



2011

Go And Make Disciples

The Cross and Beyond

Lesson 4: Jesus' Parables

Scripture

Matthew 21:23-46
 Mark 12:1-12
 Luke 20:9-18

Memory Verse

Not everyone who calls out to me, "Lord! Lord!" will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.
 Matthew 7:21 (NLT)

Lesson Goals

Learn that the son who said no, but obeyed later is the one who did the will of his father

Learn that the renters of the vineyard professed the right thing, but didn't honor the owner's as having rights to the vineyard

Understand that true faith, or belief, expresses itself in obedience

The following is a summary of the Bible story to help supplement your preparation. In your personal study time, use this summary as a guide, and make notes to help you remember your plans for the lesson. Please do **NOT** read to the children.

As we follow Jesus on His journey to the cross, we have seen Mary's love for Jesus expressed in worship. She poured perfume on His head and feet. We have also seen the crowd worship Jesus. They paved the way to Jerusalem with their coats and with palm branches and they shouted praise to Him. Then, once Jesus entered the temple, we saw His anger at those who had anything but worship on their minds.

Jesus left Jerusalem that afternoon for Bethany. He returned the next day and again went to the temple courtyard. As Jesus was teaching there, the chief priests and elders came to Him and asked Him questions. Jesus didn't always answer questions outright. Let's look at a couple of stories Jesus told instead.

The first story, or parable, that Jesus told was about a man with two sons. The man asked the first son if he would go and work in the vineyard. He answered, "No," but then changed his mind later and went. The father asked the second son the same question. He answered, "Yes," but then didn't go. "Which of the two sons did what his father wanted?," asked Jesus. (Matthew 21:31 NIV) The leaders answered that the first son had actually done what his father wanted, even though he said, "No," at first. Then, Jesus told the temple leaders that the people they considered the worst of sinners would enter God's kingdom before them! He explained why. "John came to show you the right way to live. And you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. You saw this. But even then you did not turn away from your sins and believe him." (Matthew 21:32 NIV)

Jesus immediately launched into the next story. "A man planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it. He dug a pit for a winepress. He also built a lookout tower. He rented the vineyard out to some farmers. Then he went away on a journey." (Mark 12:1 NIV) As harvest time approached, the man was ready to collect some of the fruit from his vineyard. He sent a servant to collect the fruit, but the men renting his vineyard grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him away with nothing.

The man sent another servant, but the renters mistreated him as well, beating him on the head and sending him away with nothing. "The man sent another servant. The renters killed him. The man sent many others. The renters beat up some of them. They killed the others." (Mark 12:5 NIV)

By then, the man had only one person left to send - his son. He loved his son very much and he sent him saying, "They will respect my son." The renters hadn't respected the owner's servants and they didn't respect his son. Instead they reasoned, "This is the one who will receive all the owner's property someday. Let's kill him. then everything will be ours." (Luke 20:14 NIV)

Application

If you boil these stories down to their simplest lesson, what would that be?

They are about a true heart of love . . . that leads to obedience and expresses itself in worship. What your mouth confesses isn't nearly as important as the life you live. You see, the Pharisees said they loved God and followed Him. The problem was that they didn't express it in their lives. (Matthew 7:21)

How about you? Maybe you say great things about loving God and following Him. Do your actions echo what you say?

Ecclesiastes 12:13 (CEV) says ,
“Everything you were taught can be put into a few words: Respect and obey God! This is what life is all about.” I pray that is what life is all about for you.

That is exactly what they did. They took the owner's son, threw him out of the vineyard, and they killed him.

Jesus asked the temple leaders what they thought the vineyard owner would do to the renters. “He will destroy them,” they said. Jesus answered them, “So here is what I tell you. The kingdom of God will be taken away from you. It will be given to the people who will produce its fruit.” (Matthew 21:43 NIV)

After hearing these stories, the chief priests and Pharisees “knew that Jesus was talking about them. So they looked for a way to arrest Him.” (Matthew 21:45-46 NIV) The only reason they didn't arrest Him immediately was because they were afraid of the crowd. The crowd believed that Jesus was a prophet.

Who do you believe Jesus is? Is He just another teacher to you? Is He just a prophet? Or do you realize that He is the Son in the story of the vineyard owner, God's Son, Jesus?

What do you remember about Him from the story? His father loved Him. His father sent Him to the renters. What did the renters do to Him? They killed Him. Who can tell me what John 3:16 says? (Read or quote John 3:16 together.) God gave His one and only Son. Why? Not only does He love His Son, Jesus, He also loves each of us. He loves us so much that He sent Jesus to die, paying the price of death for our sin.

What will your response be to that kind of love? Don't reject Him the way the temple leaders did. Won't you accept that gift today? Are you willing to give your life to follow Him? It's just the beginning of a wonderful adventure!

Preparing for the Next Lesson

Jesus' Parable of the Wedding Feast



Preschool Lesson

Teachers:

Bring a bunch of grapes and grape juice to class today.

Did you know that grapes like these make grape juice? What happens to the grapes to produce grape juice? They have to be mashed, or pressed, don't they?

Jesus told a story about grapes. Really, He told a story about a man who planted a vineyard. A vineyard is where lots and lots of grapes are grown. The man put a wall around his vineyard. He dug a hole for the winepress. (A winepress is the machine that mashes the grapes.) "Then the man built a lookout tower. He rented the vineyard out to some farmers. Then he went away on a journey." (Mark 12:1 NIV) When the grapes were ripe and the man was ready to collect them from his vineyard, he sent a servant to collect the fruit. The men renting his vineyard grabbed the servant, beat him up, and sent him away with nothing.

The man sent another servant, but the renters hurt him, too, beating him on the head and sending him away with nothing. "The man sent another servant. The renters killed him. The man sent many others. The renters beat up some of them. They killed the others." (Mark 12:5 NIV)

By then, the man had only one person left to send - his son. He loved his son very much and he sent him saying, "They will respect my son." But , they did not. Instead, they killed him, too. They wanted all the property that would have been the son's.

Isn't that an awful story? Jesus told this story to explain what would happen to Him on the cross. Who knows what happened to Jesus on the cross? He died. Why did He die? Mean people, like the renters, wanted Him dead. But that's not all. Jesus died because He wanted to obey God. You see, God sent Jesus to die because He loves you so much. He knows that you do bad things and He knows that you need help. Jesus came to help us get to heaven so that we can be with God forever and ever. Jesus is the way to get to God.

Thank you, Jesus, for dying for me.



Activities

- Memory Verse Activity - Print the memory verse on poster board. Cut the poster board into puzzle shapes. Encourage your students to put the puzzle together. Practice the memory verse each time the puzzle is completed.
- Encourage your students to fill out the journal/note page found on page 8. This can be used during the story to help focus your students or after the story as a review.
- Bring grapes or grape juice for a snack.
- Reenact the story of the vineyard owner, not allowing your students to be too rough with each other. Talk about the meaning of this parable.
- Sing “The Wise Man Built His House upon the Rock.” Read Matthew 7:21-27.
- Find Jerusalem on a map. Find the temple on a map of Jerusalem.
- Discuss the meaning of Jesus’ second parable. The chief priests and Pharisees knew that Jesus was talking about them. Who were they in the story? (The renters.) Talk about the vineyard owner being God, the servants being His prophets, and His son, being Jesus. What did the renters think when they saw the son coming? (Killing him so the property would be theirs.) Look up John 11:45-53 and discuss in light of the renters in this story.
- In the Amplified Bible, James 1:27 says, “External religious worship [religion as it is expressed in outward acts] that is pure and unblemished in the sight of God the Father is this: to visit and help and care for the orphans and widows in their affliction and need, and to keep oneself unspotted and uncontaminated from the world.” Discuss this verse in light of today’s lesson.
- Look up Romans 12:1 in several versions of the Bible. (Try the New Living Translation, the New International Version, the New International Reader’s Version, the Message, and the Amplified Bible.) Assign a different translation to each of your students. Discuss what this verse means to them and the way they are to live their lives.

**Not everyone who
calls out to me,
“Lord! Lord!”
will enter the
Kingdom of Heaven.
Only those who
actually do
the will of my Father
in heaven will enter.
Matthew 7:21**

Trace the letters.

Jesus spoke

by using

stories.

Focus on the Story

○
Story Title:

Scripture References:

Main Characters:

Story Summary:

When?

○
Where?

What?

How?



Word Search

P O T O J E R U S A L E M V I
C S L E V A R T L P M E T Z M
U C O S I A O R L I S E D H O
K K U D N H U K I H Y T X H U
T J S R E G N A T W O S O N S
J S E A Y H T S R F O E J O U
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Y I F T R E O M O L U R A Y E
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C A N J P A S R U R L S O N E
N P W A I S M E L A S U R E J
H E O D A N J F C H A S E S J

JERUSALEM

STORIES

OWNER

RENTERS

JESUS

TWO SONS

VINEYARD

HARVEST

PARABLES

OBEDIENCE

TRAVELS

SENT ONLY SON



Word Search

P O T O J E R U S A L E M V I
 C **S L E V A R T** L P M E T Z M
 U C O S I A O R L I S E D H O
 K K U D N H U K I H Y **T** X H U
 T J S R E G N A **T W O S O N S**
 J **S** E A Y H T S R F O E J O U
S E L B A R A P U O M V S S S
 Y I F T R E O M O L U R A Y E
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 N P **W** A I S **M E L A S U R E J**
 H E **O** D A N J F C H A S E **S** J

JERUSALEM

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TWO SONS

OBEDIENCE

OWNER

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SENT ONLY SON



Preschool Word Search

R I F O J E S H I R S U
B U F O L L O W L L Y E
F A J T R B E S O A T S
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
S A K M A N G E R Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
G R A P E S C H E S O E
D A B M K J O S N S U S
M I D T H S T O R I E S
D E A J E P R A I S E N
L A M B O F G O B E Y J
J E S U S U R C H R I T

JESUS

STORIES

VINEYARD

GRAPES

OBEY

FOLLOW



Preschool Word Search

R I F O J E S H I R S U
B U F O L L O W L L Y E
F A J T R B E S O A T S
F T R V I N E Y A R D N
S A K M A N G E R Y L S
H O W J E S H E A D D O
G R A P E S C H E S O E
D A B M K J O S N S U S
M I D T H S T O R I E S
D E A J E P R A I S E N
L A M B O F G O B E Y J
J E S U S U R C H R I T

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