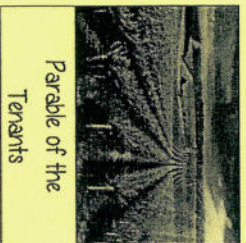


God's Story Our Story



February 28, 2016

Devotion: Use this resource at home to guide your household's daily devotions. You can do this alone, as a couple, as a family; in the morning, during the day, or at night. Find a routine that works best for you.

Pray: Light a candle and open your devotion time with a prayer.

Creative, creating one, let your words challenge us, engaging our imaginations in a revolutionary story that reshapes our understanding of the reality around us. Amen.

Reflect: Reflect on the key verse from Sunday's reading.

When they realized that he had told this parable against them, they wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowd. So they left him and went away. Mark 12:12

Study: Study the reading and consider the background.

In the midst of a controversy over authority, Jesus is unable to provide an answer that would satisfy those who questioned his authority. Rather than continue trying to reason with them, he offered a parable. His words are the continuation of an ongoing verbal battle. A little story set in a vineyard becomes a flimsily veiled threat to the chief priests, the legal experts, and the elders.

Read Read the following daily readings to deepen your understanding of Sunday's text. After the reading, ask the follow-up questions.

Sunday, Mark 12:1-12, *Parable of the Tenants*

Monday, Psalm 86:8-13

Tuesday, Mark 12:13-17, *Taxes to Caesar*

Wednesday, Mark 12:18-27, *The Question about the Resurrection*

Thursday, Isaiah 5:1-7, *The Song of the Unfruitful Vineyard*

Friday, Psalm 121

Saturday, Hebrews 1:1-4, *God Has Spoken by His Son*

What tone do these stories and parables take? How do Jesus' words shape Jesus' journey?

Connect: Connect in conversation with others in your household.

Discuss the following questions, or simply check in with "Highs" and "Lows."

What was a high point of your day? What was a low point?

What do you find most challenging about following Jesus? What could you do to make following easier?

Who in the world suffers because of the lifestyle you lead? What could you do to change how your lifestyle affects the world?

DO: By acting on what we learn, we make God's word come alive. Do the following activity this week.

Write a parable that Jesus might tell to describe your life. Are you the bad guy, the good guy, or a blend of both? How does your parable end?

Bless: Close your devotion with a blessing.

May God teach you and give you courage to follow. Amen.