

## Teacher's Lesson for children

# Life of Christ

## Jesus tells a story about grapes Matthew 21:33-46

### Younger Verse

Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

### Older Verse

Bear with each other and forgive whatever problems you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. Colossians 3:13

### Welcome Time

Have you ever told a story to help your friends or parents understand what you were talking about, or how you felt? In today's lesson, Jesus tells a story—this story tells His friends what is going to happen to Him. Listen and see...

### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

### Teachers:

Small children may need more attention to help them understand the story. Be sure they understand that Jesus loves them and cares for them.

Jesus liked to spend time with His friends. He talked to them about God and Heaven and other things. They loved to listen to Him and learn important lessons.

Jesus knew that in about a week He would be nailed on a cross. He wanted His friends to understand that He was going to die for a reason—to bring us to God. Jesus knew that His friends did not understand what He was saying. They didn't want Him to die. They thought He was crazy to talk about dying.

Jesus and His friends traveled to the big city of Jerusalem. In fact, there was a parade for Jesus when He came into the city. Many people laid down tree leaves and coats for Him and His donkey to walk on. Boy, it must have been exciting to see so many people clapping and shouting for Jesus.

The people thought Jesus was going to be their new king for their country. They thought God sent Him to take over and be the new ruler. They did not understand that Jesus was going to do something even better—He was going to die to help us. Nobody could understand that God loved us so much that He sent His son Jesus to die for us.

Jesus decided to tell a story to help the people understand the reason why He came. Listen and see if you understand.

Once there was a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a place where lots of grapes grow. He built a wall around the vineyard, a tower, and dug a hole for a winepress. A winepress is a pit where grapes are mashed to get the juice out. People step on the grapes with their bare feet! Squish Squish!

### Lesson Goals

To believe that Jesus died and rose for you  
To remember the story and see how it is a story of what Jesus did for us

He rented the land to some farmers and left for a trip. Later, it was time for the grapes to be picked. So the man sent his servants to the farmers to get his share of the grapes. But the farmers grabbed the servants, beat one, killed another, and then killed a third servant with stones. So the man sent some other servants to the farmers. But the farmers did the same thing to the servants that they had done before.

So the man decided to send his son to the farmers. He said, “The farmers will respect my son.” But when the farmers saw the son, they said to each other, “This is the owner’s son. This vineyard will be his. If we kill him, then his vineyard will be ours!” So the farmers grabbed the son, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

What does this story mean? Just like the son died to get the grapes, Jesus died for us. He knew that there was no way we could get to Heaven on our own. He loves us so much that He did a brave thing. Jesus knew that He could help us by dying for us. He also knew that He would come back to life 3 days later! Because Jesus lives, we can go to Heaven, if we trust and believe in Him! Would you like to trust Jesus? Talk to me about it.

#### Learning Activities

Teachers: It is really easy to give the children handouts and fun puzzles. Try to do some activities today that will help the kids get “hands-on” experience in learning the lesson. Remember—children remember much more if they do things that they can see—hear—touch—smell—do all at one time!

#### Memory Verse Activities

Play “hangman” to help the kids remember the verse.

#### Prayer Time

Prayer is so important; be sure you ALWAYS set the example by praying before snack time. Often kids see how important prayer is by seeing the model you are. Remember, they are watching you! Be ready to circle up and pray for requests. Share some answers that you have seen lately.

#### Snack Time/CleanUp

Bring some grape juice today; snack on grapes or spread grape jelly on bread for a sweet treat! Another idea is grape jello jigglers.

Planning for October 26th  
A Wedding Banquet  
Matthew 22:1-10

Preschool Lesson  
for  
Jesus tells a story

Teachers: This story is adapted for preschool children. They will not fully understand how a story relates to a real event. Be sensitive and continually share that Jesus loves them and cares for them.

Jesus told a story to His friends to help them understand what was going to happen to Him.

There once was a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a big field where grapes grow. There are rows and rows of delicious grapes.

The owner let some farmers take care of grapes while he went away.

The farmers collected all the grapes and sold them for money.

One day, the owner sent a friend to the farmers to collect the money. The farmers wanted to keep all the money, so they hurt the friend and kicked him out of the vineyard.

The owner was so upset. He decided to send another person to collect the money. The farmers hurt him too.

Finally, the owner decided to send his son. The man thought that they would care for Him and be kind to him.

Do you know what they did? They killed him!

Why would Jesus tell such a sad story? Jesus told the story to help His friends know that soon He would die on a cross. But, He also wanted them to know that something good would happen after that. Jesus would come back to life again!

Jesus came back to life to show us that He loves us and cares for us. He can help us get to Heaven and He will take care of us.

Sing, "Jesus, Jesus, Jesus in the morning."

Pray and thank Jesus for loving and caring for us.

Hands-on Activities  
for  
Jesus tells a story

Act out the story. Choose people to be the farmers, servants and Son. When the drama is over, ask them what it meant. Please do not leave the story with the sad ending. Make sure they see that Jesus died and rose again!

Watch the ending of the Jesus video with the crucifixion and resurrection. Talk about what Jesus did for us.

Make a Witness Worm. Let the kids glue a worm together using these colors: Black (or a dark color), Red, White, Green, and Gold (yellow). Share the story of what Jesus did for us by using the colors.

Freeze grapes and enjoy them today. They taste like popsicles.

Make a “grape” picture using purple finger paint and your finger prints.

Coat wet grapes with powdered sugar or Kool-Aid for a delicious snack. Use a zipper bag to shake them up.

Make purple cows (milkshakes with purple food coloring) or grape slushes (grape flavored drink mixed with ice).