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### **SMALL GROUP GUIDE**

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More Than a Story: "Small to Great" Scripture Focus: Matthew 13:31-33

#### **ICEBREAKER**

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Share about a time when something small in your life ended up making a big difference—maybe a small habit, a simple decision, or a quiet act of kindness. What came of it?

## **INTRODUCTION**

What stood out to you from Pastor David's message?

This week's message centers on Jesus' parable of the mustard seed. The Kingdom of God, Jesus says, starts small—like a tiny seed—and grows into something expansive and life-giving. This parable reminds us that transformation and maturity begin with small, faithful steps. All the virtues of Jesus like faith, generosity, obedience, and even sacrifice, are grown through small, faithful steps toward Jesus.

### **INTO THE WORD**

**Read the parable in Matthew 13:31–33.** Why do you think Jesus chose a mustard seed as a comparison for the Kingdom of God?

**Read Matthew 17:20.** What does it mean to have faith "as small as a mustard seed"? How is this encouraging and why is this important to our everyday lives?

**Read Galatians 6:9 and James 5:7-8.** Why is it sometimes challenging to stay faithful when we don't see immediate results? What is it about our human nature that causes us to want immediate results? What forces in culture condition us to desire immediate results?

**Read Luke 13:18–19.** According to Jesus, what impact does the mustard seed have once it grows? How can your faith, even though it feels small, be a blessing to others?

### **EMBRACE AND EMBODY**

Let's reflect: In what area of your life do you need to embrace small beginnings or slow, consistent growth? Is it in a relationship you'd like to invest in, a personal habit you'd like to drop, or a spiritual discipline you'd like to practice?





**Consider this question:** What small act of obedience, generosity, or sacrifice could you take this week as a seed of faith? Remember that no act of faith or obedience is ever wasted in God's Kingdom.

Let's embody the truth of this parable. One of our Essentials is to Make God Known. This week, how might a small act of faith—sharing your story, encouraging someone, or serving quietly—make a big difference in someone's life?

# PRAYER

Take time to thank God for being patient and powerful, growing His Kingdom through small beginnings. Pray for the courage to trust Him in the slow work of transformation and the joy to keep sowing small seeds of faith.

Close by reading aloud Zechariah 4:10a (NLT):

"Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin,"