

# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Doodle it:** As you tell the story, draw doodles to illustrate different parts of the story. Draw a large rectangle for the vineyard wall, stick figures for the servants, small circles for clusters of grapes, and a crowned stick figure for the landowner's son. Each time the tenants injure or kill one sent by the landowner, draw an X over that person's stick figure.

## The Wicked Tenants

*Matthew 21:33-45*

Jesus was teaching in the temple. He told the religious leaders to listen to this story: “A landowner planted a vineyard. He built a wall around the vineyard and dug a pit for crushing grapes. He also built a tower. The landowner rented the vineyard to some tenants and left the country.

“When it was time for the harvest, the owner sent some servants to get his grapes. But the tenants grabbed the servants. They beat up one servant, killed another, and threw stones at a third.

“So the owner sent more servants to his vineyard, but the tenants attacked them, too.

“Finally, the owner sent his son. He expected the tenants to respect him. But the tenants threw the son out of the vineyard and killed him.”

Jesus asked, “When the owner comes back to the vineyard, what do you think he should do to those tenants?”

The religious leaders answered, “They deserve to die! The owner should rent the vineyard to people who respect him.”

Jesus replied, “Don’t you know what the Scriptures say?

“The stone that the builders tossed aside is now the cornerstone—the most important stone of all. God did this, and it is amazing to us.”

Then Jesus said, “So I tell you, God’s kingdom will be taken away from you and given to people who do what He commands. Anyone who trips over this stone will be broken to pieces, and this stone will crush anyone it falls on.”

**When the religious leaders heard Jesus' story, they knew that Jesus was talking about them.**

*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 cornerstone—the most important One of all. Only He can save us from our sin.*



**WANT TO  
DISCOVER  
GOD'S WORD?  
GET  
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that the Pharisees said the vineyard owner should find faithful servants. Jesus' parable hints that God would raise up followers from all nations, united by the gospel. (Acts 1:8) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out [www.lifeway.com/devotionals](http://www.lifeway.com/devotionals).



# Vine Words



**INSTRUCTIONS:** Find and circle the words from the word bank. Words can be vertical, horizontal, or diagonal.



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

**WORD SEARCH:**

- Tenant
- Jesus
- Vineyard
- Grapes
- Son
- Wicked
- Attack
- Death

**KEY PASSAGE:** Mark 6:34

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:**

- Why did Jesus tell parables?  
Jesus told parables to teach people about God and His kingdom.

**BIBLE STORY:**

**THE WICKED TENANTS**

- Jesus told a parable about a man who built a vineyard.
- He entrusted his vineyard to men to grow grapes and take care of the land.
- The men did not listen to the servants the owner sent to collect the grapes. They even killed the owner's son.
- The parable showed how Jesus would be rejected.
- God will judge those who reject Jesus.

**FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:**

- Why did the men kill the owner's son?
- Who did the son represent?

**FAMILY ACTIVITY:**

- Work with your kids to develop a plan of action if they are ever bullied or threatened by other people. Talk about how to love people who don't love Jesus.



## The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



**God rules.** Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



**We sinned.** Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



**God provided.** Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



**Jesus gives.** Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



**We respond.** Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.