

Questions for Personal Study or Group Discussion

Open

- When you were young, was there someone in your family who loved to play pranks and practical jokes? Are there any pranks or jokes that you can't forget?

Read

- Matthew 13:31-35

Observe

- Why do you think Jesus used the mustard seed in the first of these parables? How is the kingdom of God like the mustard seed?
- What is "leaven?" Why did Jesus use leaven in the second parable? How is the kingdom of God like leaven?
- What do you think Jesus is talking about when he says, "the kingdom of God?"

Apply

- Read Matthew 17:20. How does this use of the mustard seed relate to 13:31-32? Where have you seen the principle of "mustard seed faith" at work in your life? In the life of the church?
- What do the parable of the weeds, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the leaven say to you in 2026? Is God calling you to some kind of action?

Prayer

Almighty God, our Father, we pray as Jesus taught his disciples: "Your kingdom come." Give us the wisdom to understand what that means. Show us what you would have us do to advance your kingdom here and now as we live in anticipation of the return of Christ Jesus.

Recommended Reading

- The Shift Church 2026 Lenten Guides – Week 2