

KIDS ACTIVITIES

Sunday 4th October
God gives second chances



READ

There was a man who owned a vineyard. He put a wall around the vineyard and dug a hole for a winepress. Then he built a tower. He leased the land to some farmers and left for a trip. Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the man sent his servants to the farmers to get his share of the grapes. But the farmers grabbed the servants, beat one, killed another, and then killed a third servant with stones. So the man sent some other servants to the farmers. He sent more servants than he sent the first time. But the farmers did the same thing to the servants that they had done before. So the man decided to send his son to the farmers. He said, 'The farmers will respect my son.' But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, 'This is the owner's son. This vineyard will be his. If we kill him, then his vineyard will be ours!' So the farmers grabbed the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to these farmers when he comes?" The priests and leaders said, "He will surely kill those evil men. Then he will lease the vineyard to some other farmers. They will give him his share of the crop at harvest time." Jesus said to them, "Surely you have read this in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders did not want became the cornerstone. The Lord did this, and it is wonderful to us.' Psalm 118:22-23 "So I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you. It will be given to people who do the things God wants in his kingdom. The person who falls on this stone will be broken. But if the stone falls on him, he will be crushed." The leading priests and the Pharisees heard these stories that Jesus told. They knew he was talking about them. They wanted to arrest him. But they were afraid of the people, because the people believed that Jesus was a prophet.



Matthew 21:33-46 (ICB)



THINK

- Can you think of a time you have forgiven someone?
- Was it easy to forgive them or did you find it difficult?
- Have there been any times when you haven't been able to forgive someone who hurt or upset you?

Why would Jesus tell a story like this? Well, parables always have a lesson. In this lesson, Jesus was telling the church rulers and teachers that they were missing something, or someONE rather. God is patient, and gives us a lot of second chances. God tried to help His people. He sent prophets to warn them, but a lot of people ignored and hurt the prophets. Finally, God sent His son, and the church leaders still didn't listen. They missed the most important message possible. Jesus was almost predicting His own death here by describing the killing of the vineyard owner's son. He knew that He would have to die. But He also said that "the stone the builders rejected will become the cornerstone." A cornerstone is an important piece of a building. Jesus was explaining that by His own death, He would build the church. The church would no longer just be for people who always seemed to say or do the right things and follow rules. The church would be built by other people, like the disciples...and US! We can rejoice in the fact that God gives us second chances, and that He has given Jesus as the greatest second chance. We can also be glad that He lets us be part of His plan to build the church and make disciples. Don't reject the good news of Jesus. Believe it and embrace it as a precious treasure!



Pray

Dear God,

Thank you for sending your son Jesus
Thank you for giving us second chances
Even when we keep making mistakes
Help us to show love to one another
Thank you for your love
In Jesus name, Amen!

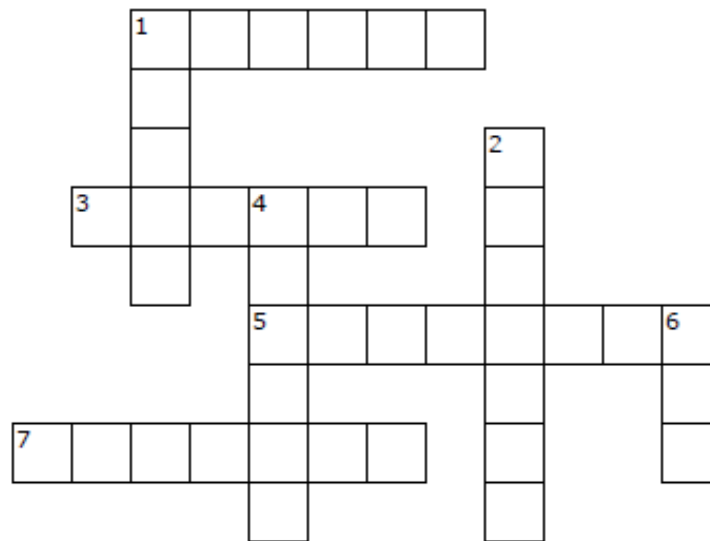
The Parable of the Tenants

Last of all, he sent his son to them. 'They will respect my son,' he said. Matthew 21:37 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 21:33-46 (NIV)



the stone that the builders
rejected has become the
corner stone...
Matthew 21:42



ACROSS

1. A person who works with plants and flowers
3. To put to death
5. People employed to perform services for another person
7. The time or season for gathering crops

DOWN

1. The part of a vine or tree which is eaten
2. A simple story teaching a moral or religious lesson
4. To hear or pay attention to something
6. A parent's male child

PARABLE
SERVANTS

LISTEN
SON

KILLED
FRUIT

HARVEST
FARMER

