

The Wicked Tenants

IDC Kids Preschool

Bible Passage: Matthew 21:33-45

Key Passage: Mark 6:34

Main Point: God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.

Christ Connection: Jesus told this story to teach the religious leaders about Himself. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth, but the religious leaders rejected Him. Jesus is the most important One of all. When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, we get to be part of God's kingdom forever.

Watch this week's [IDC Kids Online Video](#)

Talk about the Bible story

Say • Jesus told this story to teach the religious leaders about Himself. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth, but the religious leaders rejected Him. Jesus is the most important One of all. **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.** When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, we get to be part of God's kingdom forever.

Ask the following review questions:

Why did the man in the story Jesus told hire workers? (*to take care of his vineyard*)

What did the workers do with the servants the man sent to collect grapes? (*hurt them*)

What did the workers do with the vineyard owner's son? (*killed him*)

What did the religious leaders say when Jesus asked them what the man should do to the workers? (*He should punish them and find new workers.*)

Learn the big picture question

Say • Our big picture question asks, ***Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.*** The religious leaders did not understand that Jesus is the most important One of all. Jesus told this story to show them that God planned to use people who accept Him to build His kingdom.

Practice the key passage

Open your Bible to Mark 6:34. Read the key passage aloud several times.

Say • We are sinners and do not understand what God is like on our own. Jesus taught people so we can know what God and His kingdom are like and follow Him.

Activities

Follow the vine

Use yarn to mark a path around the room. Wind yarn around chairs, under tables, and over any other obstacles in your space. Use tape to secure the path. Challenge preschoolers to follow the “vine” from one end to the other.

Say • **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.** Jesus told the story about the vineyard workers to teach the religious leaders about Himself. God sent His Son, Jesus, to earth, but the religious leaders rejected Him. When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, we get to be part of God’s kingdom forever.

Gather grapes

Place the balls in the middle of the room. Tell preschoolers to pretend the balls are grapes. Form two groups on opposite sides of the room. Assign one color grape to each team. When you say “go,” children will run to the middle, grab their team’s color grapes, and place them in their team’s bucket. The first team to gather all their grapes wins!

Say • ***Why did Jesus tell stories? Jesus told stories to teach people about God.*** God had sent Jesus to earth, but the religious leaders rejected Him like the workers in the story rejected their boss.

Crush the grapes

Lead children to roll green and purple play dough into small balls to look like grapes. Direct preschoolers to “crush” the grapes by smashing the play dough on the table.

Say • At vineyards, grapes are picked and crushed to make a juice. Today’s parable took place at a vineyard. The vineyard workers rejected their boss’s servants and son. The religious leaders rejected Jesus, God’s Son. **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.**

Bubble wrap grapes

Cut bubble wrap to look like bunches of grapes. Assist preschoolers in painting their bunch purple or green and pressing it onto a sheet of construction paper. Write the main point on each preschooler’s artwork.

Say • Our story today took place at a vineyard, which is where grapes are grown. The vineyard workers rejected their boss’s servants and his son. Jesus told the story to show how the religious leaders had treated Him, God’s Son. **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.**

Busy builders

Provide plastic toy hammers, golf tees, and foam blocks. Demonstrate how to hammer a golf tee into the foam. Invite children to hammer the tees.

Say • Many people built things in our story today. The owner built a wall and a tower to protect his vineyard. Jesus talked about the cornerstone, which is the most important stone in a building. He said He is like the cornerstone. **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus.**

Low Prep Activities

Play “Follow the Leader”

Choose a preschooler to be the leader. The rest of the group will line up single file behind the leader. The leader will walk around the room performing actions while the rest of the group follows him copying his actions. After a minute or so has passed the leader moves to the back of the line and the next child in line becomes the leader. Play until each child has a chance to be the leader.

Say • Good job following the leader! In today's Bible story, Jesus was teaching some religious leaders. The religious leaders did not follow Jesus. Jesus told them a story to show them that they had made a big mistake in not following Him.

Take care of things

Invite preschoolers to pretend that they are taking care of someone's plants, pets, or baby while they are away. Set out potted plants (real or artificial), toy animals, and baby dolls. Provide a spray bottle of water for preschoolers to mist the plants. Provide bowls and leashes for preschoolers to play out feeding and walking the animals. Provide blankets and bottles to play out caring for the babies.

Say • When a person is away, she may find someone to take good care of the things that are important to her until she returns. In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. The man chose some workers to take care of the vineyard, and he went away on a trip. The workers forgot who was really in charge. Listen to the Bible story to find out more.

Activity Page

Download and print [this week's activity page](#)

Guide preschoolers to find and circle the seven things that do not belong in the picture.

Say • There were some silly things in that picture, but there are some not so silly things, too. In today's Bible story, Jesus told a story about a man who hired workers to take care of his vineyard while he was away. The workers did some very terrible things.

Pray

Say • Jesus taught that **God will judge those who do not follow Jesus**. Jesus told this story to teach the religious leaders about Himself. God sent His own Son, Jesus, to earth, but the religious leaders rejected Him. Jesus is the most important One of all. When we turn from sin and follow Jesus, we get to be part of God's kingdom forever!

Say • Jesus, You came to earth, knowing people would reject You. We praise You today for how You died on the cross and rose again to save us from sin. Amen