

The Parables of Jesus



Joy



Peace

Wisdom



Dignity



Community

Hope



The Mustard Seed





We have gathered together
to worship God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
and to think about the meaning of Jesus'

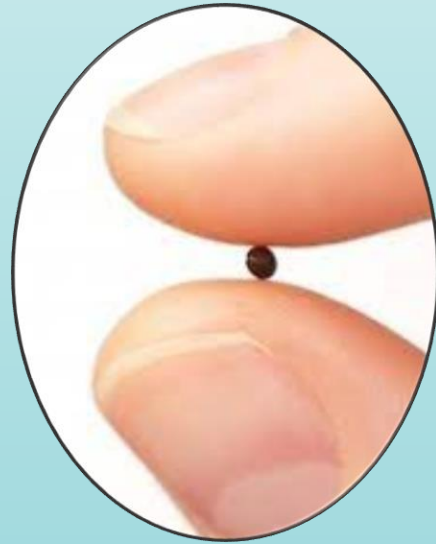
Parable about the Mustard Seed.

Today we are thinking about the value dignity.





This is a mustard seed.



Can you think of anything else that is this tiny?



When it's planted this seed will become a mustard tree.

A mustard tree, despite starting life as a very tiny seed can grow to be very large.

Jesus told them another parable:

“The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows up, it is the biggest of all plants. It becomes a tree, so that birds come and make their nests in its branches.”

Matthew 13.³¹⁻³²

The mustard tree will attract birds to perch and nest in it. Farmers are usually not keen on having birds in their fields.

Can you think why this might be?

In the parable, the kingdom of heaven is likened to a mustard tree, a place in which many birds can find a safe place to rest and make their home. Jesus is saying that the kingdom of heaven is a place where people can live in safety and with dignity.





The children from St Kenelm's Primary School in Worcestershire have been thinking about birds in the story of the Mustard Tree.



These are some of the pictures they have made.



As well as designing the beautiful bird who have found a home in the tree, the children have also thought about their 'stories'. They asked questions such as: Where did the birds come from? Why did they have to leave their home and find another place to live? What happened to them on the way?

Let's have a look at some of the things that they wrote.

Bird's name: The Fire Wave Bird

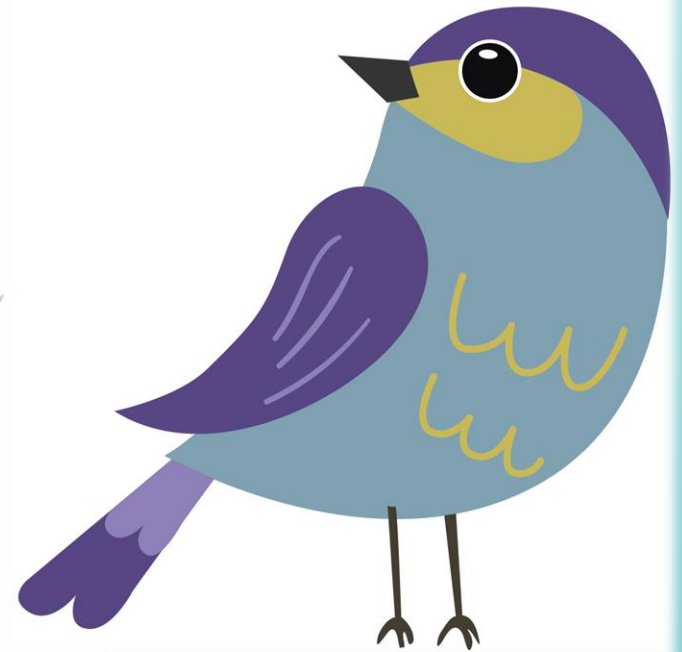
I had to leave Peru because there had been tsunami and the wave struck my home. I travelled from Peru over mountains and the ocean to get to the mustard tree. I was pleased to see its big safe branches.



Bird's name: The Chloe Bird

*I have come from Mexico to the mustard tree.
There was a big earthquake and some of my
family died. The journey was cold and wet and
took me almost a year. I was worried I would
die on the journey.*

I'm safe and happy in the mustard tree.



Bird's name: The Lilly Bird

I am from Africa. It took me 28 months to get to the tree. I had to leave my home because there was a massive war. I was scared but I took a deep breath and left.



In the Parable of the Mustard Seed, the birds represent the people and the tree represents a safe and beautiful place.



Can you think of people who might need a safe place to escape? A place where they can live with dignity. Perhaps these people are from far away or maybe closer to home.



Who might need a safe place to go?

Share your ideas with your talk partner.

Responding

I'll now share two prayers written by the children at St Kenelm's School. to bring our time of reflection to a close. If you would like to make the prayer your own, join in with the Amen.



Dear God,
I pray for all the people
looking for homes for their children.
Encourage us to care for them
and be charitable people
so they will find a loving home
where they will have dignity.
Amen



Dear God,

We pray for all homeless people
and those that find themselves living on the streets.

Let them know that you are
always with them and love them.

We are sorry when we aren't kind to new people.

Help us to share with them,
to give them the dignity they deserve
and make them feel happy.

Amen

Faith as small as a mustard seed





Dear God

Thank you for our amazing school
and all the opportunities we have to shine.



Thank you God

Thank you for the church and school community that helps us to anchor
our lives in faith and our confidence to shine brighter.

Thank you God

Help us to show the light of Christ in everything we think, say and do.

Help us God

Help us to have the strength to be positive and
spread happiness to everyone we meet.

Help us God

Let your light shine through us.

Amen



The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.

