

Small Group Leader Notes for August 19 – Mustard and Yeast (Matthew 13: 31-34)

Memory Verse: Ephesians 3:20 "Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

Read Matthew 13:31-33

³¹He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. ³²Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." ³³He told them still another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a large amount of flour until it worked all through the dough."

Lesson:

1. What do you learn from these verses?

I learn that God can do whatever God wants to do. God wants to use me but not because of whom I am but because of whom he is. God will make His kingdom grow and spread.

After hearing Jesus speak in Matthew 12, perhaps the first 12 followers were left wondering, "There are only 12 of us, how can we make a difference in this huge world?" Jesus answers this question with a graphic picture of power and influence. The mustard seed is small but produces a powerful plant. Yeast is a small measure in the recipe for bread, yet it influences the entire batch of dough. So it is with His kingdom. Size does not matter in God's economy. The kingdom picture to grasp in this lesson is to realize that God takes the finite and makes it infinite. Don't limit God because of small resources. God doesn't need a majority only a committed minority.

When Jesus told the rich man it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, the disciples asked Jesus about who could be saved? Jesus responded, "With man this is impossible but with God all things are possible." Matthew 19:26 When we apply this truth, we understand that God

2. Our memory verse, Ephesians 3:20, says God is able to do immeasurably more than I could even ask him to do. What does this truth tell you about how His kingdom and how we fit in to it?

Ephesians 3:20 is a powerful truth, the Message says it this way, "God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us." I learn that God has a plan and he wants me to be a part of it. He will provide the power and strength. He just asks that I submit to his leadership and his power in my life. When I do this, I can pray in faith for his will of his kingdom and the result will be more than I could ever expect or imagine. Also I can know that it isn't up to me, it is up to him, and my job is to abide in him.

3. On a piece of paper, make two columns of numbered lists. In the first column write at the top, GOD, and then list everything you know that requires God intervention. In the second column, write DISCIPLES, and then list everything you know that requires your intervention to happen.

First, help your group understand that if they are a follower of Jesus, then they are a disciple. This is not some title to a few chosen gifted men. This is a title for anyone who loves and trusts Jesus as Lord and Savior.

This exercise may help group members understand that without God, people can not come to faith. Miracles can not happen. Lives can not change. But at the same time, without people many will not hear about God. They will not experience the power of God on their own. They may not understand truth without someone to share truth. Even when God works in their life, they may dismiss it as coincidence or good karma.

Daily reading Schedule:

- Day 1 Romans 11
- Day 2 Romans 12
- Day 3 Romans 13
- Day 4 Romans 14
- Day 5 Romans 15