

## **The Seeds of the Kingdom**

### **Discussion Questions for Mark 4:26-34**

#### **Open It**

What experiences have you had with growing plants from seeds?

What does it take for plants to grow, and where do you get the things you need?

If Jesus Christ had been sent to earth during our generation, how do you think He would have chosen to tell us His message?

#### **Explore It**

What did Jesus want the people to understand about the kingdom of God? (4:26)

What role did the man in the parable play? (4:26-27)

What do the man and the seed in the parable represent? (4:26-29)

What does this parable reveal about Jesus' concerns? (4:26-29)

How did the seed in the parable sprout and grow? (4:27)

What was the growth process like for the seed? (4:28)

How did the seed grow? (4:28)

How did the man get the seed to grow? (4:28)

At what point did the man get involved in the plant's growth after he planted it? (4:29)

To what does the phrase "the harvest is come" refer? (4:29)

What did Jesus use to explain the kingdom of God? (4:30)

In what ways is this parable different from the previous one Jesus told? (4:30-31)

How is the kingdom of God like a mustard seed? (4:32)

What is the kingdom of God like? (4:31)

What does the mustard seed represent in this parable? (4:31)

What do you think this parable meant to Jesus' original audience? (4:31)

How could the beginning of the kingdom of God be compared to such a small, insignificant seed? (4:31)

What promise is given in this parable? (4:31-32)

Why did Jesus use the smallest seed known to the Galilean farmers in His audience as the example in this parable? (4:31-32)

How did Jesus teach the crowds? (4:33-34)

How did Jesus teach His disciples? (4:33-34)

How did Jesus' approach to teaching the crowds differ from the way He taught His disciples? (4:33-34)

What did Jesus do for His disciples to ensure that they learned from His parables? (4:34)

How did Jesus make sure His disciples understood His teaching? (4:34)

## **Get It**

### **The Parable of Kingdom Growth -**

Why do you think Jesus told parables to explain the kingdom of God to the crowds of people?

The Jews of Jesus' day expected God's kingdom to come physically and politically. How does this compare with the description Jesus gave in this parable?

What encouragement can believers glean from this parable regarding their own spiritual growth?

How does this parable help you better understand what the kingdom of God is like?

How does it make you feel to know that the message of Christ contains a mysterious power in itself?

How does the message of this parable help believers evangelize and teach?

What should our response be to the fact that one day "the harvest will come"?

What have you learned about your own spiritual walk with the Lord from this parable?

What can you do in your life, and in the lives of others, to create conditions where the Word of God will grow?

### **The Parable of the Mustard Seed -**

How might this parable have encouraged Christians being persecuted by the Roman state?

Why do you think Jesus spoke only in parables to the crowds at this point in His ministry?

What does this parable tell us about trying to persuade others to believe in Christ?

How can you apply the principle of this parable to your situation in life right now?

In what ways does this parable encourage you to persist in your faith?

Why do you think God chose to introduce His kingdom through a controversial man with a handful of obscure followers?

To what extent do you think you should model your style of evangelism after Jesus' example?

What does this parable teach you about sharing the message of Christ with your non-Christian friends?

What difference can it make in your everyday life that Jesus' kingdom will prevail over the sin and corruption of this world?

### **Apply It**

What specific steps can you take to rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to change others when you tell them about Christ?

What is one way you can spread God's Word this week to help God's kingdom grow?

How can you get involved this week in spreading the Good News and participating in the growth of the kingdom of God?

What word or message from the Bible can you share with someone else?  
How?

Who is one person with whom you could share the promise of the kingdom of God?