

WORDS OF JESUS

SERMON SERIES

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Little Faith, The Mustard Seed

SPEAKER: Andy Sloan

DATE: May 31, 2026

TEXT(S): Matthew 13:31-32,
with John 12:24

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: *This resource is designed to help you, and your group, step through a progression of engagement with the Bible passage(s) and the speaker's message.*

Our goal is to help you and your group better understand and apply B4's teaching.

MESSAGE SUMMARY + DISCUSSION PROMPTS

In the parable of the mustard seed, Jesus reveals how God's Kingdom often begins in small, seemingly insignificant ways yet grows into something life-giving and transformative. Faith is not primarily about certainty but about trusting God enough to step beyond comfort and follow Jesus into places of surrender, risk, and growth. The seed must die before it becomes fruitful, and discipleship requires the same courage to yield control. The challenge before believers is to resist a culture of comfort and convenience, embrace the formative love of Christ, and trust that God is still growing His Kingdom in and through ordinary acts of faithful obedience.

LEAN IN: *These are icebreakers and warm-ups, mostly to get the group talking and start the flow of conversation. Choose one and talk it over for 5 minutes.*

1. Have you ever successfully kept a plant or a small pet alive? What's your secret?
2. What's one comfort or convenience you would find difficult to live without?
3. Who is someone whose courage or faith you admire?
4. What's a memorable story that has stayed with you for years, and why?
5. If you could instantly acquire a skill that normally takes a long time to master, what would it be and why?

LOOK DOWN: *These are questions about the Bible passage(s) from the teaching. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Why do you think Jesus chose a mustard seed to describe the Kingdom of God?
2. What does the contrast between a small seed and large outcome teach us about God's Kingdom?
3. In Matthew 13:31–32, why might Jesus mention birds nesting in the tree?
4. What similarities do you see between the mustard seed and Jesus' teaching in John 12:24?
5. What do you see in these passages about the relationship between surrender, growth, and fruitfulness?

LOOK OUT: *These questions help connect the world of the Bible to today. Spend about 10 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Why do comfort and convenience have such a strong influence in our cultures today?
2. What are some ways comfort can quietly hinder spiritual or personal growth?
3. Why do you think faithfulness to Jesus is viewed as strange or extreme in contemporary culture?
4. How does social media encourage comparison, and how can comparison affect one's faith?
5. In what ways do our cultures encourage control, and how does following Jesus challenge that impulse?

LOOK IN: *These questions help you consider how to engage the teaching for yourself. Spend about 15-20 minutes discussing your choice of two or three questions:*

1. Which of the "C's" mentioned in the message (comfort, convenience, conformity, control, comparison, or complacency) most challenges you right now?
2. How might God be inviting you to trust Him beyond where you're comfortable?
3. What area of your life feels like a seed still buried in the ground rather than a flourishing tree?
4. How have past disruptions or disappointments contributed to, or stunted, your spiritual growth?
5. How can we encourage one another toward courageous faith rather than comfortable complacency?

LIVE IT OUT: *These prayer practices can help you integrate this message into day-to-day life. Choose one prompt and discuss how you will embrace it this week (5 minutes):*

1. Pray a "Mustard Seed Prayer" each morning: Begin by asking something like this, "Lord Jesus, please lead me by your Spirit into one small step of obedience today. Grant me faithfulness, a fruit of Your Spirit, so that I may follow wherever You lead." Read Matthew 13:31-32, slowly out loud, and then spend two minutes listening quietly for the Spirit's prompting.
2. Embrace a daily surrender: Each evening this week, read Luke 9:23 or John 12:24 and reflect on one area of your life where you exerted control and another one where you trusted God. You might journal about your observations, reflecting on why, and then pray in this manner, "Lord Jesus, I release what I should not seek to control and entrust all to Your care. Grow me up into Your Kingdom."

You can find B4's [Series Resources here](#).

