Preschool–Grade 6

The Mustard Seed

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: A tiny seed grows into a big tree. God is great, and we can trust Him.
Bible passage: Matthew 13:31–32 and Matthew 17:20. Read them yourself before class.
Memory verse: "nothing shall be impossible unto you" *Matthew 17:20 (KJV)*. The old word **impossible** means it can't be done.
You need: a Bible, a few real mustard seeds taped to an index card, crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: tape a few mustard seeds to a card. Put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 13.

1. Opening game: Little Seed, Big Tree (5 minutes)

Everyone curls up small on the floor like a tiny seed. Say, "Grow, little seed, grow!" Kids slowly kneel up, then stand, then stretch up tall with their arms out like a big tree. Say, "Here come the birds!" and everyone flaps their arms. Play two or three times. Then let each child look at the card of mustard seeds. Say: "Look how tiny! Today Jesus tells a story about a seed like this."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 13. Say: "This story is in God's Word. Jesus told it." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Lots of people came to hear Jesus (Matthew 13:2). *(Cup your hand by your ear.)*
Jesus told them a story (13:3). *(Open your hands like a book.)*
A man took a tiny mustard seed (13:31). *(Pinch your fingers together, tiny.)*
He planted it in his field (13:31). *(Push the "seed" down into the ground.)*
It was the littlest seed of all (13:32). *(Curl up small.)*
But it grew, and grew, and grew (13:32). *(Slowly stand up tall.)*
It became a big tree! (13:32) *(Spread your arms wide like branches.)*
Say it with me: "A tiny seed became a big tree!"
The birds came and stayed in its branches (13:32). *(Flap your arms, then hold still.)*
Another day, Jesus said faith is like a mustard seed (17:20). *(Pinch your fingers again.)*
Faith means we trust God (17:20). *(Hug yourself.)*
Nothing is too hard for God! (17:20) *(Lift your hands up high.)*
Say it with me: "God is great!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Was the mustard seed big or little? *(Little, the littlest of all, Matthew 13:32)*
2. What did it grow into? *(A big tree, 13:32)*
3. Who came to the branches? *(The birds, 13:32)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Jesus said, 'nothing shall be impossible unto you.' Impossible means it can't be done. Nothing is too hard for God!" Teach the motions: on "nothing," shake your head. On "shall be impossible," cross your arms. On "unto you," point to a friend. Say it three times: curled up small in a whisper, kneeling in a normal voice, and standing tall in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 17:20" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Draw the Big Tree (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a tiny dot for the seed at the bottom, then a big tree with a brown trunk, green leaves and birds in the branches. While they color, ask: "Was the seed big or little? What did it grow into? Who came to the tree?" Kids who finish early can play Little Seed, Big Tree again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, that You are great.
Help me trust You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: let every child hold the seed card and look closely. If they get wiggly, play Little Seed, Big Tree again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

Keep it simple: for this age, the story stays with the seed and the tree, and one line about faith. The older levels tell about the boy Jesus made well in Matthew 17.

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