

Welcome to SPC Kids Corner!

Sunday, March 3, 2024

THE WICKED TENANTS

Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]

Key Verse:

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.”
Mark 12:10

The Point:

We are called to serve God and build God’s kingdom.

Making Connections:

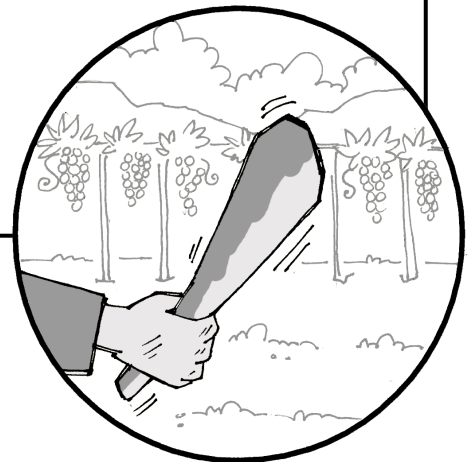
The Call to Serve

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Difficult Passages

Spiritual Practice:

Service



BACKGROUND

Making Connections

In our last lesson, we read about Jesus' healing of Bartimaeus and his call to be a servant. In this lesson, Jesus responds to the temple priests who are questioning his authority to teach. We should consider not just how our willingness to serve brings God's kingdom, but how our selfishness rejects God's kingdom. We are called to give to God what is God's—which is everything we have.

Story Summary:

The Wicked Tenants

Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem and is teaching about what will happen to him. When he tells the Parable of the Wicked Tenants, the religious leaders realize that he is speaking against them and confront him with questions meant to trap him. Jesus had just made the accusation that the religious leaders were going to kill him. They wanted to arrest him, but were afraid of the people. Jesus had gained a critical mass and was too popular now to be dealt with easily. This would change their contentious relationship and bring it to a new level.

The religious leaders often questioned Jesus in the hopes of getting him to say something to which they could object. The second challenge in today's lesson is no different. They ask Jesus whether they should pay taxes to the Roman emperor. Their intention is to get Jesus either to say they should not pay their taxes, thereby angering the government; or they should, thereby angering the Jewish listeners because of the obligations forced upon them by an oppressive regime. But Jesus reminds his listeners that they should honor all the gifts they receive, even those that come from an unexpected source.

The Point

We are called to serve God and build God's kingdom. When we realize how much we are blessed by others and how we bless them, our connection to them is strengthened. We are joyous in the realization that God moves through us and with us to make the world a better place.

Bible Nuts & Bolts:

Difficult Passages

The Bible has difficult passages that are hard for us to understand or accept. First, it is important to understand the historical context. Sometimes, things were acceptable in the biblical context that are no longer acceptable today, and other things were simply understood differently. Second, there may be a difficulty in translation. Some issues arise out of trying to translate the original biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into our modern languages. Finally, one can use the central message of Scripture—God's love and forgiveness—as a way to interpret other passages. At the core of the entire Bible is God's deep love for God's people.

Spiritual Practice: Service

Jesus' answer to the religious leaders' challenge was to remind them that their connection extended beyond the Jewish community and into the world around them. They needed to broaden their understanding of how God moved in the world, and how blessing came their way. Consequently, their understanding of gratitude ought to have expanded.



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

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

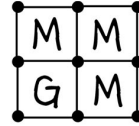
LISTEN	WATCHTOWER	PARABLE	SON	SERVANTS
SENT	WALL	HARVEST	KILLED	COLLECT
BUILT	LANDOWNER	LAST	TIME	FARMERS
BUG	FRUIT	REJECTED	VINEYARD	JOURNEY



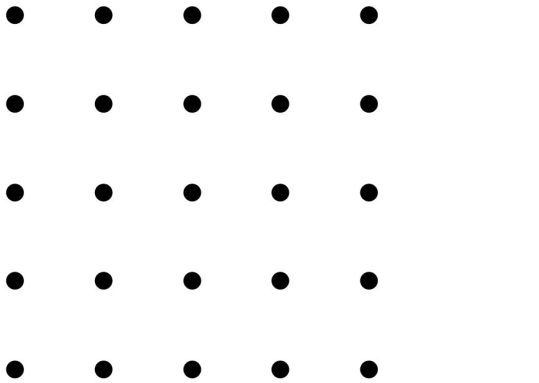
Dots and Boxes

Play: Each player takes turn drawing one line between two dots (no diagonals!) If that line completes a square, the player writes their initial in the box and draws another line. Play continues until all dots have been connected. The player with the most boxes wins!

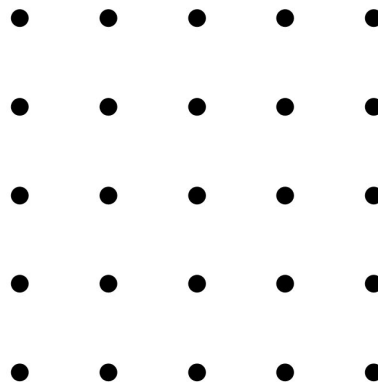
sample: M wins!



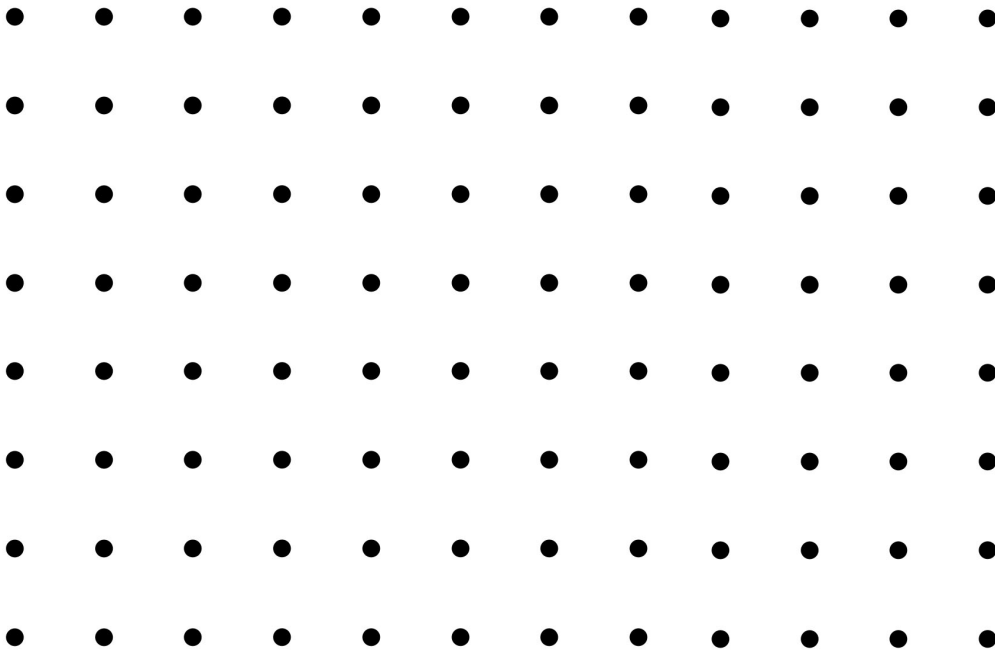
Game 1

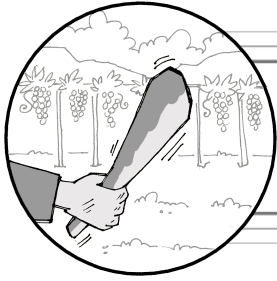


Game 2



Game 3





THE STORY @ HOME

**KIDS
3RD-6TH**

NL

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

Lesson #2-25
Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]

LAST WEEK

Jesus teaches his disciples as they walk toward Jerusalem. James and John ask for places of honor, but Jesus teaches that the kingdom of God is not about places of honor, but about service to others (Mark 10:32-52).

THIS WEEK

Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem, and is teaching in the temple. The religious leaders there confront him with questions meant to trap him (Mark 12:1-12 [13-17]).

STORY SUMMARY

The Wicked Tenants

Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem and is teaching about what will happen to him. When he tells today's parable, the religious leaders realize that he is speaking against them and confront him with questions meant to trap him. Jesus had just made the accusation that the religious leaders were going to kill him. They wanted to arrest him, but were afraid of the people. Jesus had gained a critical mass, and was too popular now to be dealt with easily. This would change their contentious relationship and bring it to a new level.

PRACTICE SERVICE

Jesus' answer to the religious leaders' challenge was to remind them that their connection extended into the world around them. They needed to broaden their understanding of how God moved in the world, and how blessing came their way. You have been making plans for your family service event. It is time to do your service project together!

THE POINT

We are called to serve God and build God's kingdom.

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

Difficult Passages

The Bible has difficult passages that are hard for us to understand or accept. When we encounter them, first, it is important to understand the historical context. Sometimes, things were acceptable in the biblical context that are no longer acceptable today, and other things were simply understood differently. Second, there may be a difficulty in translation. Some issues arise out of trying to translate the original biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into our modern languages. Finally, one can use the central message of Scripture—God's love and forgiveness—as a way to interpret other passages. At the core of the entire Bible is God's deep love for God's people.

NEXT WEEK

Jesus teaches in the temple about loving God and loving neighbor. He then criticizes those who make a show of their giving and praises the widow who is willing to give all that she has to God's kingdom (Mark 12:28-44).

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 The Call to Serve?
- ✚ 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 Mark 12:13-17

Taxes to the emperor

Have a family conversation of three ways you can serve God this week—either in the church or in the world.

Monday—Read Mark 12:18-27

Debate on the resurrection.

More difficult teachings that sounds like riddles. Share your favorite riddle with each other.

Tuesday—Read Mark 12:18-27

The greatest commandment.

Cut out two hearts from construction paper. On one write, "Love God" and on the other "Love Your Neighbor." Run a string through both hearts and hang them somewhere you will see them regularly.

Wednesday—Read Deuteronomy 6:1-5

Hear, O Israel.

Search the Internet to learn what about a mezuzah. How does this relate to this passage?

Thursday—Read Leviticus 19:13-18

Love your neighbor.

Do something kind for one of your neighbors.

Friday—Read Hosea 6:1-6

Steadfast love, not sacrifice.

Give each family member an adhesive bandage. Invite them to write the name of someone who is sad, hurt, or sick and needs prayers. Put the bandage on your body and pray for them until it falls off.

Saturday—Read Mark 12:35-40

Son of David.

Read the Christmas story together from Luke 2.