

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 23rd February 2025

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| TITLE: | The Parable of the Tenants in the Vineyard Luke 20:9-19 |
| THEME: | Jesus speaks out against the failings of Israel to obey God |
| AIM: | Understand that we have a responsibility to serve and honour God |

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Jesus has just entered Jerusalem for the final time, and was proclaimed King and Messiah by the crowds. (Palm Sunday). Now He is in the temple teaching and this parable is a thinly veiled attack on the religious establishment and their failure to nurture the people spiritually. They have seized control and power of God's people and are leading them astray. The parable is a warning about what God will do. It is prophetic and also personal to us today as we too can be like the Pharisees and seek to turn our faith to our advantage and not for the glory of God.

WARM UP

Play: who is this villain? See PPT . What makes a villain bad? Who is the worst storybook villain?

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1: Read the passage Luke 20:9-19. The story is an allegory where the characters represent real people and a powerful message is hidden within the story.

1. **In pairs or threes.** Use the matching cards to work out who is who in the story. Get feedback.
2. Use comparison sheet to highlight similarities between the poem in Isaiah and the parable. (highlighter pens available)

Key teaching point: Jesus always told stories that people would connect to. Everyone would have known the song of the Vineyard from Isaiah. It was something they probably learned by heart! Jesus deliberately uses the style of the poem to tell His parable. The people listening would have understood who each character was supposed to be. That's why v 19 is key. The leaders understood Jesus was having a dig at them.

Activity 2. Discuss as a group... What do you think Jesus was trying to tell the people? What was His message? *"The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone"* **What does this mean?**

Key teaching point: Jesus was wanting to reveal two things. Firstly, that Israel's disobedience and failure to act justly had not gone unnoticed by God. That God was going to hold them accountable and their status as God's chosen to reveal Him to others was about to be removed! Secondly that Jesus Himself was God's son and He was going to be rejected by them but also be the key to the future.

Activity 3. Jesus the unstoppable force

Watch one or both of the clips... What is the situation for the good guy? Why does it look like evil will win? (they appear undefeatable, unstoppable, in a position of total power)

In reality ...What is there in the parable that gives us confidence that justice will be done and Jesus will win /has won?

Key teaching point: Normally in books and films the bad guy appears to be an unstoppable force, with the good guys bravely putting up some resistance. The good guys eventually win but often it is only temporary and evil returns. But here Jesus is the unstoppable force. Evil and the bad guys are no match for Jesus. They are turfed out and the vineyard given to new tenants.

Activity 4. The People's reaction to God's justice.

Read v 15,

1. Why do the people react with "may this never be"? What are they referring to? The son being killed or the expulsion of the tenants?
2. What is your reaction to the end of the parable? Are you like the Pharisees and leaders who were angry because they were caught out? Or do you sympathise with the vineyard owner? Would you like to be a new tenant?

Key teaching point: The people were horrified because God was going to: 1 hold them accountable. 2 punish them with death. 3. Hand over their special position as "chosen" to others. (NB individual Jews who believed in Jesus were part of the new tenancy. But Nation of Jews were no longer the "chosen".)

We are either a bad tenant or a new tenant. We have either rejected Jesus and have claimed the world as our own OR we acknowledge Him as the rightful ruler and submit to Him. There is no other option. Where are you now? Under God's judgment like the bad tenants or enjoying the benefits of life in His Kingdom?

TAKEAWAY

Will you be a good tenant or a bad one? We all have a choice to make about Jesus? What is your choice?

Spend time in quiet reflection.... End with a prayer

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES/ RESOURCES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IOT2pFCvA> Star wars

[Goldfinger - Laser Scene HD](#)