

READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Parable of the Vineyard

from Matthew 21:33-46.



God asks us to take care of the world—we work for God. Our job is to take care of God's world and people.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Harvest
- Rejection
- Landowner
- Messenger

Matthew is second only to Luke in the number of parables he includes in his Gospel. Matthew included 17 parables of Jesus. A parable is a story that uses everyday items that we understand to teach God's lessons.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 302-303

Spark Bible pages 1085-1086

Family Prayer

Pray a pass-around prayer. Each person says one word of the following phrases as your family passes the prayer around the circle.

God is coming, God is coming, God is coming. Soon!

God wants our help. God wants our help. God wants our help. Now!

Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen, amen. Done!

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

- 1 God gave you your body. How can you take care of it? Play 3-ways charades. The leader acts out three answers for the rest of the family to figure out.
- 2 What could your family offer to take care of for someone else? Often neighbors need help caring for their pets or homes when they go out of town. Or perhaps your family could offer an evening of free babysitting to another church family.
- 3 How well are we taking care of the things God gave us? Draw some lines on a piece of paper. Write 1 at the left end of the lines and 10 at the right end of the lines. Work as a family to rate (1 low to 10 high) how well your family is taking care of relatives, friends, a yard, a home, and church property.
- 4 Make a list of visitors who have come to your home during the past months. Who might have been God's messenger?



Eye Spark

Surprise family members with grapes in their lunches to remind them of the parable of the vineyard. God visits us in surprising ways!



Ear Spark

God sent messengers to the vineyard workers. How do God's messengers sound? Sing or say "God loves you" in lots of funny styles—for example, opera style, baby voice style, mafia style, sleepy style.

LIVE IT

For families to do together

God wanted the vineyard workers to care for God's creation. We can also care for God's earth at home, at a beach, or in a community garden. Arrange to rake leaves or clean up outside at church with another family.

For younger kids

Plant some herbs to grow in a window garden. When the herbs are big enough, help your family use them in cooking.

For older kids

Find out about one of God's messengers. Look up Wangari Maathai, a woman who won a Nobel Peace Prize for planting trees in Kenya. She took care of God's people and God's creation.