

# Discussion Questions



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## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. **The Kingdom Starts Small but Doesn't Stay That Way**
  - Like a mustard seed, our faith journey begins small but has tremendous power and potential for growth
2. **God Is Always at Work—Even When Hidden**
  - The kingdom of heaven is working in the mundane, day-to-day moments, not just in dramatic experiences
  - Both the seed and yeast had to go "out of sight" to grow
3. **Heart Transformation Over Behavior Modification**
  - We must allow God into the deep, hidden parts of our lives for true transformation
  - Surface-level changes won't produce lasting growth
4. **Patience Is Essential**
  - We cannot time-lapse spiritual growth
  - Never conclude God isn't working just because you can't see immediate results

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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

### Understanding the Text

1. Why do you think Jesus chose such everyday items (mustard seed and yeast) to describe the kingdom of heaven?
2. What's significant about both the seed and yeast needing to be "hidden" before they could grow?
3. How does Jesus' use of a woman as the main character in the yeast parable challenge the cultural norms of His time?

### Personal Reflection

4. Where in your life right now might God be planting something "as small as a mustard seed"? What might that be?

5. Pastor Ike mentioned we often only see God's power in dramatic moments. When have you overlooked God's work in the mundane areas of your life?
6. Are there areas of your life where you've been practicing "behavior modification" rather than allowing God to transform your heart? What would it look like to invite Him deeper?

## Going Deeper

7. Why do you think we struggle so much with patience when it comes to spiritual growth?
8. Have you ever concluded that God wasn't working in your life during a difficult season, only to later realize He was? Share that experience.
9. The sermon mentioned that "the kingdom of heaven is always growing—it never diminishes." How does this truth encourage you in your current circumstances?

## Application

10. What specific area of your life have you been keeping "off-limits" from God's transforming work? What would surrendering that area look like practically?
11. Who in your life (children, grandchildren, friends) needs you to be patient and trust that God is at work in them, even when you can't see it?

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## PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

### This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

#### Option 1: The Patience Journal

- Each day, write down one way you see God at work in the "mundane" moments of your life
- At the end of the week, reflect on how God has been present in ways you might have missed

### **Option 2: The Surrender Prayer**

- Identify one area of your life you've been withholding from God
- Spend 5 minutes each day this week specifically praying for God to do His transforming work in that area
- Journal about any insights or changes you notice

### **Option 3: The Encouragement Exercise**

- Think of someone who might be discouraged about their spiritual growth
- Reach out to them this week and remind them that God is at work, even when it's hidden
- Share how you've seen growth in their life that they might not recognize