

## Parable of the Vineyard Workers

One day Jesus was teaching about living in God’s kingdom. He told this story:

A man owned a beautiful field. The soil was perfect for growing grapes, so he planted a vineyard. The man put a fence around the vineyard. He built a place for pressing the juice out of the grapes. He built a tower where a person could stand and look out for animals that might eat the grapes or people who might steal them.

*(Display Color Pack 10 and point out the vineyard, winepress, and watchtower. Ask a learner to hold the picture as you continue.)*

The owner of the vineyard was planning to take a long trip. He found some workers to tend the grapes while he was gone. The owner told them he would take only part of the grapes and they could have the rest to use or to sell.

Soon it was harvest time. The workers picked many baskets full of grapes. The owner of the vineyard sent three servants to collect his share of the grapes, but the workers did not accept these servants. They yelled at them and beat them up. They refused to give the owner his share of the grapes.



The owner of the vineyard was puzzled by this. The workers had agreed to give him his share of the grapes. So the owner sent his son to collect the grapes the workers owed him. The son went to the vineyard, but the workers rejected him and attacked him. They refused to give the owner his share of the grapes.

Jesus paused and asked the people who were listening to his story, “What do you think the owner of the vineyard will do next?”

*(Pause and ask: If you had been listening to Jesus that day, how would you have answered?)*

The people said, “The owner will throw them out! They are a rotten bunch. Then the owner will find people to work in the vineyard who will accept the owner and his offer. They will give him his fair share of the grapes.”

## Crossword

God loves us and accepts us. God will help us to accept and welcome other people. Look at the picture clues to help you fill in the crossword to find some clues about ways to accept and welcome other people. The words are connected. So are God's people!

Clues: a = ♥ ; e = ♦ ; i = \* ; o = +

						H			
	L	+		V		♦			
						L			C
						P	R	♥	Y
									R
			*	N	V	*	T	♦	
			L						
F	R	*	♦	N	D				