

Home church - younger families - looking after our world

LJP14

Bible Verses: Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 20:9-18; Mark 12:1-12

This session explores the parable of the tenants in the vineyard, and links to how we should look after the world and what God has given us.

Farmyard and animal play

Welcome Activity

10 mins

Activity

Provide the children with a selection of farmyard or animal toys to play with. You might like to chat with them as they play about what jobs might need doing on a farm. Encourage them to think about plants and crops as well as animals.

The Point: Just for fun and an introduction to the session's story on tending land.

Equipment

A selection of farmyard or animal toys

Borrow this!

Story Time

15 mins

 Story

Bring out something special that belongs to you that the children might perhaps like to use, for example, a special toy or game. Explain to the group why it is so special to you. Ask them what special things they have and have them share their answers with the person next to them or the whole group.

Ask the children how they should treat your object if you were to let them borrow it. Hopefully, they will say things like, look after it, keep it safe, try not to break it etc.

Ask the children what they would do if you came back and said you wanted to use it too? Hopefully, they will say something along the lines of giving it back or sharing it with you - though be aware you could get all sorts of answers!

Explain this story:

In the Bible, Jesus told a story about a man who owned a farm. (Bring out a farm toy or picture.) **It was a special farm where they could grow grapes and turn them into wine. The owner lent his farm to some farmers and asked them to look after it. He told them that, when it was time to pick the grapes, he would like to have some of them, and they could keep the rest. But the farmers didn't listen to the owner. They weren't very kind, and when the owner sent servants to**

collect his share of the grapes at harvest time, the farmers refused to share their grapes with him and were very mean. The owner even sent his son to the farm because he thought the farmers would respect his son, but they didn't. So the owner decided to punish the farmers and gave his farm to other good farmers to look after it instead.

Explain to the group that this story reminds us a bit of the world. A bit like the owner who built a wonderful farm, God built a wonderful world. Bring out a globe or picture of the world.

God put people in the world to look after it and be friends with God while they lived in it. He even sent his son Jesus to people to help them live the way He wanted them to, but lots of people didn't like Jesus and they killed him on a cross. God wants us as Christians to be like good farmers, who listen to God, learn from Jesus and look after the world He has lent us and everything in it. When we look after the world with God's help, we get to make it a bit more like heaven every day.

The Point: To explore the concept of borrowing and looking after things and think about how God wants us to take care of the world and everything in it.

Equipment

An item that is special to you, toy farm or picture of farm, globe or picture of the world, story (see main description or PDF).

Creation collage

Get Creative

10 mins

 Craft Ideas

Provide the children with a selection of art materials and encourage them to make a collage of something in God's creation. You can either have the children do this in groups or individually. They might like to make pictures of the sea, mountains, plants, animals, people - anything that God made. Use whatever materials you have available, but some ideas could include: pens, crayons, tissue paper, scraps of material and pictures cut out of magazines (travel brochures can be useful here) or printed from the internet.

While the children are working on their pictures you might like to talk to them about how they can look after the world and everything in it.

The Point: To creatively reflect on the world God created and gave us to look after.

Equipment

Paper and a selection of art materials
