

Response Guide: "The Story of the Tiny Seed"

For week of 5/10/20

Scripture:

The Parable of the Mustard Seed

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. **32** Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Questions for Discussion:

1.) In his message, Pastor Bob showed us how this parable teaches us that great things start small first. It's usually the way that God works. God sent Christ into the world to bring freedom and forgiveness- but even He was born into poverty, as a defenseless baby in the manger.

What is a story in your life of something that God grew over time? What was the role of faith in that growth?

2.) Pastor Bob said that "It is not the size of our faith, but the *object* of our faith that makes difference." In other words, our faith is not in ourselves or our ability to persevere. It is in the tangible and supernatural *power* of Christ.

Have you ever put more faith in the identity of being a Christian than in the person of Christ? What did that look like? What does it practically look like in the middle of this Corona season to put our faith in the power of Jesus?

3.) God's growth in us doesn't just benefit us. It becomes a stronghold of faith for other people who are struggling- if we share it. This doesn't always mean sharing a victory. Sometimes it means sharing a painful process of growth and pruning.

Who is someone in your life whom you can *share* the work that God is doing in your life? How can you encourage them?

Prayer:

Spend some time praying for the grace and strength to obey where Jesus is leading, even if you can't see the outcome. Spend some time in prayer not just asking from God, but by praying statements of faith- declaring the true, good, and just nature of God even if we are currently struggling.