

# SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

## UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



Jesus Teaches: Parable of the Vineyard

Lesson Focus: **God keeps coming back for us.**

Scripture Reference: **Matthew 21:33–46**

Spark Story Bible Pg. 302

### GATHER

**Check In** with your High & Low for Today or this Week.

**Question:** If your family had to leave your home and never go back, what would be the one thing you would want to go back for?

It would be really hard to leave behind things you love if you had to leave your home. Have you ever had an experience like that where you had to move, or something happened to where you live? Have you heard stories about that on the news, maybe because of a natural disaster? Just like we would want to go back for something we love, **God keeps coming back for us.** Today's story is about a landowner who is persistent. He sent his servants to do something and they got killed. So he risked everything and sent his son. The landowner wasn't going to give up!

### STORY

Dear Jesus,

**No matter what we do you love us. No matter where we go, you always come back for us. Thank you! Amen.**

**Read the Parable of the Vineyard told by Jesus.** You can find this in the Spark Story Bible on Pg. 302-303 or look in the NRSV Matthew 21:33-46 or listen to the story online.

### RESPOND

**Now we're going to map out our story today. Listen to a few verses and then pause reading or the recording and draw what you've heard or read.** You can add things that aren't in the story, as well—like where the landowner lives when he's not at the vineyard. When the parable ends in verse 41, retell the story in your own words by looking at the drawing and saying what happened. After you tell the story, finish reading verses 42–46. Post your comic strip outline to Zion's Private Facebook Sunday School Group or on Zion's Facebook Page.

- 1) **Why is it a good idea to picture ourselves as both the “good” and the “bad” characters in parables like this one?**
- 2) **What does this parable teach us about who God is?**

In our story today the landowner sent different people to the vineyard. **It's kind of like how God uses different people in our lives to keep reminding us that God loves us.** Each of those people is one more way that God keeps coming back for us!

# MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Matthew 21:37** This is our Memory Verse for today.

---

---

*Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.'*

## SEND

### Responding to God's Word

*These are ways God uses us to come back for others! Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!*

To: \_\_\_\_\_ From: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to:

- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- \_\_\_ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- \_\_\_ Write down the names of people God uses to remind you of God's love.
- \_\_\_ Make a map of places God sends you during the week
- \_\_\_ Ask a family member to define the word *persistent*.
- \_\_\_ Share with a friend one way that God keeps coming back for us.
- \_\_\_ If this parable were an actual news story that happened to a friend of yours, how would you feel? What if you could send a text message to someone involved in this story? Pick one character and write a TOGH question to them that's under 140 characters. Write the name of the recipient after the "@" symbol, and then keep it short and to the point!
- \_\_\_ Give you a big hug!
- \_\_\_ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- \_\_\_ Pray for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_ Say "I'm sorry"
- \_\_\_ Read this story again in my Bible
- \_\_\_ My own idea: \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAY

**Dear Jesus, you keep coming back for us.  
Now teach us to go out for others! Amen!**