

Welcome to SPC Kids Corner!

Sunday, November 19, 2023

ISRAEL, GOD'S VINEYARD

Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

Key Verse:

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1

The Point:

God calls us to love and respect others.

Making Connections:

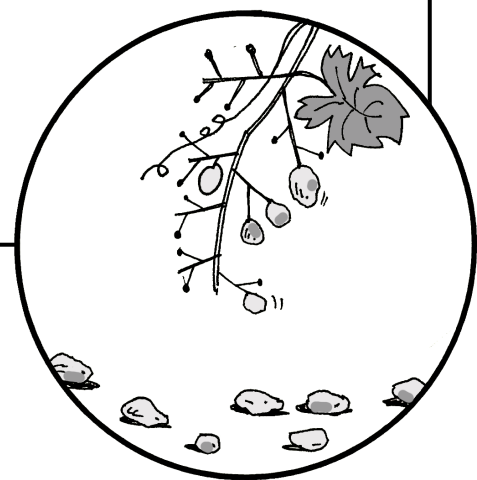
Our Sin, God's Faithfulness

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Meaning of Justice

Spiritual Practice:

Fellowship



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

Last week's lesson from Hosea paints a picture of God as a loving and compassionate parent whose children will not be separated from God's immense love even through their disobedience. It is amazing that grace always prevails when dealing with a God of love and passion. Today's verses from Isaiah continue that theme, this time portraying God as a loving gardener who sows, plants, and tends perfectly, yet is still faced with a disobedient creation lacking justice and faithfulness. Once again, we hear of grace and new beginnings that are not due to our ability to follow God's laws, but based instead on God's grace and abundant love.

Story Summary:

Israel, God's Vineyard

The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of a gardener who creates a perfect plot to grow grapes: fertile soil, choice vines, and attentive care. Even in these ideal conditions, the vines do not produce the expected fruit, and judgment comes. In this story the gardener is God and the vineyard is the people of Israel and Judah. Even in the midst of God's loving care, the prophet points out injustice, bloodshed, and unrighteousness.

Therefore, the vineyard will no longer be protected. The hedges and walls guarding it shall be destroyed and the vineyard will be overcome by weeds and thorns. God loves God's people so much that injustice cannot be allowed to prevail. Yet once the destruction is complete, words of hope emerge in the form of a promise: New growth will emerge that comes from the Lord. Righteousness will be delivered by a God who is more powerful than sin or death.

The Point

God calls us to love and respect others. God wants us to love and care for one another by sharing love, justice, and peace. This passage in Isaiah helps us to know that God hears the cries of the people who experience bloodshed, injustice, and tears. We are called, as people of God, to also hear these cries and respond with love and mercy.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

The Meaning of Justice

In our thinking, justice is often connected to retribution or the court system. In the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), justice is understood as having its source in God. Justice is both from God and a part of God's intention for the world. The phrase "justice and righteousness" is used throughout the Hebrew Bible. It usually means that the king has an obligation to protect poor or otherwise vulnerable people. The Hebrew Bible's concept of justice calls us to end the conditions that bring about injustice. Justice leads us toward wholeness and well-being for all.

Spiritual Practice: Fellowship

God takes our shortcomings and inadequacies and transforms them into new growth, challenging us to live together in ever-changing, ever-growing relationships. Times of growth and change can be frightening, but we can support one another through these challenging times by sharing God's love with each other.



JUSTICE AND PEACE

Explore what God wants from us.

What do these words mean to you?

JUSTICE:

PEACE:

What does God have to say about them?

Deuteronomy 10:18

Amos 5:24

Psalms 34:14

Matthew 5:9

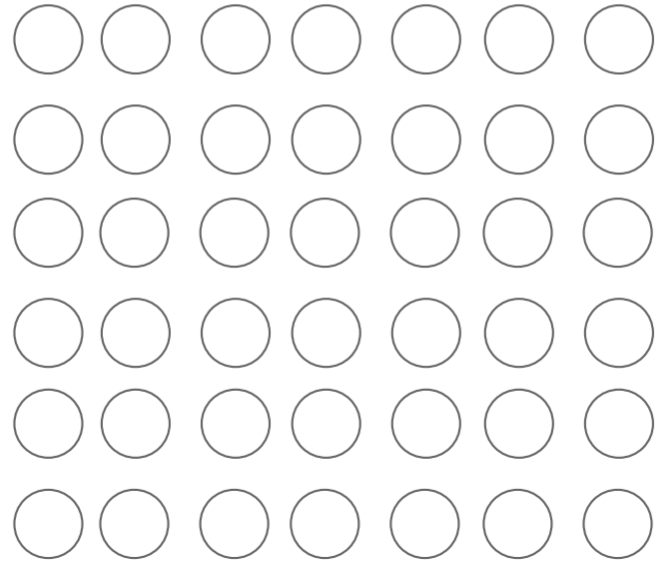
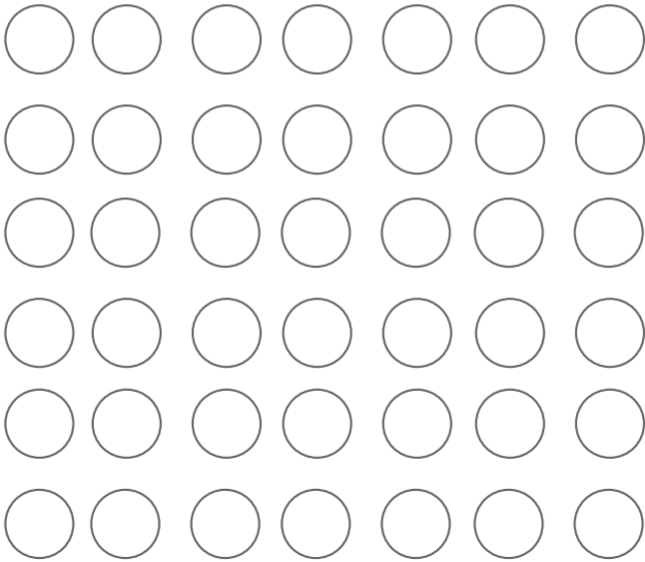
Matthew 23:23

John 14:27



A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Isaiah 11:1

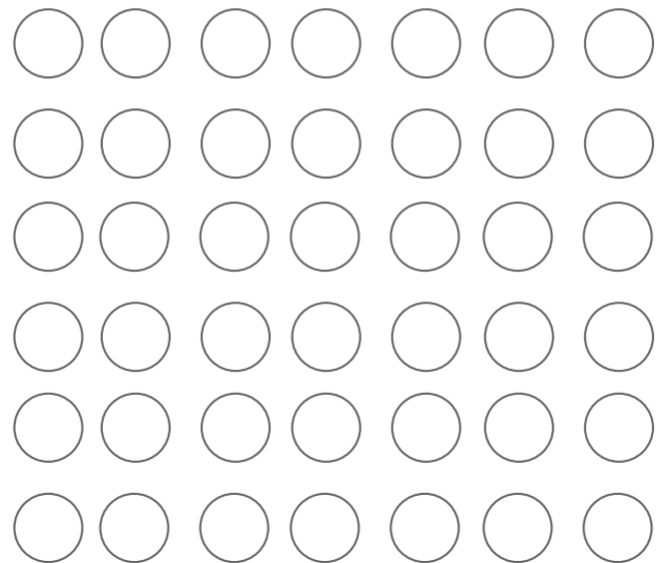
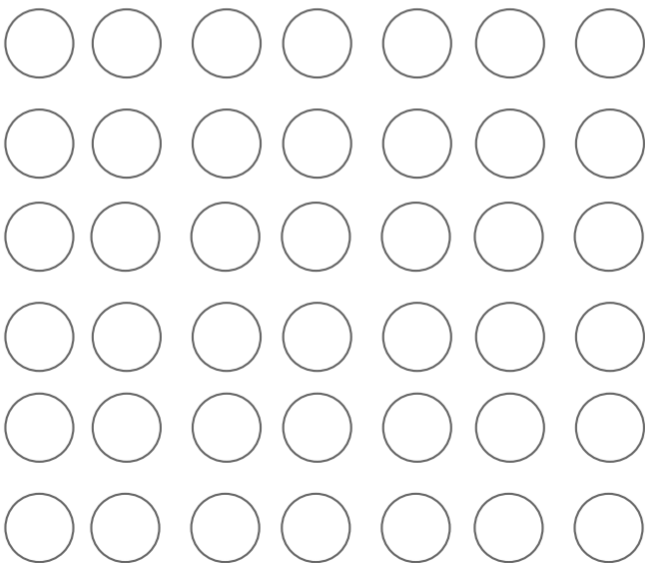


CONNECT 4 IN A ROW



How to Play:

This Simple Game Requires players to color in 4 circles in a row to win this can be in any direction, we also recommend laminating this sheet of paper and using dry erase markers to reuse this game more then once. Have Fun!



SPROUTING IN LOVE

Take it home and watch it grow.

DIRECTIONS

Today in class, we began the process of growing sprouts. We heard the story of God being a loving gardener who creates growth from what appeared dead. Although seeds appear dead, they are not. To complete the process at home, please do the following:

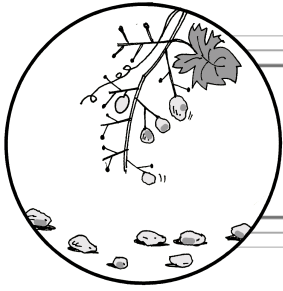
1. Leave the seeds soaking in the water for approximately 24 hours.
2. Then drain the water through the cheesecloth.
3. Rinse the seeds by adding some water, swishing it, and draining it again.
4. Repeat step 3 two times per day.
5. In three to seven days, you should have some sprouts growing.
6. When you see the growth, read Isaiah 11:1 together.

NOTE: Please do not eat these sprouts. Unless cared for under closely supervised and controlled conditions, they can be easily contaminated.

Family Conversation Starters:

- **God is a loving gardener who cares for creation.** Have you ever grown a garden? What is the best part about being a gardener? What is the most difficult?
- **Even after all the care God gave it, the vineyard produced rotten grapes.** Tell about a time you worked hard but did not get the results you hoped for. What helped you feel better?
- **God was angry because God's people were not treating one another with justice and fairness.** Name one way you can work for justice and fairness this week.

Prayer: God of growth and love, you have created an amazing world and you care for each one of us. Help us to care for, love, and serve one another. Amen.



THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story
Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2023-2024)

Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

LAST WEEK

The prophet Hosea speaks God's message, showing God as a loving and anguished parent (Hosea 11:1-9).

THIS WEEK

Isaiah uses the image of God as a planter, while Israel and Judah are the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5).

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Meaning of Justice

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PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

God takes our shortcomings and inadequacies and transforms them into new growth, challenging us to live together in ever-changing, ever-growing relationships. Times of growth and change can be frightening, but we can support one another by sharing God's love with each other.

THE POINT

God calls us to love and respect others.

STORY SUMMARY

The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of a gardener who creates a perfect plot to grow grapes: fertile soil, choice vines, and attentive care. Even in these ideal conditions, the vines do not produce the expected fruit, and judgment comes. In this story the gardener is God and the vineyard is the people of Israel and Judah. Even in the midst of God's loving care, the prophet points out injustice, bloodshed, and unrighteousness. Therefore, the vineyard will no longer be protected. The hedges and walls guarding it shall be destroyed and the vineyard will be overcome by weeds and thorns. God loves God's people so much that injustice cannot be allowed to prevail. Yet once the destruction is complete, God gives a promise of hope: New growth will emerge that comes from God. Righteousness will be delivered by God who is more powerful than sin or death.

NEXT WEEK

King Josiah's faithful reforms bring the people of Judah back to the worship of their God (2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3).

Family Discussions

Use the questions below or other questions you think of to discuss today's Scripture reading (listed above) with your family.

- ✚ In what way does this text teach about the theme of Our Sin, God's Faithfulness?
- ✚ What does this Scripture have to do with our lives today?
- ✚ What part of this Scripture is the most interesting to you? Why?

Family Devotions

As you hear and study these stories each week, consider what God has to say to you and your family. What is God's message to us? How should we respond?

Sunday—Read Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

Israel, God's vineyard.

Pretend to be the animals named in the Bible story. Tell a story to one another about a lamb and a wolf who are friends.

Monday—Read 2 Kings 18:1-8

King Hezekiah reigns.

King Hezekiah was 25 years old when he began his reign. Talk about what you were doing or hope to be doing where you were (or will be) 25 years old.

Tuesday—Read 2 Kings 18:13-18

The Assyrian attack.

Gather all the silver (colored) coins that you can find in your house. Make a plan as a family how to use those coins for good.

Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 18:28-37

The Assyrians challenge God.

How do you respond when you hear people challenging your faith in God?

Thursday—Read 2 Kings 19:1-2, 5-7, 29-37

Jerusalem is saved.

How do you think God would save a city today?

Friday—Read 2 Kings 20:1-11

Hezekiah's sickness.

Say a prayer together thanking God for medical workers who work to heal us.

Saturday—Read 2 Kings 21:1-9

A bad king.

What are some things that take us away from God?