

## :: summary

God wired us to seek purpose and have a passion for making a difference. Often, our aspirations are grand in scale as we dream about changing the world. However, as Jesus shows us through his parables and the grassroots nature of his earthly ministry, focusing on the *little* differences we can make in everyday life can have a *huge* impact on the world around us. Our daily activity presents opportunities to join God in His mission as we influence others and our environment, recognizing that Jesus has already changed the world.

## :: explore and discuss

We all aspire to become something greater than what we are and desire to make a difference in the world as we live out our purpose.

When you were a child, what did you desire to become or how did you desire to make a difference, and how has that changed over time, if at all?

Read Luke 13:18-19

The mustard seed is the tiniest of all seeds, yet it has the capacity to grow up to 30 feet tall. Like the mustard seed, Jesus' ministry was one of a small scale and focus that ultimately had an eternal impact on a cosmic scale. Jesus focused on interacting with and healing people in his immediate sphere of influence as he carried out God's mission to reconcile everyone into relationship with God by faith.

As you consider your daily life and the world around you through the lens of God's mission, or a "Kingdom worldview," what can you do consistently to have a small influence on those around you as you join God in His mission?

Read Luke 13:20-21

Like the impact of Jesus' relational ministry, yeast has an expansive, influential property as it spreads throughout dough, changing it chemically as it interacts with the other ingredients. Yeast causes *transformation*, just as Jesus is calling his followers to influence and minister to others in his name and power. To do this, begin by considering your sphere of influence or the environments and people God has strategically placed around you. Then influence widely, in every part of your life.

Discuss the people and environments God places around you on a regular basis. Which one(s) might God be nudging you to pay particular attention to and act on?

## :: make it personal

Like the mustard seed, no person or deed is too small to have a significant impact. Like yeast, we all have been given a measure of influence by God to use as we join Him in His mission. As Pastor Mike talked about in his message, every "field" or sphere in which you live life presents daily opportunities to use that influence for the good of others as you share the love of Jesus. For practice:

1. Brainstorm and write down your specific fields of influence.
2. Pick one field and ask: How might God use your influence to make a small, ongoing difference by bringing God's kingdom into the interactions with those around you and the environment you share?
3. If you are open, ask your group to affirm qualities and gifting they see in you that align with your answer above.

## :: pray

Ask God to help you see your unique ability to influence others, and ask the Holy Spirit to make you aware of daily opportunities to share the love of Jesus with those around you, as you partner with God in His work.

For more details and messages in this series, visit: [Messages](#).

To see notes from Sunday's message, please click: [Message Notes](#).