Date: 7/11/20

Title: The Mustard Seed

Theme: The kingdom of Jesus will grow to fill the whole earth

Object: Display card with different size seeds glued next to label of kind of seed it is: green bean, zucchini, cucumber, kale, arugula, lettuce. Measuring tape to illustrate height of mustard plant.

Text: Matthew 13:31-32 NKJV - 31 Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, 32 "which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches.

How many of you kids have ever planted a seed to grow vegetables or flowers?

Seeds are really amazing.

Seeds can remain just seeds for a very long time.

But if you plant them in the ground and give them water and sunlight, they begin to grow into a plant.

And the plant grows and grows and eventually it produces, fruits or vegetables or nuts or grains and more seeds like the one that you planted.

It is just amazing that God has created in each little seed the information it needs to produce something good for us to eat and give us more seeds to plant next year.

So I wanted to show you today some of the seeds that I planted in my garden this year.

[Show seeds. Describe what each produces. Note how big the seeds are. Tell how big the plants are that they produce.]

Now Jesus said that the kingdom of God was like a mustard seed.

A mustard seed is only about as big as this little lettuce seed at the bottom.

But Jesus said that this little seed would grow into a big tree where birds could build their nests.

Jesus said that the kingdom of God was like this mustard seed.

It starts out really small but it grows really big.

If you look at Jesus when He started His ministry, it was only one person: Jesus.

Then He added the 12 disciples and the women who followed Him.

After Jesus rose from the dead, there were 120 disciples praying in the upper room.

On the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was poured out, 3,000 people were added to the kingdom.

A short while later there were 5,000 men and their families that were His disciples.

And the kingdom kept growing over the years until today there are over 2.4 billion people who claim to be Christians.

Now there is also another way that the kingdom of God grows.

It grows in our hearts.

We may start out not knowing very much about Jesus.

Maybe we only know: “Jesus loves me this I know, For the Bible tells me so.”

It may be a small beginning, but our faith in Jesus grows as we pray and learn what the Bible says and learn to love Jesus more.

The kingdom of God grows in our heart until we are like a big tree that stands tall for Jesus and can never be blown down by the devil.

And when Jesus comes back, all those standing tall for Him will get to be part of His kingdom, where Jesus is our King and we’ll live for Him forever.

Does that sound good to you? Are you interested?

Let’s ask Jesus to help us grow from little mustard seeds to tall trees for His kingdom.

