle to mark the beginning of your worship time. Quietly stare at the candle, watching the flames flicker and glow.

Set the scene...

Many things that start off small become large. Can you think of things which start out small but grow big? For example; people start as babies but grow to be adults, a deflated balloon or football gets bigger when air is pumped into it and seeds are small but when planted and watered they become big plants...

Watch the story...

[R-Kids](#) explain the parable of the mustard seed...

Explore the story...

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds. It is so small that if you hold one in your hand and drop it, you will have a very hard time finding it because it is so hard to see. Even though the mustard seed is one of the smallest of all seeds, when it is planted in the ground, it grows into a plant so large that birds can perch on its branches and can even build their nests in it - look at pictures on the internet - these tiny seeds can produce a plant that grows ten feet high or more!

Jesus told this parable comparing the mustard seed to the kingdom of God. But how is this a picture of the kingdom of God? When Jesus first began his earthly ministry, he had no followers. The Bible tells us that Jesus was walking along the shore of the sea of Galilee when he saw two fishermen, Peter and his brother Andrew, casting their nets. "Come, follow me," Jesus said to them. They immediately followed Jesus. As they continued on their way, they saw two other brothers, James and John, mending their nets. Jesus called them and they immediately left their nets and followed him. One by one, Jesus called his disciples until there were twelve of them. That is still a pretty small beginning, isn't it? Jesus sent out the twelve and they brought others to Jesus and the kingdom of God grew. From a very small beginning, the kingdom of God has grown and grown until it has spread over the entire earth.

Jesus started growing the kingdom of God with a handful of disciples. Every follower of Jesus is a part of the kingdom, and that means that you are a part of God's kingdom too! Each time you tell someone about Jesus, you are helping to grow the kingdom. Isn't it great to know that you can play your part in growing God's kingdom?.

End in prayer...

Loving God, help and encourage us to grow Your kingdom here on earth. Amen.



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Creative ideas / toddlers to teenagers

0-5s...

Craft activities: For these activities you can buy mustard seeds in the 'spices' section in your supermarket.




Glue mustard seeds on paper and help your children write the memory verse below. Colour and decorate. Explain how God's word is like a tiny seed planted. God's Word is "planted" in our hearts and minds and grows when you think and understand and learn about Him. You can "plant" more seeds when you share His Love with others. Also, place a mustard seed in a small pot or jar filled with dirt. Place it somewhere where it will get sunshine. Let the children water the plant from time to time to remind them of this parable.

5-11s...

Worship: Yep, it's... "[Faith as small as a mustard seed](#)"

Craft challenge: Give each member of the family a piece of paper. Think of a small action that God can turn into something great; e.g. a gift to a friend, a call to a family member, a thank you note, an act of kindness, what else? Write it down on the paper then crumple it up into a small ball. Make it as small as possible as a visual reminder of the size of a mustard seed. Dig a small hole outside and "plant" them in the ground or use a planter pot with soil. This activity can be used in the days/weeks ahead. Did you think about that action? Did you do it? Did God turn that small action into something great yet?

11-18s...

-  1) What are the smallest and largest things you own?
- 2) Who has helped you understand what it means to be a Christian?
- 3) What can you tell a friend that will help them know more about God?
-  Pray that God uses the small things in your life to affect others.
-  Plant some mustard seeds and watch them grow.

"The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when planted it becomes the largest of all garden plants" - Mark 4:31-32