

# Mustard Seed Series

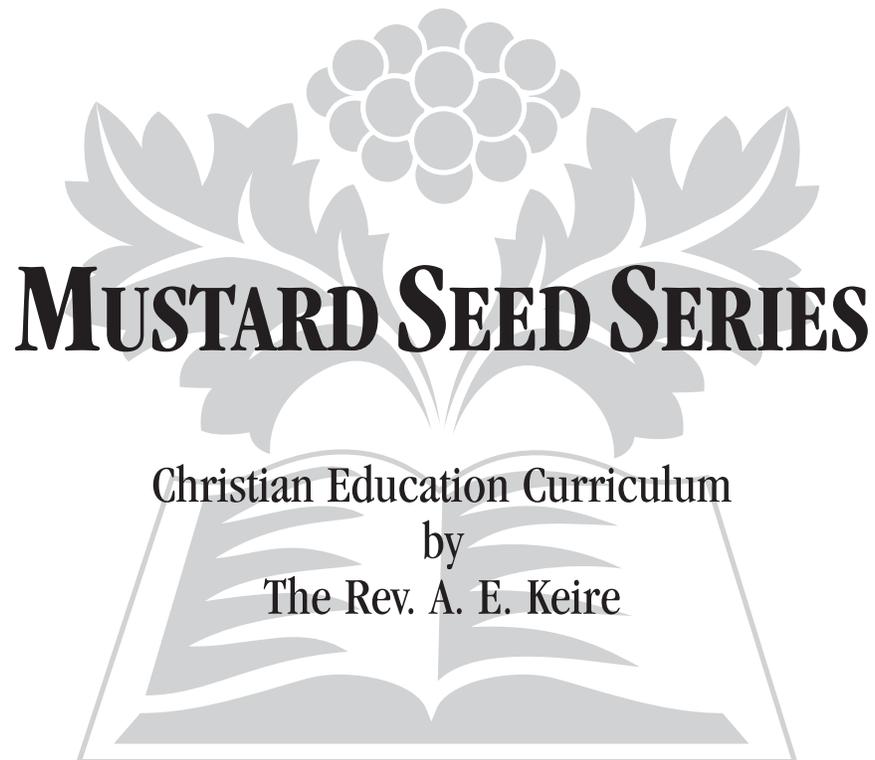
CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION



# Kindergarten



**Kindergarten**  
**Teacher Book**



**Curriculum Development  
Associates, Inc.**

**[www.mustardseedseries.com](http://www.mustardseedseries.com)**

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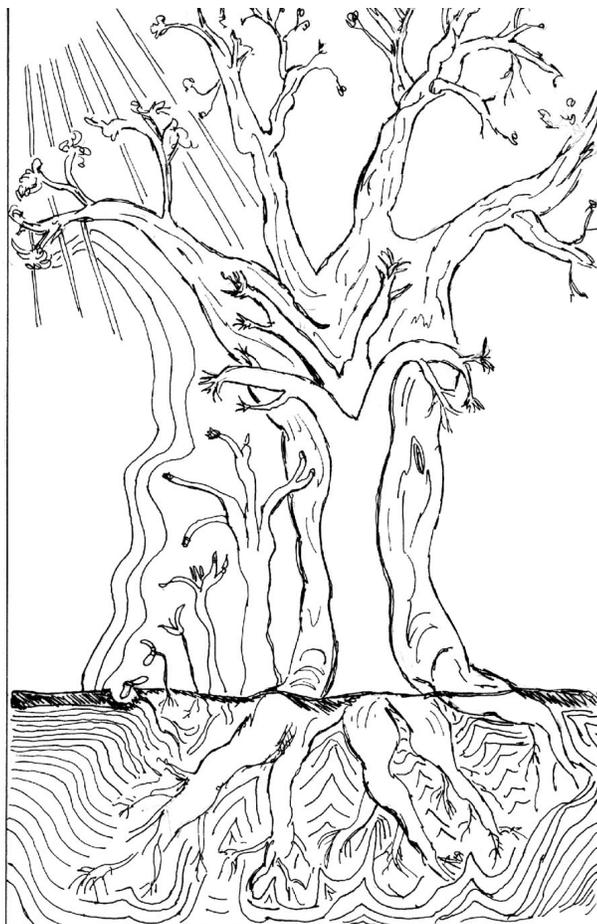
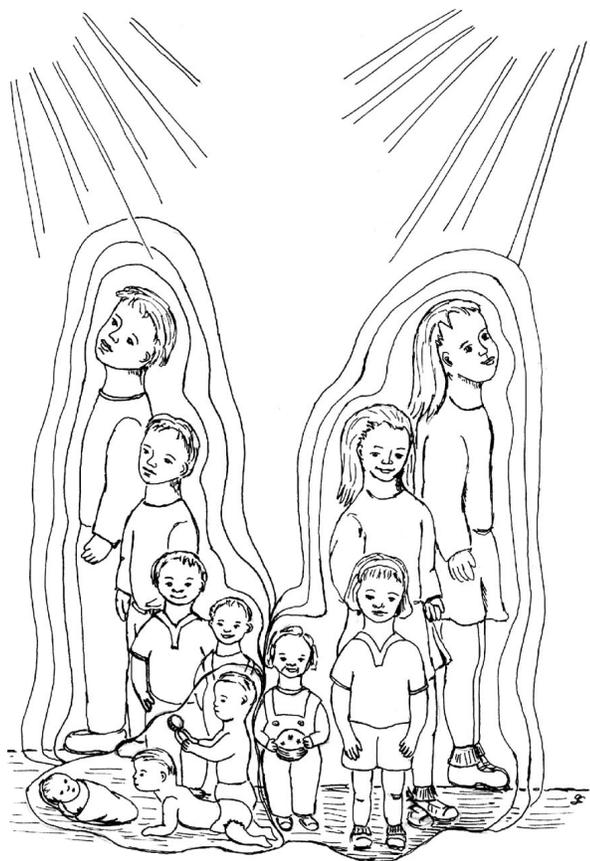
Curriculum Development Associates, Inc.  
The Mustard Seed Series  
by Anita E. Keire

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# AS A TREE GROWS SO GROWS A CHILD



# KINDERGARTEN

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N E W T E S T A M E N T

5

FOCUS

- “The Parable of the Mustard Seed”
- Growth in the Faith



ATTENDANCE AND SHARING

- Welcome your children. Introduce any new children to the other children in the class.
- Gather your children together into a circle. By now you may be able to get them into a circle without a circle game. Use your own judgment whether you wish to continue with a circle game.
- While taking attendance, have a time of sharing.
  - Does anyone have anything they want to share with the rest of us?



PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S LESSON

- Do you have family stories that people tell again and again when you have family get-togethers?
- In my family, we have several stories. One of my favorite family stories is . . . (Tell a short story that your class might enjoy.)
- Have you heard people in your family tell favorite stories about your mother or father when they were little?



TODAY'S BIBLE STORY AND DISCUSSION POSSIBILITIES

- Jesus told a lot of stories that we tell again and again in church and Sunday School. We also tell again and again the story of his life and of the lives of other people who helped form us into the Christian community. It is important for

us in our church family to learn and remember our faith stories.

- One faith story Jesus taught his friends was called the “Parable of the Mustard Seed.” Listen carefully as I tell you this story.
  - How big is the mustard seed?
  - How big is the plant that grows from the mustard seed?
  - How big is the faith seed that is planted in us?
  - How big does the faith seed become when you are a grown-up?



STUDENT BOOK

- Carefully take from your Student's Book the picture of the “Mustard Seed Plants.”
  - This picture shows the mustard seed plant while it is still very young, just as you are a young person.
  - Let me read to you what is written there. These are Jesus' words to the crowd.
  - How do the words help explain the picture?
  - You may color in this picture. Mustard seed plants are yellow. Their leaves are green.
- Turn your page to the picture “I Am God's Child, I Grow in the Faith Daily.”
  - What is going on in this picture?
  - You may color in this picture.

MARK 4:30-34

# The Mustard Seed



*The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth . . . it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches.*



MARK 4:31-2

MATERIALS

- Student Books
- Activity Supplies
- Music to *The Mustard Seed*
- Growth Chart



## ACTIVITY

- While you are coloring your pictures, I am going to measure each one of you and write your names and height on this growth chart.
  - I will also take your thumb print and put it next to your name.
  - Because God made each one of you special, everyone in this class has a different thumb print.
  - Did you know that your fingerprints are different from anyone else's in the whole world. They are different because you are special. God made you special.
  - When I am through measuring all of you, we will compare thumb prints. (Use a stamp pad or a water-based paint for making their thumb print.)
  - In the spring, I will re-measure you to find out how much you grew over the year. At that time, you can tell me how much you have grown in the faith.
- Make your own growth chart out of white butcher paper or heavier paper. Securely tape it somewhere in the room. You may wish to let your students decorate the growth chart with pictures.
- When all above activities have been accomplished, gather your children into a circle.)
- Beginning today and continuing for several weeks, we are going to learn a song called *The Mustard Seed* song.
  - (It is important that you know the tune and the words by heart before you start teaching your children. Have them master one verse at a time. The melody to this song is *Do You Know the Muffin Man*.)
  - (A successful technique used by many teachers in teaching songs is called "echoing.")
  - Class, look at my index finger.
  - You are to repeat after me everything I sing when I take my raised index finger and lower it towards you.
  - Let us practice. I will sing "Oh, can you see the mustard seed / A little seed, a tiny seed?"
  - Now I am lowering my index finger and pointing it toward you. We will sing together "Oh, can you see the mustard seed / A little seed, a tiny seed?"
- (Go through the first verse with them a few times and return to it at the conclusion of class.)
- Take from your Student's Book *The Mustard Seed* song. Maybe someone in your family will help you learn the song.
- On the other side of this page is a picture of a tree that grew from a tiny mustard seed. Notice how the roots go into the ground and how the branches of the tree spread out on top.
- You may color both pictures.
- Let us make some egg heads. I have brought in some egg cartons
  - (Bring in one or two egg cartons, depending on the size of your class. Have sufficient egg shell halves so that each child in the class can have one. Have a few extras in case of accidents.)
  - You are to draw carefully a face on the egg shell and set it back into the carton. Using these spoons, each of you are to fill the egg with dirt. Do not fill it to the very top. Leave some space for water.
  - When your egg head is full of dirt, you may get some (perennial) grass seed from me.
  - I am going to put the egg cartons in a sunny spot. I have asked \_\_\_\_\_ to put a little water on them daily to keep the seeds moist. By next week, each egg head should have a lovely crop of green hair. (Or you may want your children to take them home and care for them.)
- Let us clean up any mess that we have made. Then you can play freely for a while.
- It is time to put away all the toys with which you have been playing.



## CONCLUSION

- Let us form a prayer circle.
- Let us sing again part of *The Mustard Seed* song.
- Let us pray.
 

**Lord Jesus, help us to grow the way you want us to grow. Help us to grow tall and strong in the faith. May your stories act like the tiny mustard seed of faith inside us. May our faith grow like the mustard seed bush. Now Lord, hear the prayers of your children . . . Amen.**
- (Stand at the door as your students leave. Be sure

a responsible person comes to get them. Have a special good-bye for each one of them. Have them take home their Student's Pages.)

# THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

Jesus became known during his lifetime as a great teacher and story teller. When he talked, people grew very quiet so that they could hear every word he said.

One famous story Jesus told was about a tiny seed. This seed was no ordinary seed. It was a mustard seed. Jesus held up a mustard seed, the tiniest seed he could find. Not even the people near him could see it. But people knew what a mustard seed looked like. They had seen one before. The mustard seed was smaller than the smallest speck of dust. What was Jesus going to say about this little and unimportant seed?

Jesus said that the Kingdom of God, or God's special place for believers, was like this little mustard seed. A farmer can plant this tiny seed in his field. After he has thrown the seed on the soil, he cannot find it. Even if the farmer were to get down on his hands and knees and sift through the soil, he still would not be able to find the mustard seed because it is so tiny.

Jesus said that our faith in him begins as a tiny mustard seed. We cannot see the seed of faith that is planted in you and me. But, when we hear God's word read to us from the Bible, a tiny, tiny seed is planted within us. The seed grows within us as we grow. The seed helps us to learn to love God and each other.

Someday you will be grown up and may be teaching Sunday school. You will be teaching little children about your faith which grew from a tiny mustard seed.

End of Teacher Book Preview.

Student Book Preview Follows.

# Mustard Seed Plants

“The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed . . . the smallest of all the seeds on earth . . . it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches.”

*Mark 4:31-2*



# Am God's Child, I Grow in the Faith Daily

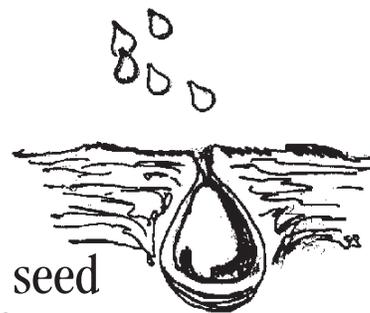


# The Mustard Seed

## THE MUSTARD SEED

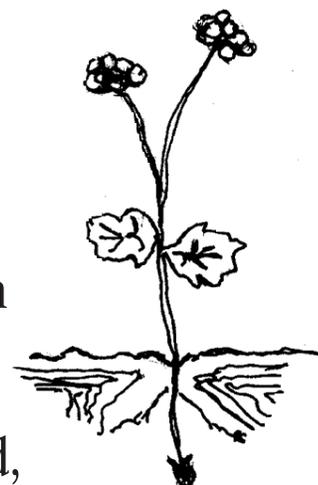
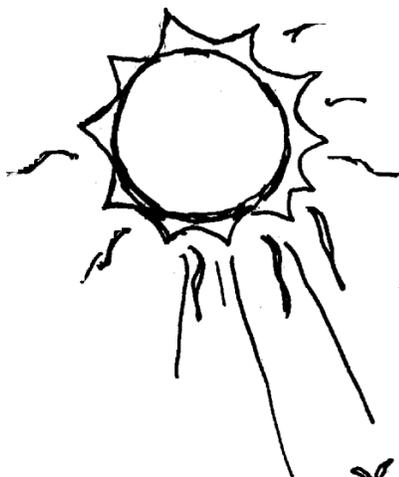


Oh, can you see the mustard seed  
A little seed, a tiny seed?  
Oh, yes I see a mustard seed.  
I want to see it grow!

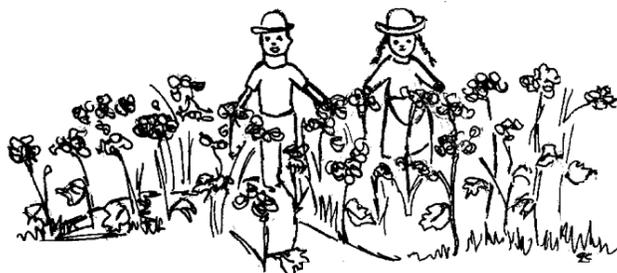
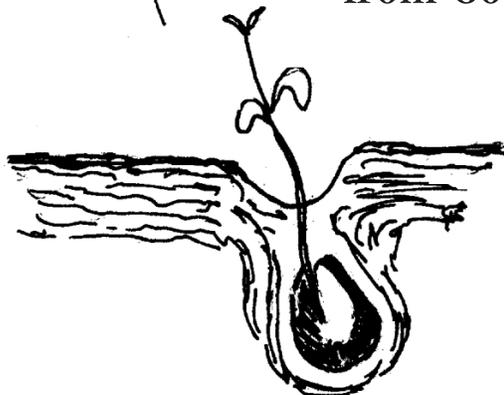


Oh, let us plant a mustard seed,  
A little seed, a tiny seed.  
Oh, let us plant a mustard seed.  
But what will make it grow?

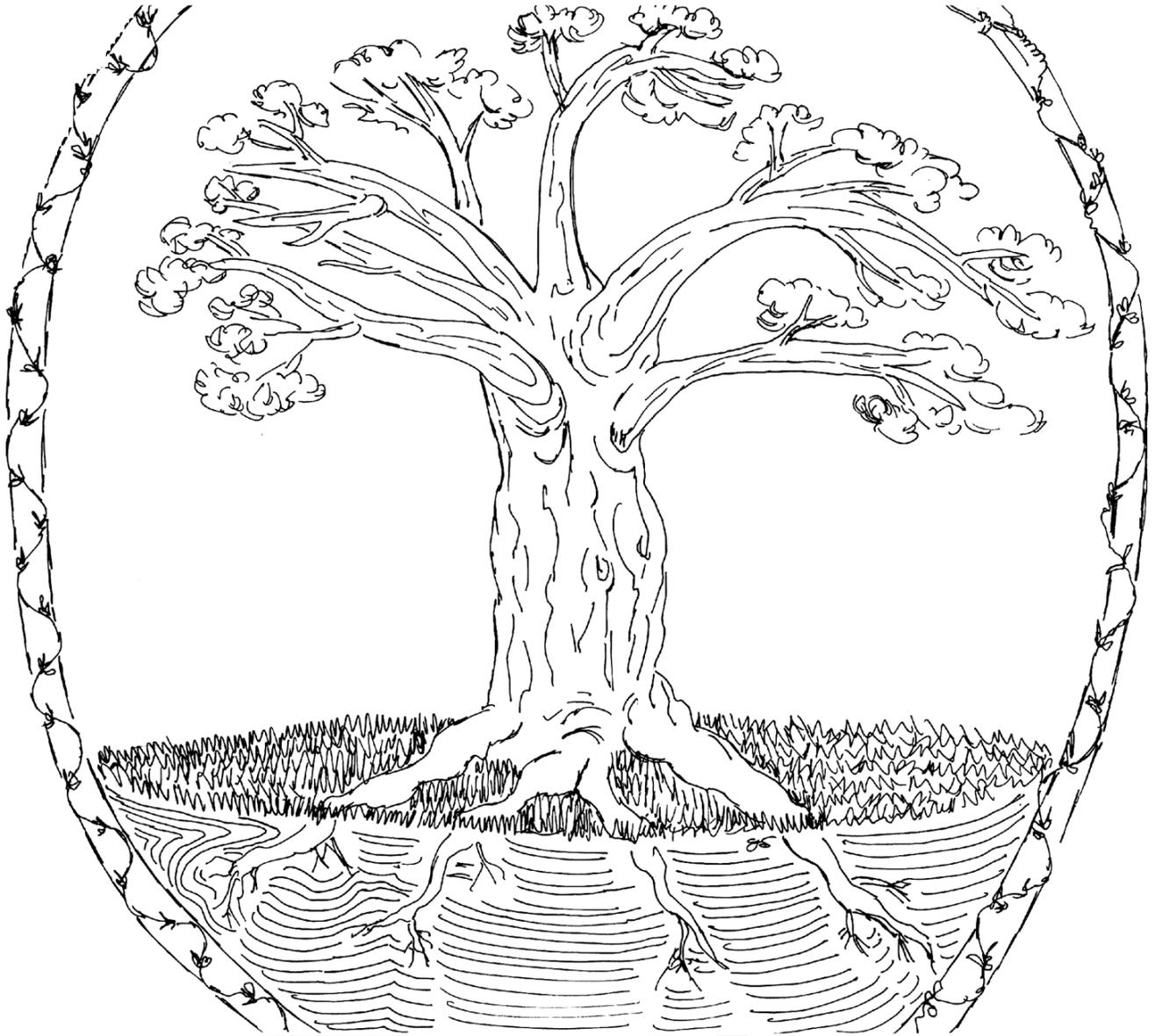
The raindrops softly falling,  
The warm air from the shining  
sun,  
The food that's in the good earth  
God gave us every one.



And we are like the mustard seed,  
The little seed, the growing seed.  
Then we have everything we need  
from God to help us grow!



# A Tree Grows from a Tiny Seed. Faith Grows from a Tiny Seed



## *A Note Home:*

*Today your child learned the parable of the Mustard Seed and how faith grows from a tiny seed into a large bush upon which the birds of the air can rest. Scripture reference was Mark 4:30-34.*