

# Short Talk

(SHT102a)

**The Kingdom of God  
starts small but it  
keeps on growing!**

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## SHORT TALK: “The Kingdom of God starts small but it keeps on growing!”

<b>Aim of Short talk:</b>	To encourage people that the Kingdom of God starts small but it keeps on growing, and each follower of Jesus has a part to play.
<b>Use of Short talk:</b>	This is a short All Age talk picking out one issue from the Lectionary Gospel reading of the Sunday main service. The talk stands alone and assumes that the Gospel Bible reading may not yet have been read to the congregation. It could be used for example, for the whole congregation before the children go out to their age specific groups, leaving the adults with a full sermon later.
<b>Main themes:</b>	Kingdom of God, Growth, Mustard seed
<b>Biblical references:</b>	Mark 4:26-34
<b>Lectionary:</b>	Year B 2021 – The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Trinity
<b>Props:</b>	A tub of mustard and cress that you can purchase from most supermarkets and a tiny seed.

How many of you have grown mustard and cress from seed? *(Receive responses)*

As you know, we start with a tiny seed like this *(Show seed)* and plant it,

- and then within a few days the seed sprouts and grows into a plant, that we can then harvest and enjoy in an egg sandwich!

In Jesus' day, people in Palestine also grew mustard plants from seed,

- but the mustard plants became great big plants, not small plants like we have here.  
*(Point to your mustard and cress plants)*

One day Jesus told a story about a mustard seed. Listen to this:

*“What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”* (Mark 4:26-34)

Shall we demonstrate one of the things that Jesus was talking about?

- I need a volunteer to come and help me. *(Receive volunteer)*

I want you to imagine that you are Jesus, and that you are bringing in God's kingdom.

- You are calling people to turn to God, and to put their lives under His rule.

Go and find 4 people who listened to your message and became your first followers, bringing them to the front. *(Volunteer goes and finds 4 people and brings them to the front)*

Now Jesus told His first followers to go out into the world and share the good news of God's love,

- so that other people could turn to God, allowing Him to reign over their lives too.

So all of you (apart from Jesus) imagine that you have shared about God's love with 2 other people and they have chosen to follow Jesus too.

- Go now and find 2 other people each to bring to the front, while Jesus stays here with me. *(The 4 volunteers go and find 2 more people, bringing them to the front)*
- Can you see how the Kingdom of God is growing.....a bit like a plant growing?

Now I want you to imagine that you have all shared about God's love with 2 more people and they also have chosen to follow Jesus,

- so go and find 2 other people to bring to the front. *(The 12 volunteers go and find 2 more people, bringing them to the front)*

You can see that the Kingdom of God is growing rapidly.

[Note: If you have a large church you might want to send out the 36 volunteers to find another 2 people each, making 108]

Imagine if each one of us here only told 2 people in our whole life-time about God's love and both of those people chose to follow Jesus.

- Can you imagine the knock-on effect that would have upon God's kingdom as they went on to tell others too?

Today the Kingdom of God has spread all across the world, and latest estimates suggest that there are over 2.2 billion<sup>1</sup> people of all different ages and races following Jesus.....

- that is 2.2 followed by 9 noughts,
- but the Kingdom keeps on growing and growing, because God our Heavenly Father wants all of us to know His love.

So today, you might think that you can't do much to change the world.....

- after all what can one person do?

But be encouraged that God's way of working is by starting small and allowing that small beginning to grow into something much bigger.

- So why don't you spend a few minutes each day praying for 2 or 3 of your friends to come to know God's love and then find an opportunity to tell them?
- We all have an important part to play in growing God's kingdom.

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants.

- Thank you volunteers, would you like to sit down.

<sup>1</sup> This figure is taken from ["The Global Religious Landscape: Christianity"](http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/01/global-religion-full.pdf) (PDF). Pew Research Center. December 2012. Retrieved 30 July 2012. (<http://www.pewforum.org/files/2014/01/global-religion-full.pdf>)  
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