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# TABLE TALK

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## The Kingdom of God

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### Prepare:

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*As one person lights a candle, the family reads together: (adapted from Ezekiel 17:22-24)*

C: On the mountain height of Israel the Lord will plant a cedar;

R: it will bear branches, and produce fruit and become a noble cedar.

C: Under it will dwell every kind of bird;

R: in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest.

### Read: Mark 4:26-34 (ESV)

26 And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. 27 He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. 28 The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. 29 But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

#### The Parable of the Mustard Seed

30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

33 With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. 34 He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

### Reflect

Jesus's ministry may seem small, but it is the very reign and rule of God. As it grows it brings great fruitfulness. We live within its shade today and continue to see it grow.

Take a moment to talk about what this passage (Mark 4:26-34) means for you as a family.

*Now share with one another one thing you can do differently as a member of your family.*

### Pray:

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*The head of the household prays:*

Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for the instantiation of your reign and rule on earth in the incarnation of your Son, Jesus.

In Jesus's name, amen.