

GBC Discipleship RESOURCE



The Kingdom of Heaven is Like...

Week 03 | A Mustard Seed Faith (Matthew 13:31-32)

For a brief overview of why (and how) to engage in each of these practices, you can read the [Guideline For Growing](#) on our website.

<https://www.gymeabaptist.org.au/growing/pages/guideline-for-growing>

What is a Discipleship Menu?

A discipleship menu is a selection of discipleship activities to engage in to continue the conversation that begins on Sunday throughout the week. The aim is to extend our interaction as a community of faith around activities that help us follow Jesus every single day. The activities vary from week to week (though there are some standard activities) and you are encouraged to do as many as you find helpful (like a menu; you don't need to eat everything on it!). Do them on your own (God and you), with a couple of friends (you and a few), or in a Life Group (you and a crew). The important thing is to do a few!

GBC Sermon Podcast and GBC Big Three Podcast

Don't forget you can review this week's sermon on the GBC Sermon Podcast. The sermon is usually uploaded by Monday afternoon. You can also listen in to the GBC Big Three podcast; a weekly podcast where Matt, Jess, and Marc sit down and continue the conversation by engaging in three big questions raised by the congregation about the sermon. The GBC Big Three comes out on Wednesdays.

Overview

Pressure can come from all directions. Pressure to perform, pressure to conform, pressure to meet the status-quo. Jesus had his own experience of pressure. Throughout his ministry he was met with the preconceived expectations of who the Messiah would be and what they would achieve. The Jews expected big things from Jesus, and he delivered, just not in the way that everyone thought.

When Jesus shares the parable of the mustard seed, it is filled with anticipation for some big things, as most would have expected. The Kingdom of Heaven will outgrow and overshadow any other plant in the garden. It will grow so big that people from all lands, all walks of life, will come and make their home within it. These were the big, high-pressure expectations that many would have predicted would be the case when talking about the Kingdom of Heaven.

The surprise was not the size of the Kingdom, but rather the size of the seed that starts it all. The smallest seed, the mustard seed. Jesus understands that from little things, big things grow. He urges us all to consider the tiny seeds that we hold in our hand, and the everyday opportunities that allow us to plant them. A smile to a stranger, a conversation with a friend, an act of service for a neighbour. Tiny seed moments that when planted, can see life

changing grow for the Kingdom. So will we be a people, closed fisted, keeping the seeds to the Kingdom of Heaven to ourselves, or will we be open handed, sowing them whenever and wherever the invitation presents itself?

Passages to Read

We believe that the Word of God is living and active and that reading and reflecting on it is one way we encounter God. As you read, we encourage people to ask a set of simple questions: What stands out to you? What questions do you have? What is the invitation of God to you? Who can you tell?

The readings this week explore the power of and authority of God to do more than we could ever fathom. As you read through them, surrender all the expectations you have of yourself over to our God, who is doing the work.

- Psalm 147:5
- Ephesians 3:20
- Romans 8:28
- Luke 16:10
- Matthew 25:21

Prayer Walk

This parable does not call you to leave your life, your work, your family behind and enter the mission field overseas. It challenges us to reflect on the moments in our everyday life, the things that we are already doing, and consider how we can make some small, intentional decisions to participate with God's work to see his Kingdom grow.

So, this week, take some time to walk around your local neighbourhood. Consider the things that fill up your week. School, work, sporting events, social visits. Where is there an opportunity for some seed sowing? Pray that God might make that available to you and then be on the lookout. Be ready

to be open handed with your tiny mustard seed and see how the Kingdom might grow from it.

A Prayer to Pray

Pray that God would show you the small ways you can prepare yourself to receive and perceive the mystery of His Kingdom.