

**J**esus told his disciples a parable. He said, 'The kingdom of God is like tiny seeds scattered on the ground. They sprout and grow: slowly and silently, through the days and through the nights, hidden from view. It doesn't matter whether the farmer, who planted them, is asleep or awake. \* They grow, on their own, nourished by the earth: first the root, then the stalk, then the bud and finally the full head of grain. The farmer does not know how the seeds grow into grain. But as soon as his crop is ready, he uses his scythe to cut and harvest the grain.' \*

He told them another parable to explain God's kingdom. 'It is like a tiny, tiny mustard seed. A mustard seed is one of the smallest seeds. But when it takes root, and forces its way up through the soil, it grows into one of the largest trees, with branches so wide that birds of all sizes can build their nests in it.'



Jesus used many parables or stories to teach the people. \* Those who heard them often didn't understand them, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

**Mark 4.26-34**

\* See *Share the Word*.