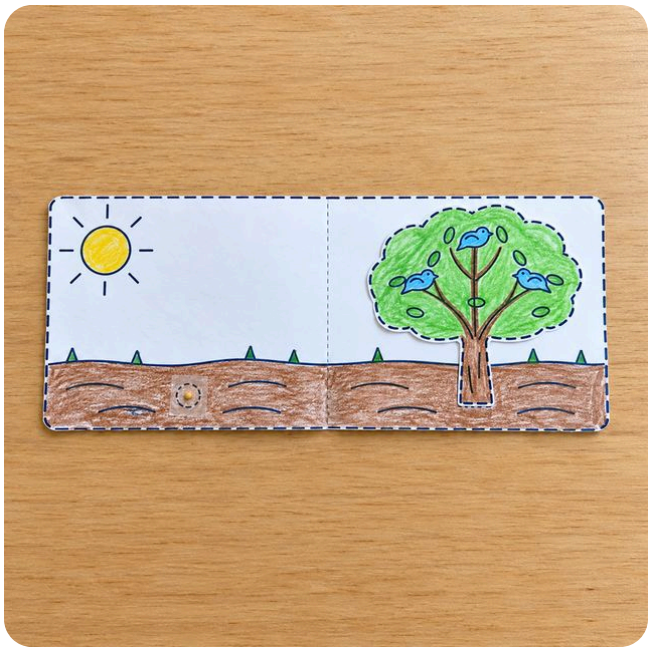
Preschool–Grade 5

Mustard Seed Craft

The least of all seeds becometh a tree · Matthew 13:31–32; 17:20 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



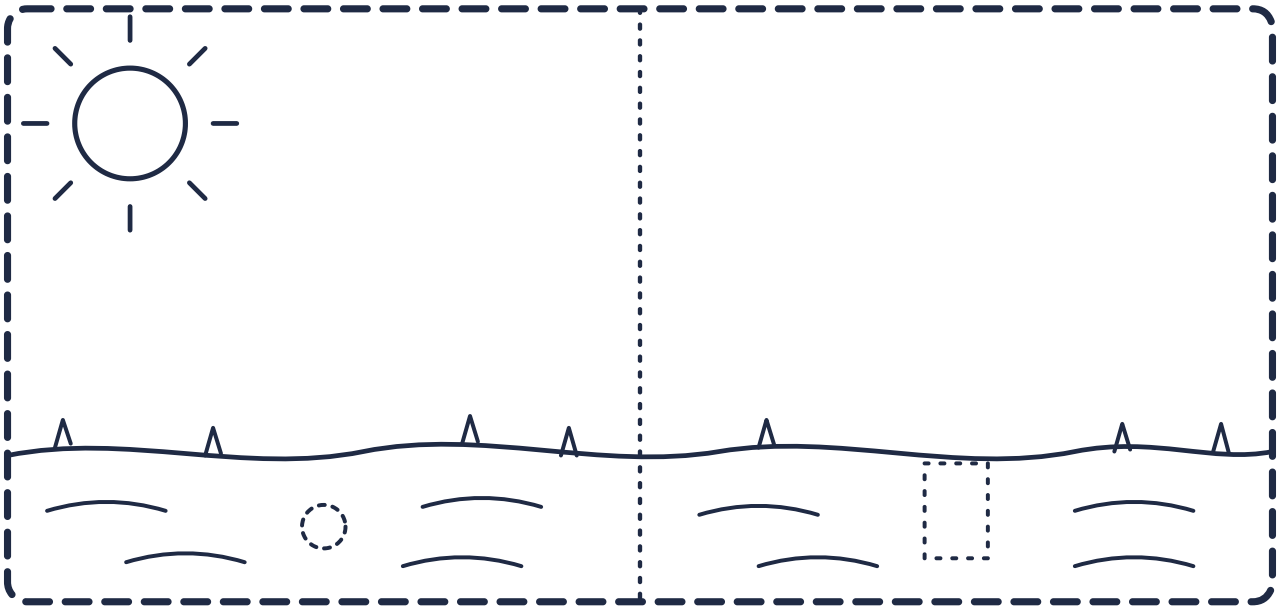
Harder

Both levels are a fold-open card. On the left inside is a field with a yellow sun, green grass and brown soil, and one real mustard seed taped in the soil, because the mustard seed "is the least of all seeds" (Matthew 13:32). On the right inside is the tree it becomes, with green leaves, a brown trunk and blue birds in the branches: it "becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof." Medium (left): the tree glued flat. Harder (right): the tree pops out on two folded paper strips, and two more birds fly in over the field with their wings folded up.

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Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sun yellow, grass green, soil brown, sky white. Fold on the dotted line.



tree: leaves green, trunk brown, birds blue

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Matthew 17:20 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out the card, the tree and the verse strip. Tape a real mustard seed in the little circle.

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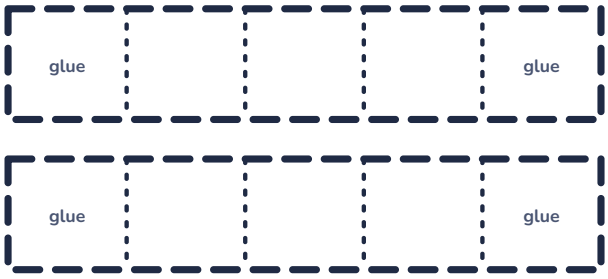
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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

Pop-up strips and birds (harder level)

Cut on the dashed lines. Fold on the dotted lines.



2 pop-up strips: fold back and forth like a fan



2 birds: color them blue

How to make the tree pop out

1. Make the card from page 2 first: color it, cut it out, fold it and tape the mustard seed in its circle. Color and cut out the tree too, but don't glue it in yet.
2. Cut out the 2 strips and the 2 birds on the dashed lines.
3. Fold each strip back and forth on the dotted lines, like a fan.
4. Glue one end of the first strip on the right inside of the card, on the soil inside the dotted box. Glue one end of the second strip higher up, where the middle of the leaves will go.
5. Put glue on the other end of both strips and press the tree on top, so the tree stands out from the card. Close the card gently: the strips fold flat.
6. Color the birds blue. Glue each bird's body in the sky on the left inside of the card, flying toward the tree. Fold the wings up on the dotted lines.
7. Tell it: open the card and the tree pops out. "The birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof" (Matthew 13:32).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/mustard-seed-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), yellow, green, brown and blue crayons or markers, scissors, glue sticks, clear tape, and one real mustard seed for each child (a small jar from the spice aisle is plenty for a whole class). For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child.
Before class: pour a few mustard seeds into a small cup for each table. For preschoolers, cut out the card, the tree and the verse strip ahead of time and fold the card.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's pieces. Kids color the pieces. You glue the tree inside, tape the seed in its circle and glue the verse strip on the back. Then they open the card to find the tiny seed and the big tree.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut out the pieces, fold the card, tape in the seed and glue the tree themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card like the medium level, but glue the tree on two folded strips from page 3 so it pops out, and add two flying birds with folded-up wings. This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the sun yellow, the grass green and the soil brown, and leave the sky white. Color the tree's leaves green, the trunk and branches brown and the 3 birds blue.
2. **Cut:** cut out the card, the tree and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Fold:** fold the card in half on the dotted line, with the picture inside. Open it again.
4. **Seed:** put one real mustard seed in the little circle on the soil on the left side, and cover it with a small piece of clear tape.
5. **Tree:** glue the tree on the right side, with the bottom of the trunk on the soil inside the dotted box.
6. **Verse:** close the card, turn it over, and glue the verse strip on the back. Read it together.
7. **Tell it:** open the card. The seed "is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown... becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof" (Matthew 13:32).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Point to the seed. What did the man in Jesus' parable take and sow in his field? *(A grain of mustard seed, Matthew 13:31)*
- How big is a mustard seed? *(It "is the least of all seeds," the smallest, 13:32)*
- Open the card. What does the mustard seed become when it is grown? *(The greatest among herbs, and a tree, 13:32)*
- Point to the birds. What do the birds of the air do? *(They come and lodge, or stay, in the branches, 13:32)*
- Jesus said the kingdom of heaven is like this seed (13:31). How did God's church grow from small to big? *(About 120, then about three thousand, Acts 1:15; 2:41)*
- Read the verse strip. What did Jesus say about faith as a grain of mustard seed? *("Nothing shall be impossible unto you," 17:20)*
- What is faith? *(Trusting God)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **parable** is a story Jesus told to teach a lesson; the **kingdom of heaven** is God's kingdom, where God is King; a **grain** is one seed; **sowed** means planted; **least** means smallest; **herbs** are garden plants; **becometh** means becomes; **lodge** means come and stay; **thereof** means of it; **unbelief** means not trusting God; **verily** means truly; **remove hence to yonder place** means move from here to over there.
- **What the Bible says:** this is a parable, a story Jesus told (Matthew 13:31). The field, the sun, the grass and the birds' color are the craft's simple pictures; the Bible says the seed becomes a tree and the birds of the air lodge in its branches (13:32), but it doesn't say how many birds.
- **The real seed:** one mustard seed is tiny, so it's easy to lose. Keep the seeds in a cup and tape each one in right away. If you have no mustard seeds, kids can draw a tiny dot in the circle instead.
- **Faith, not wishes:** Matthew 17:20 is about trusting God. The free lesson pairs it with 1 John 5:14: God hears what we ask "according to his will."
- **No person is drawn on the template:** the card shows only the seed, the field and the tree. Jesus is not drawn.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free mustard seed lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/mustard-seed.

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