

Looking for Fruit

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Mark 12:1-12

Pictures, Songs and Stories

Terry painting a picture

Isaiah's Song; Jesus' Story; Word Pictures

God is Looking for Something

Isaiah's Song

Isa 5:1-7

Jesus Story

Mark 12:1-12

Looking For Fruit

Fruit – Harvest, Natural return, The point of a Vineyard

Tenants – Rent – His, not theirs – Work on behalf of

Israel – Mission – Task entrusted

All People – Creation Mandate

What More Could I Do?

God's Preparation

God's Disappointment

God's Heart

The Story of the Bible

Servants - patient, repeated attempts, increasing resistance

The Story of the New Testament

God did find more to do!

Something new, different – Son

Movement toward Jesus Death

Rejected Stone → Cornerstone

Rejected – Leaders, Stone

Rejected Stone → Cornerstone (Psalm 118:22-23)

Death → Resurrection → Something New in the Vineyard

Ideas for Lent

Read Mark 11-12

Sometime over Lent read Mark 11-12 in one sitting

A Prayer for the Second Sunday of Lent

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy:

Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways,
and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith
to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word,
Jesus Christ your Son;
who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen

A Prayer of Confession

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

Small Group Guide

Kicking off your Time Together

Ice Breaker

If you had to entrust your belongings to someone, who would you choose? Why?

Opening Prayer

Have one or two open in prayer asking God to be present and to direct your time.

What Did you Bring?

Did you bring anything to share to encourage the group? (consider 1 Cor 14:26 as the pattern for this part of the meeting)

Read Passage

Read this passage: Mark 12:1-12

Discuss a few of these questions:

What do the elements in this story represent? Consider the vineyard, the owner, the tenants, the servants, the son, the fruit.

What response did the original hearers have to this story? Why?

How does the Scripture reference from Ps 118:22-23 (about the cornerstone) connect to Jesus parable?

What does this story mean to us?

Pray for Each Other

In light of all that has been shared, pray for each other.

You may want to share specific requests.