



A Mustard Seed IN MUMBAI

A family devotional or small group study
based on the documentary
Slumdog Disciplemaker featuring Shankar Pawar

And He said to them, "...for truly I say to you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

MATTHEW 17:20 NASB



faith the
size of a
mustard seed

Introduction

A Mustard Seed in Mumbai was designed specifically for Kingdom Rain's ministry partners and their friends. You will have the opportunity to watch the five episodes of **Slumdog Disciplemaker** and then share how you experience God working through this story and in your own lives.

A Mustard Seed in Mumbai has five sessions, and each session is broken into three parts.

1. **Introduction:** scripture and context to set up the story
2. **Video:** watch an episode of **Slumdog Disciplemaker** (Each episode is 8–12 minutes.)
3. **Discussion:** interact with the group to process what you watched and deepen the learning (The amount of discussion will be determined by the number of people in your group and how much time you have.)

IMPORTANT: In order to keep our leaders safe, the **Slumdog Disciplemaker** videos must only be shown in homes or in private virtual groups with people that you know. They must not be shown publicly online or shared in any way on social media.



Introduction

Matthew 13:31–32

[Jesus] told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though 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.”

The mustard seed parable teaches us that God’s kingdom starts out small and seemingly insignificant, but it grows into something that is more impressive than anything else in the garden. A small seed that no one pays any attention to grows into a tree that is strong and stands out from all the other garden plants. Jesus’ ministry reflected this principle. He planted a mustard seed of twelve disciples and commissioned them to go and make disciples of all nations. We are here today, over 2000 years later, because of their faithful service and the truth of this kingdom parable.

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

Because the whole world has not yet heard the gospel, God continues to sow mustard seeds throughout the Earth in unreached people groups, so that his gospel can be proclaimed to all nations. **Slumdog Disciplemaker** is the story of God growing his kingdom among the Banjara people in the city of Mumbai and the nation of India. And it all begins with an orphan on the streets named Shankar Pawar.

Discussion

1. In this episode we meet Shankar and hear about his life as a young boy. What stood out to you about the country of India, the Banjara people, Shankar’s childhood and his conversion to Christ?

2. When God plants a mustard seed of truth in a person’s heart, it always leads to a small mustard seed step of faith. For Shankar, this first step was to put his faith in Christ. What mustard seeds of truth has God used in your life to help you take small steps of faith?



Introduction

A mustard plant is like any other plant—it must have the right environment to grow, and it must be protected from animals and disease. The apostle Paul understood the dangers and obstacles that arise as new believers grow. Paul saw the church plant in Philippi spring up to life. But then, as is almost always the case, persecution followed.

Later, Paul found himself in prison, and he encouraged the Philippian church with these words, “And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ” (Phil. 1:6). Paul wanted the Philippian church to know that even in the difficult times, God was still working to help them grow and change.

In this next episode we will see how God protects and provides for Shankar so that this small mustard plant can continue to grow.

Discussion

1. In what ways did God provide exactly what Shankar needed in this season of his life? How has God provided for you?

2. Shankar heard God say, “See their need.” He saw the need to educate the children living in the slums. As he met that need, he was able to build a bridge with the community in order to share Christ.

As you think about the needs in your own community, what comes to mind? Who is in your life that God would ask you to take a small, mustard-seed step-of-faith to reach out to? What are some practical ways you could reach out to them?



Introduction

Thousands of miles away from India, God planted the idea of Kingdom Rain in Brian Float's mind. He was praying to find a man that had a teachable heart and wanted to reach his people for Christ. In this season of Shankar's life, he needed a mentor. God supernaturally brought Shankar and Brian together. Each man had what the other needed.

Discussion

1. What did you notice about the relationship between Brian and Shankar? What made it work?

2. Who has God brought into your life to mentor you in the faith? How have they helped you?

3. What has God given you to share with others? Is there anyone that God might be calling you to take a small, mustard-seed step-of-faith and mentor?



Introduction

Sometimes it feels like our small lives are insignificant in light of God's kingdom. But as we have seen through the mustard seed parable, God uses seemingly small and insignificant things to grow his kingdom into a strong, powerful, and enduring force.

Discussion

1. Think back to the principle of the mustard seed. When you hear of what God is accomplishing through Shankar's life and ministry, how does this principle apply?

2. In Matthew 17, Jesus used the mustard seed illustration again to show the power of faith. Jesus was on the mountain with Peter, James and John, and he revealed his glory to them. When they came off the mountain, they discovered that there was a demon-possessed man that the other disciples could not heal. Jesus healed the man instantly. The disciples obviously wanted to know why they could not cast the demon out.

Matthew 17:20

He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

The mustard seed that God planted in Mumbai was fueled by Shankar's faith in Jesus Christ. Think about your life right now. What mustard-seed step-of-faith is God calling you to take?



Introduction

Jesus taught us that God's kingdom is like a mustard seed that starts out small and seemingly insignificant, and then it grows into something very large and impressive. He also taught us that while we are in this world, we will face trials and difficulties (John 16:33). Jesus told the disciples this because he knew all the trials that they would face while fulfilling the Great Commission. He wanted them to know that in the world they would have troubles, but in Christ they would have peace. Why? Because Christ has overcome the world.

As you watch this last episode, take note of some of the difficulties that Shankar and his ministry are facing.

Discussion

1. As Shankar's ministry has continued to grow, he has faced major obstacles like COVID-19 and persecution. What obstacles are you facing that are keeping you from taking your small, mustard-seed step-of-faith?

2. Shankar and leaders like him on the front lines in India and other unreached countries need prayer. Will you take time right now to pray for these needs? Below are some suggested prayers:

Pray that they...

- a. See God's hand at work – "Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel." **Phil. 1:12**
- b. Count suffering as an honor – "The apostles left...rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name." **Acts 5:41**
- c. Consider Jesus' example – "To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps." **1 Peter 2:21**
- d. Experience Jesus' presence – "I want to know Christ...the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death." **Phil. 3:10**
- e. Have unashamed boldness – "When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished, and they took note that these men had been with Jesus." **Acts 4:13**



Join the movement.

Shankar is one example of the many national leaders God is using to build disciplemaking movements throughout India and Central Asia. They need our support. Would you prayerfully consider giving financially to this important work?

If God is prompting you to support and train leaders like Shankar by giving financially to Kingdom Rain, you can learn more and donate at www.kingdomrain.org/give.

