**RE- The Kingdom of God**

**Lesson 8:**

LO: To understand what the parable of The Mustard Seed is teaching us

HOM: Applying past knowledge

Discuss what happens in the story.

**Look at the story of, ‘The Tiny Seed’ by Eric Carle**

[**http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqE3Kcc8Zgg**](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqE3Kcc8Zgg)

Read Matthew 13: 31-32 The Parable of the Mustard Seed.

**The Parable of the Mustard Seed**

31 Jesus told them another parable: “The Kingdom of heaven is like this. A man takes a mustard seed and sows it in his field. 32 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.”

**WHITE HAT**

What is the name of this story? (The Mustard Seed)

What literary form/genre is it? (parable)

Who is the author? (Matthew)

Could this story be based on a real event of experience – something that happened to someone? (Yes – it’s about seeds growing! )

What does it make us think about? (What living in God’s kingdom will be like)

Re-read the parable.

Break the story into three parts: someone planting the seed; the seed growing into a bush; the birds coming to nest in it.

**What does the parable of the mustard seed mean?**

**INFORMATION TO EXPLAIN THE MEANING OF THE PARABLE**

The sower is Jesus Himself. He is the planter who came to atone for our sins so that we might become fruitful.

The mustard seed was the smallest seed known at the time. While it becomes more of a shrub than a tree, it can reach about 10 feet high. The mustard seed represents the Gospel, starting very small but growing to reach millions throughout the world who will inherit the kingdom. The field represents all the people of the earth who will receive Him.

The tree is rooted in Jesus Christ and has grown a harvest far beyond its initial planting.

The tree offers a refuge for His faithful to rest in Him.

A tree, whose large branches offer a shelter for birds, was a familiar Old Testament symbol for a mighty kingdom which gave shelter to the nations. The tree represents earthly greatness and refuge to the nations. The tiny mustard seed, growing to be a tree, symbolizes Jesus’ offer of refuge and life in God’s Kingdom.

Answer these questions:

**What do we learn from this parable? What was Jesus trying to teach us?  
What was Matthew trying to say to us?   
What ‘seeds’ do we need to plant?**    
**How can we provide a place for ‘birds’ to find safety and shelter?**

**WHITE HAT: What does this story tell us about our beliefs in the Kingdom of God?**

Look through the answers in red and compare them to your own thoughts on the parable.

God creates us like a tiny seed.  
As a seed can grow into a big beautiful tree, we too can grow into happy, caring, loving human beings by making good choices, following Jesus’ teachings, loving and caring for ourselves, our community and our world  
Like the birds coming to nest in this big beautiful tree – people will be drawn to us because they can see our goodness, kindness and love.   
We will then learn about how to live according to Jesus’ teachings.

**Task**

