

REFLECT

What were you like when you heard and believed the message of the cross? Looking back, why did God choose you? Why did you believe?

What is it about our human intellect and pride that can keep us from believing the message of Christ?

Thinking back to Josh's sermon and the parable of the mustard seed, is there something you sense God would like to plant in your life that could grow to be something great?

RESPOND

Thank God for the message of the cross that turns this world on its head. Thank Him that you heard it and believed. Pray for those in your life who are still stuck boasting in themselves or in this world and not in the Lord, that they would stumble on this message and fall to their knees in sweet surrender.



# Mark 4:30-32

## 1 the smallest of all seeds on earth

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Judge me by my size, do you?

## 2 it grows and becomes the **largest** of all garden plants

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"The mustard plant grows entirely wild, though it is improved by being transplanted; but on the other hand, when it has once been sown, it is scarcely possible to get the place free of it, as the seed when it falls germinates at once."  
~Pliny the Elder, *Natural History*

2 Corinthians 5:17

"Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation. The old has gone, the new has come."



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# The Power of Mustard

## Life Group Study

3. the birds can perch in its shade



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Q: Wherein lies the true power of mustard?



A: in its \_\_\_\_\_

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2 Corinthians 12:9

**“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”**

RELATE

Name something in your life that is significant or great that started out small and perhaps unnoticed. How did that process occur?

What are ways you may at times sell yourself short and not recognize your true potential? Why is that?

What principle, insight, or idea from this sermon was especially important for you?

READ

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

In this passage, Paul teaches that God’s Kingdom does not operate on the same expectations as the world. Contrast what is important to God and what is important by society’s standards.

In what way is the message of the cross “foolishness”? What does Paul mean by that?

Are having intelligence and wisdom detrimental to our faith? What is the proper perspective on our human intelligence?

Paul said he and his companions preached “Christ crucified.” What does that mean and why is it so important?

Why does God delight in choosing and using people whom this world may not consider “most likely to succeed”?

What does it mean to “boast in the Lord”?