

THE STORY

God loved his people. He told them over and over again what He wanted them to know and what He wanted them to do. But they didn't seem to understand or take any notice. Eventually, He sent Jesus, His own Son. Jesus said and did many things to help people understand what God had been telling them all the time.

Just before He died, Jesus told this parable to the people He was teaching in the temple courts:

A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. He sent another servant, but that one also was beaten and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. He sent a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

Then the owner of the vineyard said, "What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him."

But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. "This is the heir," they said. "Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours." So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

Then Jesus asked, "What will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others."

When the people heard this, they said, "May this never be!"

They understood that God was the owner of the vineyard in the story, and that they were like the farmers. They understood that one day God would stop giving them more chances. God wants us to realise how much He loves us, to repent of our sin, and to do His will.

FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture, the story & the children's activities. Read the parable of the tenants in Matthew 21:33-46 or Luke 20:9-19, or in a Bible story book.
- Read some other parables. Adults and older children look at the way parables help us understand about God.
- Talk about opportunities God gives you to experience his love (eg. Through baptism). Thank God for these opportunities.
- Talk about the roles of tenants and share farmers. Explain their responsibilities towards the owners of the property they are using. How is this similar to our responsibility to God for His love to us?



PRAYER

O Lord, there has never been patience or love like Your patience towards us. Give us repentant hearts. Help us to recognise, love, and follow the Son You sent to us, and to sing His praise all our days. Amen.



THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

Matthew 21:33-46

The owner sent his son to the vineyard.
Who sent His Son for us?



God is patient
and forgives us
for Jesus' sake.

To do about the picture.

1. Put an angry mouth on the tenant farmer.
2. Count the bunches of grapes.
3. Draw more grapes in the basket. Draw some more baskets of grapes.
4. Put a letter in the hand of the man that was sent to the tenant farmer.

Bible Verse
**Your kingdom
come.**
Romans 6:23

- The patience of God
- The pastor gives a message from God each Sunday. God is patient and does not expect us to remember everything the first time. The pastor tells us each Sunday and over and over again how much God loves us and that He forgives us when we sin for Jesus' sake.

Write T for True and F for False.

- ___ In Jesus' parable, a man planted a pretty flower.
- ___ He rented the vineyard to the farmers.
- ___ At harvest time the owner sent a letter.
- ___ The farmers ignored the servant and gave him no food.
- ___ The farmers beat up two more servants and also gave them nothing.
- ___ The owner sent his daughter whom he loved.
- ___ The farmers respected the son.
- ___ The farmers would lose the vineyard and it would be given to others.
- ___ God wants us to repent of our sin and to do his will.



Bible Verse
I will send
my Son
whom I love.
 Luke 20:13

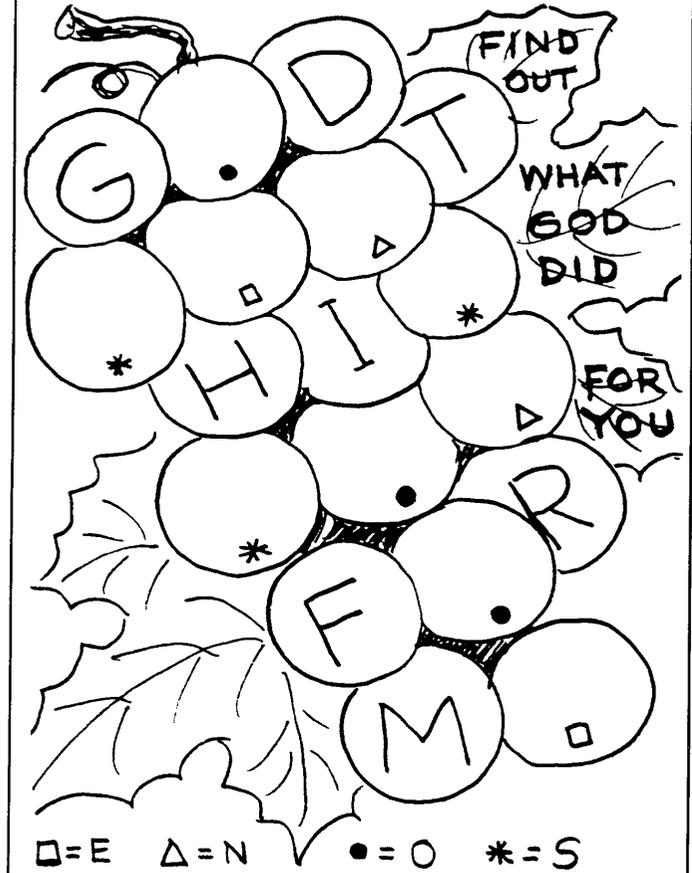
God's patience

In Jesus' parable, the owner of the vineyard was patient with the tenants.

God is very patient with us.

We keep on doing wrong things. We tell God we are sorry for everything we have done wrong, and that we will try to behave the way He wants us to. God does not get tired of us saying sorry and asking Him to forgive us.

He patiently says to us again and again: "I forgive you all your sins."



God shows us his amazing love and patience in this parable to his sinful and rebellious people, including us.

Something to think about and discuss

Our story is a parable. It is a kind of picture story that teaches us important things about God and his kingdom.

Who do you think the man who owns the vineyard is a picture of?

Who do the farmers represent?

If the man is God, who is his Son?

What happened to the Son whom God sent?

What does God want us to do?

[repent and believe in Jesus]



What does it mean for you that God is patient?

WHAT IS GOD LIKE ?

was the vineyard owner like

The mystery letters will tell you.

I am in pat but not in fat
 I am in bay but not in boy
 I am in tea but not in ear
 I am in pin but not in pan
 I am in men but not in man
 I am in pen but not in pet
 I am in tan but not in fan

How about you?

Read Romans 12:12

¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.

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BIBLE VERSE
THE LORD IS PATIENT
WITH YOU,
NOT WANTING
ANYONE TO PERISH,
BUT EVERYONE TO
COME TO
REPENTANCE.
2 PETER 3:9



Put in the words in bold to make the story true.

killed nothing others owner repent servant son tenants vineyard

In Jesus' parable, a man planted a _____.

The _____ rented the vineyard to tenant farmers.

At harvest time the owner sent a _____.

The _____ beat the servant and sent him away with nothing.

The tenants beat two more servants and also gave them _____.

The owner sent his _____ whom he loved.

The tenants _____ the son.

The vineyard would be given to _____.

God wants us to _____ of our sin and to do his will.



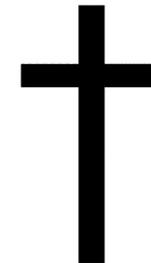
Confession and Absolution

In our service in church God comes to us with His free gift of forgiveness of sins through Jesus. God reminds us about this parable with these words: *'God forbid that any of you reject His grace and forgiveness by refusing to repent and believe, and your sins therefore remain unforgiven.'*

God gives us lots of extra chances the whole time we are alive, but if we keep on rejecting Him, He will finally have to reject us.

Confess [admit sin]
 Repent [want to change]
 Believe [God forgives you for Jesus' sake]

YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN



Refuse to confess
 Refuse to repent
 Refuse to believe

YOUR SINS REMAIN UNFORGIVEN

REMEMBER, THE CROSS IS THERE FOR EVERYONE.
Jesus died for all people.