

THE STORY @ HOME

KIDS 3RD-6TH NL

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

Lesson #2-11
Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5

LAST WEEK

The prophet Hosea speaks God's message, showing God as a loving and anguished parent (Hosea 11:1-9).

THIS WEEK

Isaiah uses the image of God as a planter, while Israel and Judah are the vineyard (Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5).

BIBLE NUTS & BOLTS

The Meaning of Justice

In our thinking, justice is often connected to retribution or the court system. In the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament), justice is understood as having its source in God. Justice is both from God and a part of God's intention for the world. The phrase "justice and righteousness" is used throughout the Hebrew Bible. It usually means that the king has an obligation to protect poor or otherwise vulnerable people. The Hebrew Bible's concept of justice calls us to end the conditions that bring about injustice. Justice leads us toward wholeness and well-being for all.

PRACTICE: FELLOWSHIP

God takes our shortcomings and inadequacies and transforms them into new growth, challenging us to live together in ever-changing, ever-growing relationships. Times of growth and change can be frightening, but we can support one another by sharing God's love with each other.

THE POINT

God calls us to love and respect others.

STORY SUMMARY

The prophet Isaiah paints a beautiful picture of a gardener who creates a perfect plot to grow grapes: fertile soil, choice vines, and attentive care. Even in these ideal conditions, the vines do not produce the expected fruit, and judgment comes. In this story the gardener is God and the vineyard is the people of Israel and Judah. Even in the midst of God's loving care, the prophet points out injustice, bloodshed, and unrighteousness. Therefore, the vineyard will no longer be protected. The hedges and walls guarding it shall be destroyed and the vineyard will be overcome by weeds and thorns. God loves God's people so much that injustice cannot be allowed to prevail. Yet once the destruction is complete, God gives a promise of hope: New growth will emerge that comes from God. Righteousness will be delivered by God who is more powerful than sin or death.

NEXT WEEK

King Josiah's faithful reforms bring the people of Judah back to the worship of their God (2 Kings 22:1-10, [11-20]; 23:1-3).

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TRY IT @ HOME

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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 Our Sin, God's Faithfulness?
- 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 Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 Israel, God's vineyard. Pretend to be the animals named in the Bible story. Tell a story to one another about a lamb and a wolf who are friends.
Monday—Read 2 Kings 18:1-8 King Hezekiah reigns. King Hezekiah was 25 years old when he began his reign. Talk about what you were doing or hope to be doing where you were (or will be) 25 years old.
Tuesday—Read 2 Kings 18:13-18 The Assyrian attack. Gather all the silver (colored) coins that you can find in your house. Make a plan as a family how to use those coins for good.
Wednesday—Read 2 Kings 18:28-37 The Assyrians challenge God. How do you respond when you hear people challenging your faith in God?
Thursday—Read 2 Kings 19:1-2, 5-7, 29-37 Jerusalem is saved. How do you think God would save a city today?
Friday—Read 2 Kings 20:1-11 Hezekiah's sickness. Say a prayer together thanking God for medical workers who work to heal us.
Saturday—Read 2 Kings 21:1-9 A bad king. What are some things that take us away from God?

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