

## **GROUP QUESTIONS: Parables Wk 2 - w/ Lisa Bartelt**

Take a minute to review group guidelines and say 'welcome back'!

1. Share a fun or meaningful memory from your summer.
2. Take a minute to summarize with your group the main point of the message from Sunday and/or briefly share what stood out to you the most.
3. Lisa quoted Amy Peterson's takeaways from the Parable of the Mustard Seed. She suggested that just like a tiny mustard seed becomes the largest plant, salvation also comes in surprising ways. Discuss this idea together. What about this idea resonates with you? What questions does this bring up for you?
4. Lisa talked about mustard seeds producing mustard plants that create 2,000 - 35,000 seeds. She compared this idea of seeds being left behind when a plant dies to being similar to the growth of the Kingdom of God. She said that sometimes when we see no growth it just means the seeds are still underground. How would you apply this idea to the kingdom of God? How has this been true in your own life? Have you seen this happen around or within you - seasons where it seems like nothing is happening and then something new springs forth? If so, when?
5. Lisa shared Amy Peterson's idea that sometimes sewing tiny mustard seeds into another crop could have been a way to be subversive to the oppressive rulers controlling the farmers and the lands. She likened this to the disruptive nature of the Kingdom of God. In the same way a mustard seed might wreak havoc on a wheat field, the kingdom of God may wreak havoc on a system benefiting a few and harming the rest. How might the Kingdom of God wreak havoc on unjust systems for us today? What do you imagine would be or should be uprooted? Where do you see injustices or abuses that the kingdom of God could fix or is already fixing? How might we work to bring about more of God's kingdom in these areas?
6. Lisa showed us how a mustard seed has been propagated to create all kinds of different types of food - even cauliflower! She encouraged us to consider how just like the mustard seed the kingdom of God could look like mustard today and pizza tomorrow! Do you struggle with seeing the kingdom of God or Christians who live out their faith in different ways? Is it

hard for you to validate faith expressions that are different from your own?  
How might we encourage each other to be courageous and curious as we see  
the kingdom of God show up in the world?

7. What do you imagine the kingdom of God to be like? Lisa said, perhaps the  
kingdom of God is limited only by our curiosity and imagination. How does  
that land with you? What excites you? What do you struggle with?