



Mustard Seeds:

*Thoughts on the Nature
of God and Faith*

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Discussion Guide and
Study Group Questions

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Discussion/Study Questions

Chap. 1

1. Trouble can derail your faith, or build your faith-muscles. Think about a problem you've had to face. How did it affect what you believe about God? Now read Romans 8:28. What promise can you claim about your circumstances?
2. Sometimes we pray for help and are disappointed when no miracle happens. But what is a miracle, anyway? Is it always the exact answer you've asked for?
3. If you've ever planted a tree, you know that digging a deep hole is hard work. But the payoff comes when we harvest a bushel of crispy apples, or sit in its shade one summer afternoon. What kind of harvest does the Bible say we'll get when we plant a mustard seed of faith?

Chap. 2

1. Broken vases and mirrors get tossed in the trash. But God never throws away a broken life. Some artists actually use broken pieces of glass and put them together in new and different ways, to make beautiful mosaics of great value. Think about a man or woman you know, or someone you've read about, whose life seemed shattered. What did God do with that person?

2. If your computer has ever crashed, or your car has died, you probably had to take it to an expert for repairs. Where do you go when your life needs fixing? Are you going to the right place?

3. Name some things God gives to “used people” when they hand their lives over to Him.

Chap. 3

1. Storms can be destructive, whether we’re talking about wind and rain, or life’s trials. Even faithful Job was nearly undone. How can we keep our hearts fixed on God when we find ourselves in the midst of a whirlwind?

2. What did Job learn about God when he was forced to the ground? Would he have really known God if he’d only experienced fair-weather days?

3. Hope comes from knowing that Jesus said he will be with us always. What Bible verses can you plant in your memory that will help you ride out any storm?

Chap. 4

1. Some kids do their homework with the TV on. Others need complete silence. What kind of situation do you need when you pray? If you prefer quiet, can you think of some creative ways to find it without actually going on a retreat?

2. Is prayer supposed to be a two-way street? Are you doing enough listening?

3. Describe a time when you sensed God’s presence without words.

Chap. 5

1. We're told to pray without ceasing. How can we do that?
2. Can you find a Psalm that you'd like to use as a model for a prayer?
3. Some of David's Psalms were not much more than whines and whimpers complaints or gripes. Yet God loved him dearly. What does God think about you, when you bring your problems to Him?

Chap. 6

1. Has your spirit for God ever run dry? Where can you find refreshment when you're stuck in a desert place?
2. Have you ever had an experience when your emotions misled you? Should we depend on just our feelings to know who God is, and what He can do?
3. In the Sonoran Desert, long-buried seeds bloom when timely rains arrive. God promises to send us showers of blessings in the right season, too. Name a blessing in your life, and thank God for it out loud the next time you start to feel spiritually dry.

Chap. 7

1. Is God's timing ever wrong? How do you know?
2. When you read or hear something about God, do you go back to the source---His Word—to check it out? Should you?
3. Do you know someone who needs God's grace and love? How could you plant a seed of hope in a confused or hurting heart?

Chap. 8

1. The natural world is a wonderful place to find evidence of God. Where do you see “God signs”?
2. God’s timing is always perfect (so now you know the answer to the first question for Chapter 7). If you’re waiting on God to act, how can you cultivate patience and keep the faith?
3. Surrendering to God brings peace. Is there anything you’d like to hand over to Him for once and for all?

Chap. 9

1. Peace of mind can fly out the window when you’re tempted by an old habit, ensnared in a divorce, or sitting by a loved one’s hospital bed. Can Jesus help you find peace again? How?
2. Are you longing to see Jesus in your life right now? Is there somewhere you need to go, to find him? Or can you invite him into your heart, and know that he’ll find you?
3. Are you surprised that God loves you? He does, you know!

Chap. 10

1. Why do you think the Bible tells us not to fear so often?
2. How do you hang onto your faith when God doesn’t answer your prayers the way you think He should?
3. What could happen in your life if you just let go of your problems, stopped trying to control them, and jumped into the river of faith? Could Jesus carry you along? Could you find joy in the journey?

Chap. 11

1. Name at least one touchstone in your life—a time when you saw God at work on your behalf. Can you return to that touchstone again and again and draw faith and hope for the future?
2. Does God put a high value on human strength? What does he want us to do when we need help?
3. The angel doesn't rescue Elijah. God just sent him to minister to the exhausted prophet. What are some ways we minister to others who are hurting?

Chap. 12

1. Is anyone watching to see how you walk in faith? What do you hope your life is showing them?
2. Is it okay for us to boldly ask for our heart's desires? (To answer this question, explore what the Bible says.)
3. When you need encouragement, think about how you'd answer the question in Romans 8:31, MSG: "With God on our side like this, how can we lose?"

Chap. 13

1. Read Psalm 20:7. What kind of horses and chariots do we put our trust in these days?
2. List some of the names Jesus is known by in the Bible. What's your favorite, and why?

Chap. 14

1. Have you ever come to a crossroads in your life and had to think long and hard about which way to go?

2. What are we supposed to do, when we are lost or confused?

3. Author Robert Fulghum wrote a book called, All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. What do you really need to know about your Heavenly Father?

4. Jesus told the woman who reached out and touched his robe, “Have courage, daughter. Your faith has made you well” (Matt. 9:22 HCSB). Even if she hadn’t been physically healed, could her faith still have made her whole? In what way?

**May you be blessed as you read and study
God’s Word!**