

**Sunday, October 5, 2008**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Preparation:**

Read the Gospel for the day over – [Matthew 21: 33-46](#), Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/propera22.htm>

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/second-chance.html>

[http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum\\_n.htm](http://children.calvarychapel.com/site/curriculum_n.htm) - scroll down the page and look for #223

<http://www.ebibleteacher.com/children/lessons/twosons.pdf>

**Gathering:**

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth (optional)

Newsprint and markers

Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. If you have the green cloth put it down and place the candle on it and put the Bible near the candle (you may want to let the children help with this). Write the prayer up on the newsprint so that everyone can see it. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

**Loving God be with us today,**

**Loving Jesus be with us today,**

**Loving Spirit be with us today,**

**Amen.**

Blow out the candle. Ask the children how they know something is right or wrong. (*Some possible answers could be their parents, teachers, the minister, or by following the rules.*) Ask the children what happens when someone breaks the rules? (*Some possible answers could be getting punished, or making things right.*) Explain that in today's story Jesus is going to tell a story about people who know what is right but do the wrong thing anyway. Ask them to listen carefully to hear who does the wrong thing and if anyone does the right thing.

**Story Time:**

*Materials needed:*

Teach the children the following song to the tune of Freres Jacques:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?**

**Do you know? Do you know?**

**Teaching all the people,**

**To follow God, to follow God.**

Jesus had been teaching in the temple for many days. He saw that many people were coming to see what he had to say. Jesus knew that not everything he had to say would be comfortable to listen to. Jesus knew that God wanted him to tell the truth to the people and the leaders. So Jesus decided to tell them a story.

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
Teaching all the people,  
To follow God, to follow God.**

There once was a man who owned lots and lots of land. He decided to take some of his land and put a big fence around it. He had the land made ready for planting. He planted grape vines on the land. As the grapes grew he had a watchtower built – to watch over the land. Then the land owner had a wine press made to make wine out of the grapes when they were harvested. Finally he leased the land to tenants to have them take care of the land for him.

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
Teaching all the people,  
To follow God, to follow God.**

Harvest time came. The tenants harvested the grapes. They made so much wine. It was a very good harvest. The landlord sent some servants to collect his share of the harvest. The tenants took those servants and beat them all up.

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
Teaching all the people,  
To follow God, to follow God.**

The landlord decided to send some more servants to get his share of the harvest. The tenants took those servants and beat them all up as well. The landlord decided that he needed to send his son. He said, “Surely they will listen to my son. Surely they will give him the same care that they would give to me. Surely I will get my share of the harvest now.”

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
Teaching all the people,  
To follow God, to follow God.**

When the tenants saw that the landlord had sent the son they said to themselves: “We are going to have to do something drastic. We need to grab the landlord’s son. We are going to have to kill him. That way we can get the gift his father has ready for him.”

The son comes and the tenants grab him. They beat him up and they kill him.

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?  
Do you know? Do you know?  
Teaching all the people,  
To follow God, to follow God.**

Jesus looked at the people who were listening to his story. Jesus asked them a question, “What do you think the landlord is going to do when he finds out that his son is dead?”

The people said to them, “The landlord is going to have those tenants arrested and he will give his vineyard to tenants that will give him his share of the harvest.”

Now the leaders who had been in the temple knew that Jesus was talking about their relationship with God. They wanted to arrest Jesus but knew that the people in the temple would not let that happen.

Sing song:

**Where is Jesus? Where is Jesus?**

**Do you know? Do you know?**

**Teaching all the people,**

**To follow God, to follow God.**

**Response:**

### **Idea #1: Follow God Bookmark**

*Many of the children will have some sort of Bible at home. With this response the children will be able to remember Jesus calling people to follow God.*

*Materials needed:* card stock, clear contact paper, scissors, hole punch, yarn, markers, grape pictures and seasonal stickers

*Instructions:* Do a search on the internet for images of grapes (Google images is a good place to look.). Copy and print up a number of grape pictures – so that you have one for each child. Cut the card stock into 15 cm x 5 cm (6 inch x 2 inch) rectangles. Punch a hole into the top of the rectangle. For younger children print on the bookmark with a dark marker, **I WILL FOLLOW GOD** – let older children do it themselves. Cut the yarn into 30 cm ( 15 inch) lengths. Give each child a prepared bookmark. Let them decorate with the stickers, grape picture and markers. When they are finished, tie on the piece of yarn to make a loop to hang on. Cut the clear contact paper so that it goes all the way around the bookmark – help the children to cover their bookmarks with the contact paper. Invite the children to take the bookmarks home and put into their Bibles there.

### **Idea #2: Follow God Wreath**

*This will be a chance for the children to share with others what ways they think are important in following God.*

*Materials needed:* copies of the grape picture at the end of the lesson, purple or blue construction paper, glue, markers, scissors, and yarn

*Instructions:* Make enough copies of the grape picture to have enough to make a wreath with them. Cut the grapes out to have the general shape. Cut the blue or purple construction paper so that it is slightly larger than the grapes. Share the grapes and construction paper around the group. Invite the children to say what they think are the best ways to follow God. Encourage them to write as many as they want on to their grapes as can be fitted in. When they are done have them glue their grapes on to the construction paper. Work together to build a wreath by gluing the grape shapes together. Use the yarn to make a hanger for the back. With the children decide where the wreath should be hung so that they can share it with others.

### **Idea #3: Baptism Cards**

*One of the concrete ways that we make the decision to follow God is to be baptized. Baptism cards that can be given to future members of the church will be a way that the children can share with others the way to follow God.*

*Materials needed:* card stock, markers, whatever materials you have on hand that can be used to decorate the cards

*Instructions:* Lay out the materials for the children to look at. Ask them if they remember their own baptism or perhaps remember the last baptism that the congregation had. You might want to remind the children that when a

baptism happens promises are made either by the person being baptized or by the family for the person being baptized. Explain that one of the ways that we can show our support for the families coming for baptism is to create baptism cards for the them. Invite the children to look at the materials laid out and think about the theme of following God. Let them create their cards. Explain that the cards will be kept and given to families when baptisms happen. Make sure that the cards get put into a safe place and also make sure that they get handed to families when baptism does happen in your parish.

**Closing:**

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for our time together,  
Thank you Jesus for being our friend,  
Thank you Spirit for showing us the way,  
Amen.**

Grapes

