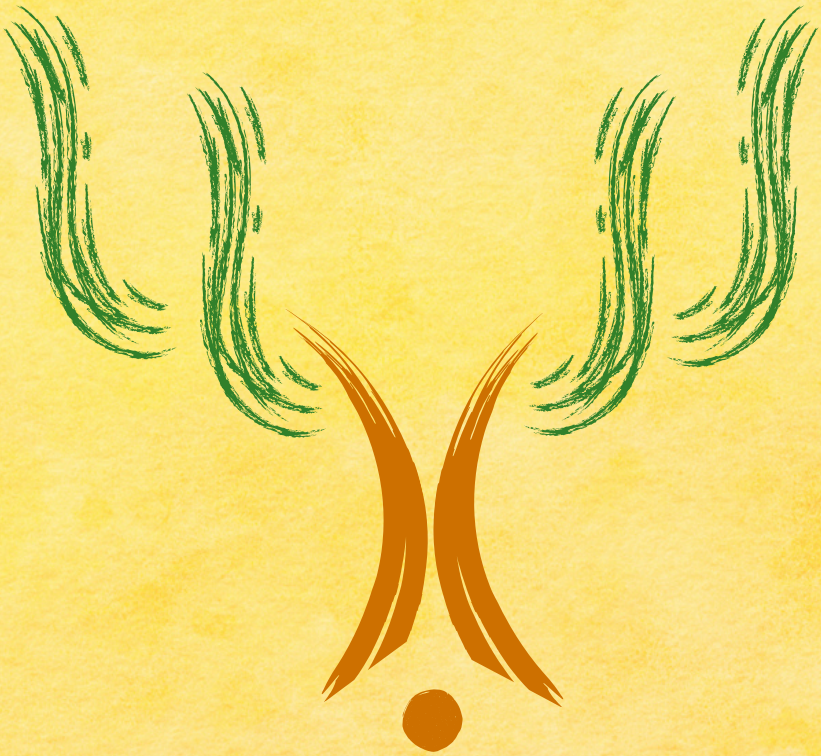
Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with Children & Families

1277 make them count

Mustard Seed

Matthew 13:31-32

A story massage for children.



Original Finnish text: Kaisa Aittahti, Satu Reinikainen
Translation: Sara Reinikainen-Ho

Mustard Seed

Place your palms on the back

Some things are large

(draw a large circle on the back)

others are small.

(draw a small circle on the back)

And a few are teeny tiny.

(press a dot on the back)

A Mustard seed is just like that, teeny tiny.

(keep pressing the dot)

This small! The smallest of all the seeds.

(brush the same spot with your finger)

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Does anyone need anything that small?

(draw a question mark)

Can something that small do anything?

(retrace the question mark)

Yes, thought the farmer.

(stroke the back from top to bottom)

The farmer sowed the teeny tiny mustard seed into the ground

(press one spot in the lower back with your finger and act as if you are covering it with soil)

and waited.

(let your hands rest on the back)

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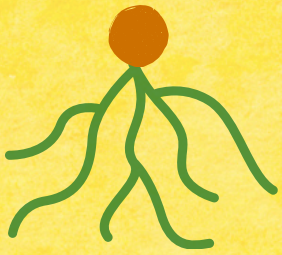
What might happen?

(move your fingers lightly while your palms still rest on the back)

The seed takes root

(draw roots for the seed)



And pushes its sprout to the surface.

(draw a small line upwards from the seed)

At first only a little,

(grow the line growing from the seed)

then more and more.

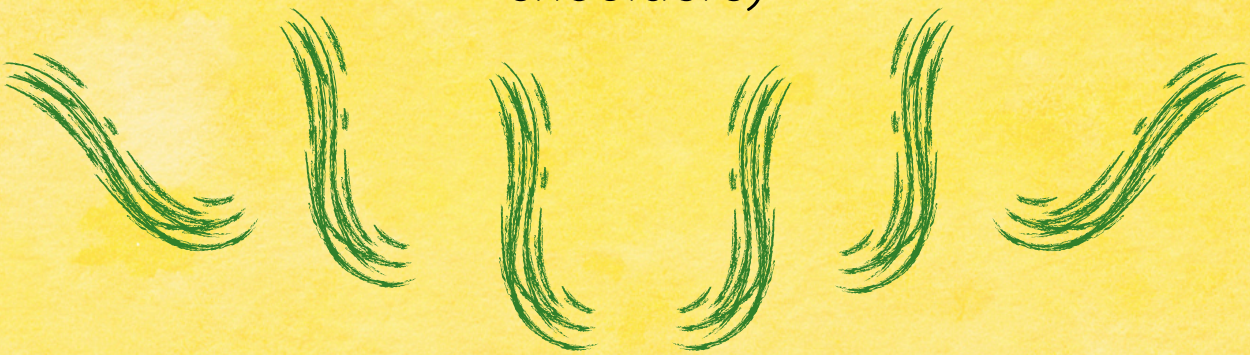
(grow the line growing from the seed)

Eventually it grows into a tree,

(use your palm to pull upwards from the lower back as a trunk of the tree)

And its branches reach everywhere.

(draw branches with your fingers on the sides and to the shoulders)



The Mustard seed

(press the spot where the seed was planted)

grew to be the largest tree in the whole garden!

(retrace the trunk and the branches)

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So large, that birds flew to the tree

(draw small spirals as their routes from the head to the upper back)

And built their nests on its branches.

(draw small circles as nests)

The farmer was happy watching the tree and the birds and thought:

(draw a big smile)

Yes, the small ones are very, very important!

(stroke the back many times from top to bottom)

Place your palms on the back

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