

# Old Testament

## Naboth's Vineyard

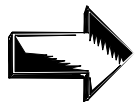
## 1 Kings 21:1-28

### Younger Verse

We will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15

### Older Verse

Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15



Teachers: This new unit is designed to help your children understand some of the stories in the Old Testament.

PLEASE remember always to include the New Testament verses—this helps each child see how God's ultimate plan was fulfilled in Christ!

### Welcome Time

Have you ever seen a toy that someone else had and you really, really, wanted the toy? Let's see what happens when the king wants something.

### 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.*

Remember the mean king that Elijah challenged with the contest to show that God was the only true God? His name was King Ahab. It seemed like when times were hard, he would trust in God. Then, when times were good, he trusted in himself. Even when messengers from God told the king that he would die, because of the way he was treating God's people, he did not listen.

One day, king Ahab noticed a beautiful vineyard close to his palace. A vineyard is a place where grapes grow. Naboth was the owner of the vineyard. The king asked Naboth if he could buy the vineyard to use as a vegetable garden. Naboth told the king that the vineyard was special land because he received it from his father when he died.

The king told Naboth that he would give him another vineyard or even give him money for the land. Naboth told the king that he would not sell the land to him.

The king was very sad. He really wanted the property. He was so upset, he did not even eat supper. The evil queen came to see why the king was so upset. When she heard what happened, she told the king that he should do something evil to get the land.

She told him to cheer up and she would take care of everything. Then, she did a very wicked thing. She wrote letters in the king's name to the leaders of the city where Naboth lived. She had a cruel plan to get the land. She asked the leaders to give Naboth a special seat and have two dishonest people sit beside him. The two people would tell lies about

### Lesson Goals

**Do not want what others have**  
**Follow God only**  
**To see how God forgave the king**

Naboth in front of the whole town.

The leaders of the town should have done the right thing. Instead, they followed the instructions of the queen and did evil. They had a special day and had Naboth sit in a special seat. The two dishonest men sat beside him.

Suddenly, the men stood up and accused Naboth of cursing God and the king. Naboth was not guilty, but no one listened to him. The people of the town were so upset that they carried Naboth out of the town and killed him with big heavy stones.

The queen heard the news and told the king that he now could take the vineyard. He forgot one important thing. God saw everything and was angry at what the king and his queen had done. God told Elijah to go to the king and tell him that he was going to die a horrible death.

Elijah obeyed God and told King Ahab that God saw him murder a man and take his property. He told the king that he would die for his wickedness.

King Ahab was truly sorry for what he had done. He was not proud or arrogant any more. God saw how he had changed his ways. He gave Elijah another message for the king. Because he had changed his ways, God would spare him from tragedy, but his son would still have the consequences of the sin he committed.

Did you notice how many people did evil and did not follow God? God wants us to do things His way and live for Him. Instead of wanting what others have, we should be glad for what He has given us and be thankful. The leaders knew right from wrong but chose to do wrong. We have a choice too. Let's choose to follow God and not do bad things that others ask us to do.

Sometimes bad things happen, even to God's people. We need to remember that God knows everything and will take care of things in His timing. Naboth was not the only man who was accused of wrong things. Jesus also was accused of doing wrong even though He was innocent. Jesus was placed on a cross between two thieves just like Naboth was seated between two evil men. Jesus died on a cross. However, there is more to Jesus' story. Jesus came back to life 3 days later! He died on a cross for a very important reason. He died to take our place for all our wrongs that we have done. Jesus died for our sins. He came back to life to show that if we believe in Him, He will clean away all our sin and take us to Heaven one day. If you want to know more about believing in Jesus, talk to us about it.

<b>Learning Activities</b>	Help the kids learn a lesson from the story. Talk about what it means to do right and not wrong.
<b>Memory Verse Activities</b>	This verse tells us that we have a choice: do we want to follow God or follow something or someone else. Help the kids see that they must decide who they will serve.
<b>Prayer Time</b>	Ask God to help us do good things this week to help others. Thank Him for forgiving us when we are sorry for wrong things we have done.
<b>Snack Time/CleanUp</b>	Grapes would be a good snack today!

Planning for Lesson 60  
Elijah goes to Heaven  
2 Kings 2:1-18

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Preschool Lesson  
For  
Naboth's Vineyard

During Elijah's time, there was a very mean king named King Ahab. He was very selfish and greedy. One day, he saw a beautiful vineyard outside his palace window. A vineyard is a special place where grapes grow. King Ahab thought it would be a wonderful place for a vegetable garden.

He went to the owner. His name was Naboth. The king asked Naboth if he could buy the vineyard to use as a vegetable garden. Naboth told the king that the vineyard was special land because he received it from his father.

The king told Naboth that he would give him another vineyard or even give him money for the land. Naboth told the king that he would not sell the land to him.

The king was very sad. He went back home and pouted because he did not get his way. (Stick out your lower lip as if you are pouting. If the kids do not know what pouting is, explain the word.)

When the queen saw the king, she wondered what was wrong. The king told her what happened. She told him that she would take care of everything.

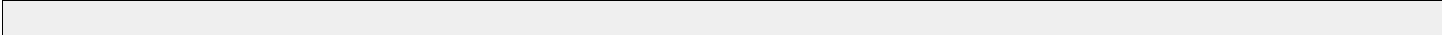
The evil queen found an awful way to get the land for the king. There was just one thing they both forgot. God saw everything.

God told Elijah to go to King Ahab and tell him that because of his evil selfishness, he would soon die. When King Ahab heard the news, he was truly sorry. He was sad for the wrong things he had done. God saw how he had changed his ways. He gave Elijah another message for the king. Because he had changed his ways, he would not die in an evil way. God forgave him.

Did you notice how many people did wrong and did not follow God? God wants us to do things His way and live for Him. Let's be nice to others and share with them.

Sing the song to the tune of "BINGO."

There was a king who wanted things  
And Ahab was his name-o  
S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E  
He did not share.  
God saw what the bad king did and  
Elijah told him bad news.  
S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E  
He should not be selfish.  
The king knew that he did wrong  
And told God he was sorry.  
S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E, S-H-A-R-E  
He learned to share.



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Hands-On Activities  
For  
Naboth's Vineyard

Grapes come from a vineyard. Bring grape juice, grape soda, or even grape jell-o to remind the kids of Naboth's vineyard. Another idea is to coat grapes with sugar or freeze them for a frosty treat.

We have choices just like the king, queen, Naboth, and the city leaders. We can choose to be greedy and selfish or we can choose to be kind and share.

Bring a helium balloon with string and a weight or something to hold down the balloon. Share how the balloon is able to soar so high in the sky but the weight is holding it down. Explain that selfishness is like the weight, holding us down so that we are not able to "soar." Share how God can help us get over our selfish attitudes and replace them with attitudes to share with others.

King Ahab loved God only when he was in trouble. All the other times, he did what he wanted and was very greedy. God saw King Ahab's attitude. He had one attitude with God and another attitude without God. He was sweet and sour. Bring sweet and sour candies (like sweet tarts) and share how it is sweet and sour at the same time. Another idea is to bring frosted cookies or chocolate covered donuts that are sweet on one side and plain on the other side. Explain that God wants us to be all His—not half and half.

Read Exodus 23:2 (first part). It says "Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong." The city leaders were probably scared of the queen and did wrong. Share how we should not follow the crowd that is doing wrong. We must stand up for what is right, knowing that God will be right beside us.

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