Focus on Faith

Beginning Small

Our children are fascinated with how and why things grow. Either in school or at home, they may at some time have taken a small seed, planted it, watered it, and, with patience, watched it grow. Perhaps the plant had to be transplanted into a larger pot or into the ground to give its roots room to spread. From the tiniest beginnings, flourishing plants grow. It is no surprise that when Jesus spoke to his people in an agricultural society, he used this image to describe the growth of the Kingdom of God. In the same way, relationships within families are built on small acts of kindness and consideration. These small acts provide the foundation every family needs to grow together when facing the stresses of daily life.

Dinnertime Conversation Starter

Discuss together what you can do this week for family time. You might share a bag of popcorn and a rental movie, play a board game, take a walk, or have ice cream cones. Plan a special time when the family can be together.
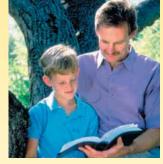
Hints for at Home

This is a good opportunity for the family to read the Bible together. You could read the mustard seed parable in Matthew 13:31–32, Mark 4:30–32, and Luke 13:18–19. Discuss the lesson that Jesus was teaching. Talk about how the wording of the parable may vary, but the message remains the same. Discuss how Jesus used simple stories to explain complex ideas.

Spirituality in Action

Encourage your child to keep in mind the small things that he or she can do to serve God's Kingdom. These may include being polite and friendly or helping friends or family members without being asked. Praise your child for doing small favors for others.

Focus on Prayer

Your child has read and talked about the parables of the mustard seed (Matthew 13:31–32) and the yeast (Matthew 13:33). Talk about these stories with your child. Help your child to understand that his or her commitment to love others serves the Kingdom of God.