



The Story @ Home

3rd-6th

Living the Word: Teaching Kids God's Story

Narrative Lectionary, Year 2 (2019-2020)

Lesson #2-27

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

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 powerful 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 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. 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

How Can We Think About 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 translation issue. Some issues arise out of trying to translate the original biblical languages of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek into English. 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 some 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 wounded 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.