

LIFE OF CHRIST
from the gospel of
Mark

LESSON 15

**THE LAMP & THE
MUSTARD SEED**

MARK 4:21-25, 30-34

Life of Christ

The Lamp & the Mustard Seed

Mark 4:21-25, 30-34

Younger Verse

He made his light shine in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Older Verse

God said, "Let light shine out of darkness." He made his light shine in our hearts.

2 Corinthians 4:6

Lesson Goals

Learn that Jesus wants us to shine our lights for Him
Understand that our faith continues to grow as we follow Christ
Recognize that we can help God's kingdom to grow

Opener

Have you ever planted a seed and watched it grow? Isn't it amazing how a large plant can grow from a tiny seed? God can take our small amount of faith and make it grow into a life of fruitful service for Him.

Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Last week, we learned that Jesus taught the people using a story about a farmer who planted some seeds. There were four kinds of people. Jesus wants us to be like the group that grew and produced grain. That means that we hear about God, believe it, and then share it with other people.

Jesus was still inside a boat teaching the same group of people. Jesus loved to tell stories to help them understand things about God. He told the people a few more stories. One story was about a lamp. Listen to what Jesus said: "Do you take a lamp and hide it under a bowl or a bed? No! You put the lamp on a table. Everything that is hidden will be made clear. Every secret thing will be made known. You people that hear me, listen!"

A lamp helps people to see what they are doing and where they are going. When a room is completely dark, it is hard to know what to do. If more people are going to hear and learn about Jesus, then someone needs to show them. Who is going to do that? You and me! **We can be a light for Jesus by helping people to see who He is.** Whenever you learn about Him, go and tell others what you learn. Whenever you learn about how to do something the way Jesus would, use that every day to help you. When we do these things, we are showing our light, rather than hiding what we know.

Jesus also wanted to share another story. This story is about a plant, but one kind in particular. Let's see what He is trying to teach with this story: "What can I use to show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story should I use? God's kingdom is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed that you plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in the garden. Birds can come to

its branches and make nests there.” God’s kingdom is the people that follow Jesus. Jesus started by Himself, telling others all about God’s love. The more people He told, the more people began to believe and follow Him.

More people will choose to follow Jesus if His people live the way Jesus taught them. We can be part of helping God’s kingdom to grow too, but we need to do our part. We need to live the way He taught us and share our faith with others.

Jesus told these stories because He wanted the people that were listening to think about what He was saying. We are given the chance every time we get together to do the same thing. We can choose to hear what is said and to think about it in our mind and heart. As we think about it, God helps us to know what it means and how we can use it.

What should we tell people about Jesus? He loves them. How do we know He loves them? He died on the cross for their sins and then came back to life so that they could know the way into Heaven. Why is this important? If He didn’t forgive our sins, the bad things we do, it would keep us from being in Heaven with Him forever. So what do we do now? Ask Jesus to take away all our sins. Then He stays in our heart forever. If you would like to do that, please talk with me.

Review Questions

1. How can we shine our lights for Christ? (by living for Him; telling others about Him)
2. How is God’s kingdom like a mustard seed? (It starts small, but can grow very large as our faith grows and we share it with others.)

Prayer Time

Pray that we will share our faith and let it shine for Jesus!

Life Application

Faith means believing in what we cannot see. When we first become a follower of Jesus, we have a small amount of faith. Even Jesus’ disciples knew they needed more faith! One day they came to Jesus and said, “We need more faith; tell us how to get it.” Jesus responded by talking about a mustard seed! He said that even if they had faith as small as a mustard seed, they would be able to do great things for God (Luke 17:5-6).

How much faith do you think you have? It doesn’t take a lot. God can do anything! There are many examples in the Bible of people who thought they were too young or not gifted enough for God to use them. And yet God still used them! Don’t limit God’s power—just say yes and let Him use you. Your faith in God will grow when you obey Him and let Him work through you.

Planning for Lesson 16
Jesus Calms the Storm
Mark 4:35-41

Preschool Lesson for The Lamp & the Mustard Seed

Bring a light bulb or flashlight.

Today, we are going to learn about a very important job that Jesus has given to us. First, I want to show you something. (Hold up the flashlight or light bulb.) What is this? Yes, it's a light! What do we use it for? So we can see.

Last time we talked about a farmer who planted some seeds. When Jesus finished telling that story, He told another one. This one was about a lamp. He asked all the people that were listening a question. Let's see if you know the answer. "Do you take a lamp and hide it under a bowl or under a bed?" No, of course not. Well that is what Jesus said, too! If we hid the lamp, then we would not be able to see anything. Okay, now this is where you find out what your job is. He wants you to be a "light" for Him. We get the job of telling others how much He loves us. When we do that, we are being like a light, because other people can see His love when they look at us. When we make good choices, just the way Jesus would, we are also shining like a light for Him.

Jesus also wanted to share another story. This story is about a plant, but one kind in particular. Let's see what He is trying to teach with this story: "What can I use to show you what the kingdom of God is like? What story should I use? God's kingdom is like a mustard seed. The mustard seed is the smallest seed that you plant in the ground. But when you plant this seed, it grows and becomes the largest of all the plants in the garden. Birds can come to its branches and make nests there." God's kingdom is the people that follow Jesus. Jesus started by Himself, telling others all about God's love. The more people He told, the more people began to believe and follow Him.

More people will choose to follow Jesus if we show them He loves them.

Let's sing "This Little Light of Mine!"

Hands-on Activities for The Lamp & the Mustard Seed

Give each person a candle to remind them to be a light this week.

If appropriate for your group, darken the room and shine a flashlight up to the ceiling. Explain that people are in the dark without Jesus. When Christians tell others about Jesus and they believe, it's like turning on a flashlight in a dark room. A person finally understands who Jesus is!

Sing "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna Let it Shine!"

Decorate construction paper crosses and glue a small mustard seed on it. Talk about how we can tell people how Jesus died on the cross for their sins—one person died for the whole world!

Bring a mustard seed and a tomato seed. (You may substitute another kind of seed for the tomato, as long as the seed is large and the plant is small.) Ask the students which seed they think will grow to be a larger plant—the tiny mustard seed or the larger tomato seed. Surprise! The mustard plant grows taller than the tomato plant!

There are other verses about "light" in the Bible. Let the kids look up some of them.

Some New Testament Verses:

Luke 8:16; Luke 11:33-36

John 3:21; John 8:21; John 12:36, 46

Some Old Testament Verses:

Psalm 27:1; Psalm 89:15

Isaiah 9:2; 60:1, 19-20

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2 Corinthians
4:6



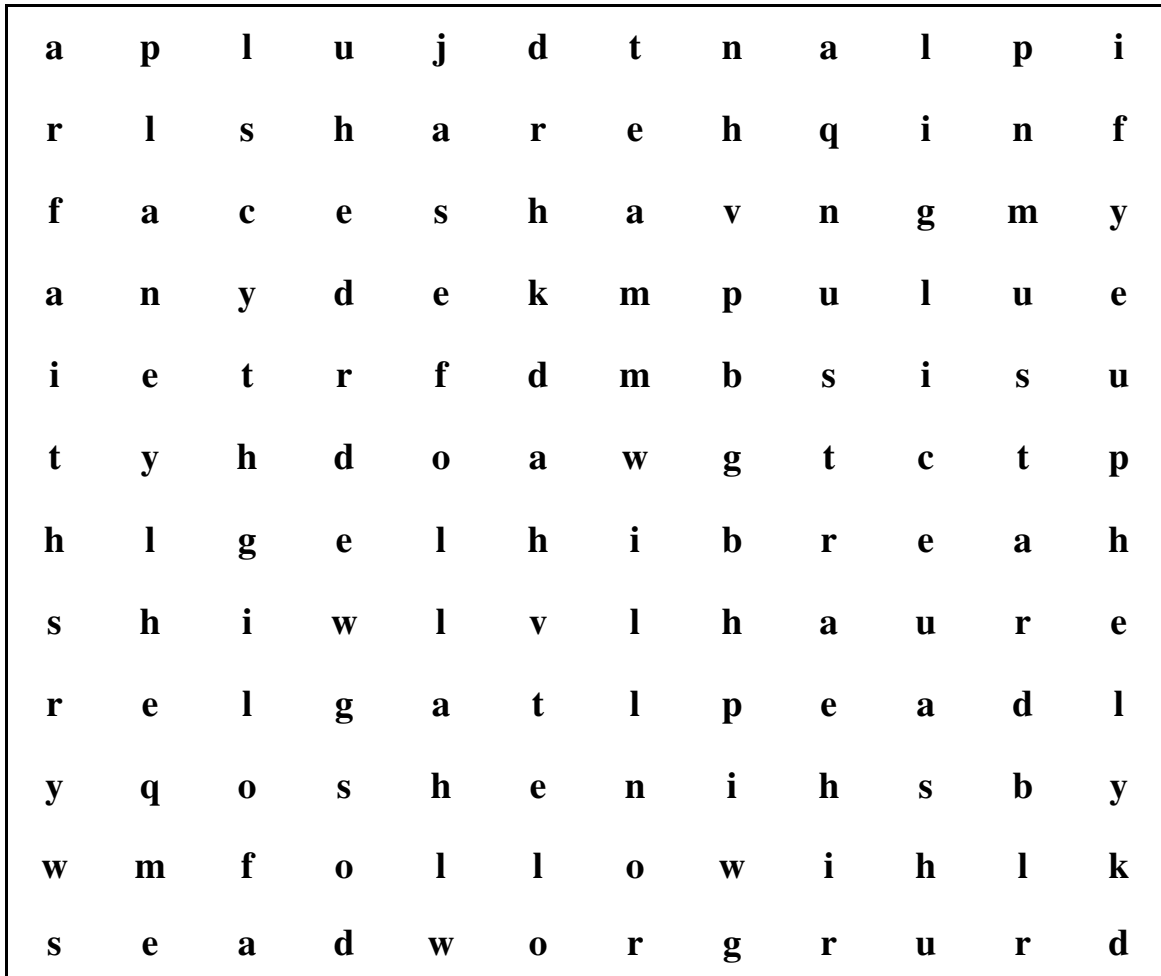
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Word Search

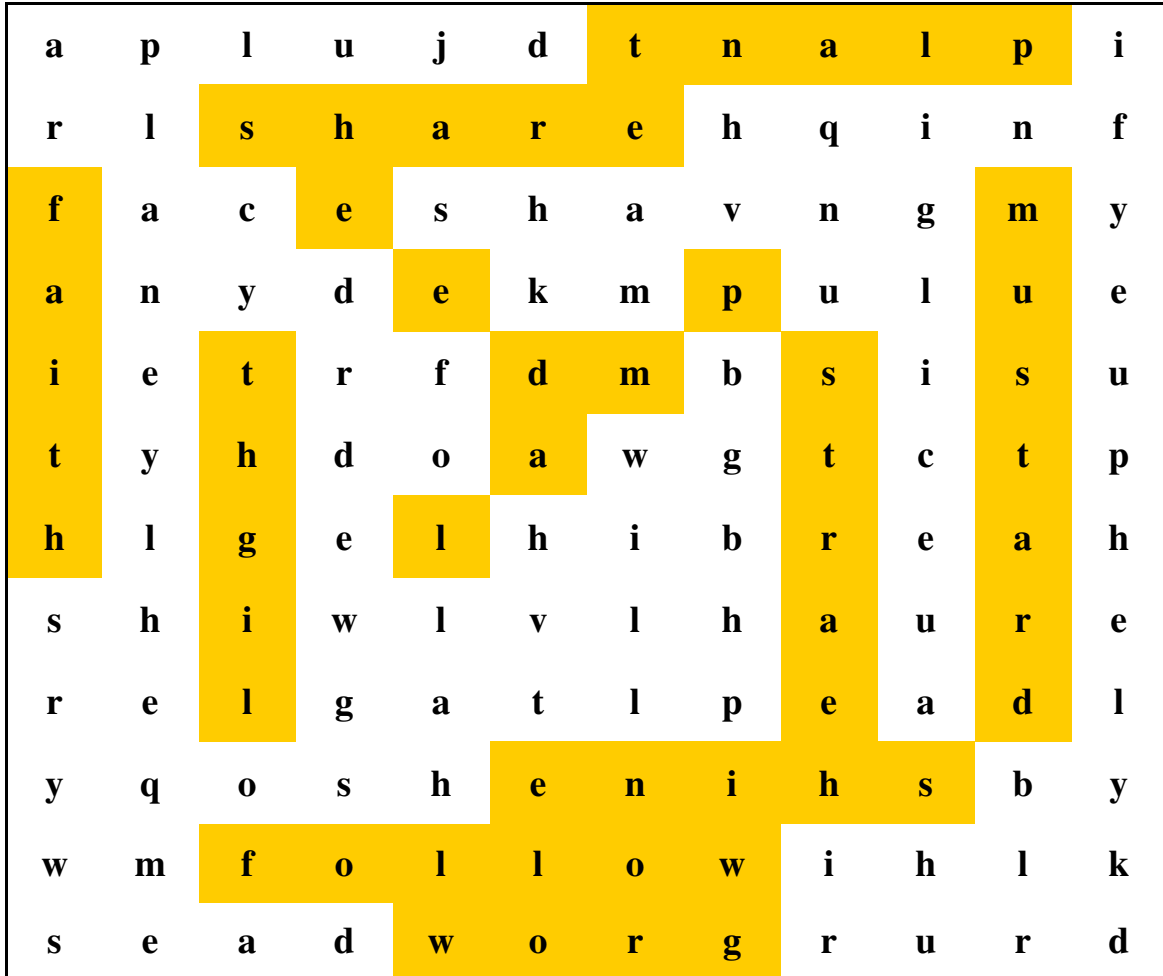
The Lamp & the Mustard Seed



lamp	light	shine
mustard	seed	faith
grow	hearts	share
follow	plant	

Word Search

The Lamp & the Mustard Seed



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Jesus said we need to
shine our

L__GH__

for others.

He also compared God's
kingdom to a

MUSTARD

SEED