

**Materials I Need:**

**Legend:**

 = Option 1, Appropriate for 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

 = Option 2, Appropriate for 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

**Bolded Words in Story = Key Concepts to Highlight during the Bible Adventure**

**Memory Work:**

He said to them, “Then give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” Luke 20:25

**Aim Questions:**


1. What question did Jesus ask the Jewish leader about John the Baptist? Why do you think He asked it?
2. Tell the story that Jesus told about the vineyard. What was He teaching the people with His story?
3. What did Jesus do with a coin in today’s lesson? Why were the spies trying to capture Jesus in His own words?
4. Why do you think the Jews refused to acknowledge that Jesus was God’s Son? Why do people today refuse to accept this about Jesus?
5. Think about what Jesus taught with the Roman coin. What should you be giving to God?


**Hook:**

**Smoke Signals (*Discussion*).** How have people sent messages from one place to another in the past? Teachers can bring examples of some of these (*note on an arrow, pony express, runner, town crier, note in a bottle, personal ad in newspaper*). How do we send messages today (*letter, fax, e-mail, voice messaging, be sure to include personal messenger*)? Which of these is hardest to ignore? Why do you suppose that the court system uses personal messengers (*sometimes the sheriff*) to serve legal notices? Today Jesus tells a story about a man who sent some messages. They were ignored and worse.

**Isaiah Challenge (*Listening Exercise*).** In the fifth chapter of his book, Isaiah records a song about a vineyard. The vineyard is a symbol for something else. As the teacher reads aloud, starting with verse one, have students try to guess for what the vineyard stands. Read until the answer is finally given in verse 7a, “The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are the garden of His delight.” Don’t have students read along because they’ll look ahead. In our lesson today, Jesus will tell a story of a vineyard. His listeners, who know the Scriptures, will realize He is talking about Israel.

**Heads or Tails? (*Game/Discussion*).** Have pennies and/or nickels available for playing this game in pairs. Best out of five wins. Ask students as a group to look at the coins and tell you whose face is on the coins. Explain to them that during Jesus’ time, coins that were minted bore the face of the present ruler. Tiberius was Caesar during the life of Christ and his name, as well as his face, were on the denarii at that time. Sometimes they would put the name of the next heir to the throne. Sometimes they would even have a coin minted with a picture of their wife and children on them. If any of these were the custom today, whose pictures might we find on the penny or nickel?


 **Stump the Teachers (Game).** Set up a panel of three teachers. Divide students into teams that take turns asking them questions. Have teams take turns addressing a specific teacher with a Bible question. If he cannot answer correctly, the team gets one point. If the whole panel of teachers is stumped, the team gets four more points (*students must know the correct answer*). Don't let students look in the Bible for help unless they have difficulty coming up with questions. Other teachers can also help if needed. **DEBRIEF:** Does it make you feel smart when you know answers that the "expert" doesn't know? In Luke chapter 20, The Jewish leaders tried to "stump" Jesus to make themselves appear wise and make Jesus look foolish. Do you think it worked?


 **I Spy (Game).** Play this old favorite. Have students listen to today's Adventure to hear who sent out spies. Who or what were they hoping to catch?



## Book:

### Presentation Ideas -

 **Parable of the Tenants (Role-play).** Teachers, be prepared to act out this parable in Luke 20:9-16 with helpers. Read directly from Scripture. **Variation:** Hand puppets from **BLUK18.GF6** can be used as another way of presenting.

 **Jesus and the Denarius (Illustration/Overhead).** Luke 20:20-26 tells us that the teachers of the Law and chief priests looked for a way to trap Jesus. Jesus saw through their scheme and did not allow them to trap Him with their question on taxes, **BLUK18.GF1**.

### Bible Adventure -

Have you ever heard someone say, "Man is basically good"? What do you think of that statement? Does the Bible back it up? You don't have to look very far to discover that it doesn't. Scripture teaches that man's heart is evil. In today's Bible Adventure, we will see a clear example of that.

You remember that Jesus was steadily making His way toward Jerusalem, where He knew He would die. As He approached the city, **He asked two of His disciples to go and get a donkey colt**, which He knew would be tied up in a certain place. As Jesus rode the colt toward Jerusalem, people gathered along the road. His disciples were praising God in loud voices, **declaring Jesus was their King, sent from God**.

Not everyone in the crowd was an admirer of Jesus, however. Pharisees were there who demanded that Jesus tell His disciples not to say He was King. Jesus answered that if the disciples were silent, the stones themselves would cry out His praises. Can you imagine how that must have gone over with these proud, self-righteous men? They had been watching Jesus for a long time now, hating Him because of the way the crowds responded to Him. They had spied on Him, challenged Him, and tried to trick Him into doing or saying something they could use to get Him into trouble.

When Jesus arrived in Jerusalem, He went to the temple and began driving out those who were selling things there. He wanted the people to show respect for God and for His house. As Jesus taught in the temple, the hatred of the chief priests, the teachers of the Law and the Jewish leaders grew. Their hatred was so great that they now wanted to kill Jesus, but they had not figured out a way to do it, because the crowds loved Him. **This group of men approached Jesus in order to lay a trap for Him.** Their anger and their treachery were both plain to see as they asked Him, "Tell us, by what authority you are doing these things? Who gave You this authority?" Do you get the message behind their questions? Basically they are saying, "Who do You think You are, Jesus? We're supposed to be running things around here and You come riding into Jerusalem, allowing people to call You a king. Then You have the nerve to come into the temple and upset the system we've been using there for years." Now, the evil hearts and minds of these men had come up with a way to trick Jesus however He answered; or so they thought. If He answered that His authority came from God, and He was God's Son, they could accuse Him of blasphemy and put Him on trial. If He did not say His authority came from God, He would lose His popularity with the people. How would He answer?

Jesus showed without a doubt the wisdom of the Son of God when He answered them with a question of His own, "Tell me, John's baptism, was it from heaven or from men?" As they thought, the Jewish leaders

saw that Jesus had laid a kind of trap for them. They could not help but remember back to the time John was baptizing. The Pharisees had refused to be baptized by him, saying they did not need to repent of any sin. If they said John's baptism was from heaven, then everyone would ask them why they had not let John baptize them. If they said it was from men, the people would turn against them, for they all recognized John's baptism as being from God. Poor Jewish leaders! They were finding that traps are not too much fun when they were the ones inside them. They finally said that they did not know. Jesus replied that since they would not answer His question, He would not answer theirs, either.

Jesus went on to tell a parable in the presence of the Jewish leaders and the rest of the people in the temple. The parable went like this: **A man planted a vineyard then rented it to some farmers while he went on a long trip.** At harvest time, he sent one of his servants to collect some of the fruit from the farmers. The farmers beat him and sent him away without any fruit. He sent a second servant, and the same thing happened. A third servant was sent, and the farmers wounded him and threw him out. Finally, the man decided to send his own son, thinking that surely the farmers would listen to him. But when the farmers saw that it was the man's son coming, they decided to kill him and take the vineyard for themselves. Jesus asked the crowd, "What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? He will come and kill those tenants (*farmers*) and give the vineyard to others." The people were upset when He said this and for good reason. Everyone there knew that when Jesus spoke of the vineyard He meant their nation, the nation of Israel (*see Isa. 5:2; Jer. 2:21; Jeremiah 6:9 and Eze. 15:1-8*). The owner was God, and the tenants or farmers were the religious leaders. God sent His servants, the prophets, to the nation of Israel and they rejected God's message and killed them. Finally, God sent His only Son, Jesus, to Israel. Jesus was making it clear that He knew these men were planning His death. Because the nation rejected God's prophets and God's Son, God would now offer the Kingdom to non-Jews. The people were shocked at this. They were about to lose what they wrongly assumed was their privilege of being able to enter God's Kingdom. Their stubborn, hard-hearted refusal to admit their sin was a huge roadblock to repentance. Without repentance, they would never enter the Kingdom. These people had hearts so hard and cold they would rather kill the Son of God than admit they were wrong.

The plotting went on. **The leaders sent spies to try to catch Jesus saying something they could use to hand Him over to the Roman governor for trial.** They asked if they should pay taxes to Caesar or not (*place Illustration BLUK18.GF1*). Jesus knew what was behind their question and that either way He answered would mean trouble for Him. They wanted Him to say, "No," because they could then hand Him over to the Romans. They thought even a "yes" answer would be good, because the people were so angry about the taxes they had to pay that they would turn on Him.

**Jesus asked them to tell Him whose picture was on a coin they had.** "Caesar's" they answered. "Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." Jesus had outwitted them again. Instead of answering "yes" or "no," which is what these men wanted, He taught them a spiritual lesson. We are citizens of this earth, which means we pay taxes to support our government. But when we enter God's Kingdom, we have citizenship in heaven, too, and we are to give to God our obedience, our love and our lives.

Jesus looked up and saw rich men putting their gifts into the temple treasury. **He also saw a poor widow put a very small amount in, only two small copper coins about the size of your fingernail.** Jesus made a point of telling His disciples that the widow's gift was the most valuable of all to God. She had given all she had on which to live. She had given like a daughter of the Kingdom.

The men who plotted against Jesus were truly evil, but the sin that was keeping them out of God's Kingdom was their rejection of Jesus Christ. God does not allow us to make up the rules as we go along. We must admit our sin and repent of it before we can enter the Kingdom. The Jewish leadership had come to the point of either admitting their sin and accepting Jesus, or doing away with Him. We are faced with the same choice today. Will you repent of your sin and accept Jesus or will you do away with Him in your heart and mind? If you have taken the step of becoming one of God's own, what are you doing to warn people that sin is shutting them out of a relationship with a loving God? As a citizen of heaven, are you busy giving to God what is His--your obedience, first place in your heart and your service? He deserves no less.



## Look:



**Who Am I? (Quiz).** **BLUK18.GF2** describes the characters in the Parable of the Tenants. Who are they? Fill in the blanks with whom you think represents each character. **Answers:** 1) God 2) Old Testament prophets 3) Jesus 4) leaders of Israel.



**Breaking News (Role-play).** Have a teacher or volunteer read this accounting of the headline news of Jesus' day. Include the following items in your newscast to make this more interesting: a microphone, music heralding the start of the news, commercial breaks, another "on the scene" reporter, etc. A giant TV set made out of a large cardboard box so that the news anchor's head is viewable within would really add interest, **BLUK18.GF3**.



**What was the Question? (Worksheet).** When Jesus was teaching in the temple, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Sadducees (*and their spies*) asked Him some tricky questions. They were trying to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him. But Jesus asked them some questions of His own. Fill in the missing "question" word: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How. Then draw a line across to the answer that was given in reply (*Jesus' last question was never answered*), **BLUK18.GF4**.



**Journey With Jesus (Journal).** Make an entry in your journal. Any disciple might write something like this:

*We have finally reached Jerusalem. Jesus made a grand entrance on a donkey that had never been ridden before - just as the prophets said the Messiah would do. There was a lot of excitement. But the next day Jesus upset things by going back to the temple and driving out the merchants again. Today the chief priests, teachers of the Law, elders, and even the Sadducees tried to trap Jesus by asking Him some very tricky questions. They asked Him who gave Him the authority to do the things He was doing. Jesus handled their questions without any trouble, but the leaders didn't seem to be satisfied. Then Jesus scolded them for acting showy and important. I'm afraid for Jesus. I just know He's making these powerful men very angry.*



**Beware of False Leaders (Craft).** *Teachers, this is not included in the Bible Adventure but can be used as an overtime activity.* Have students make this double-sided warning sign to remind them of the tell-tale signs of false prophets. Copy **BLUK18.GF5 Pgs. 1 and 2** onto cardstock. Have students cut out the signs and glue back to back with dots of glue at outer corners. Make small punch-hole at dot, and string to hang. To think about: What did Jesus say would happen to those who showed these signs? Read Luke 20:45-47.



**Parable of the Tenants (Craft/Role-play).** Have students make the puppets on **BLUK18.GF6 Pgs. 1, 2**. The individual puppets slip onto the second and third fingers to enable the students to "walk" their characters around. Read Luke 20:9-16, and have them act out the story using the puppets. This can also be used as a Bible presentation during Book time.



**Rejection (Discussion).** *Teachers, this is not included in the Bible Adventure but can be used as an overtime activity in small groups.* Webster defines the word "rejection" as "refusing to take, agree to, or believe in." Also it means to "discard or throw out as worthless, useless, or substandard." After Jesus told the parable of the tenants in the vineyard, He asked the people what the phrase in Luke 20:17 meant (*read Luke 20:17-18*). Ask students what they think a capstone is. Who do they think the builders were? What does Jesus want us to know about rejecting Him? He will not be crushed by rejection but will always be the highest stone in the Kingdom of God.



## Took:



### Give What to Whom? (*Craft/Discussion*).

#### Materials needed for each student:

**BLUK18.GF7**, copied onto heavy cardstock  
scissors  
craft stick

4" X 2.5" piece of tin foil  
glue

**Instructions:** Have students cut out the rectangular shapes. Glue tin foil at edges and attach where shown. Make sure to center it so as not to cover up verses. Glue shapes back to back with craft stick inserted from bottom to serve as a handle.



**Parable for Today (*Discussion*).** Read about the different reactions to Jesus in Luke 20 verses 19, 26, 39, and 40. Which responses were like those of the tenant farmers in the parable? What can we learn from the parable of the tenants today? What does this story mean for those who hear God's message?



**His Final Week (*Visual/Review*).** Today's lesson covers Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the week of Jesus' death and resurrection. Arrange the boxes side by side to form a "calendar" of Jesus' final week. To make the events of these days easier to remember, they begin with the same letter as the day of the week in which they occurred. We will add "days" to this calendar (*for a total of 8 - Sunday through Sunday*) in the weeks to follow. Each student can make this calendar into a collection of individual color pages, which can be stapled together at the top. Work on memorizing these events, **BLUK18.GF8 Pgs. 1-4.**



**Citizens of Heaven (*Worksheet*).** As citizens of heaven, what should we be busy giving to God? Have students carefully fill in the dotted boxes to find out, **BLUK18.GF9.**

# Jesus and the Denarius



## WHO AM I?

Below are descriptions of the characters in the Parable of the Tenants. Who are they? Fill in the blanks with who you think represents each character.

"I planted a vineyard and rented it to some farmers. Then I went away for a long time. I represent \_\_\_\_\_."

"At harvest time, we were sent, one by one, to the vineyard to get the owner's share of the fruit. But, one by one, we were beaten and sent away empty-handed. We represent the \_\_\_\_\_."

"Then the vineyard's owner decided to send me. He thought the tenant farmers would respect me. I represent \_\_\_\_\_."

"When we saw the owner's son, we said to ourselves, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.'" We represent the \_\_\_\_\_."

# Breaking News

## **Characters:**

**Peter:** a news anchor

**David:** an on-site reporter

**Peter:** Good Morning, we interrupt your regularly scheduled programming to bring you this latest in breaking news.

**David:** I'm David Isaac's reporting to you live direct from the temple in Jerusalem, which just hours ago was the scene of utter chaos. One lone man supposedly working by Himself, began driving out the merchants from the temple calling them a "den of robbers" and saying that it was His house, a house of prayer. This same man is the man known as Jesus, a notorious healer of the sick, provider for the poor.

If you've been following our newscast for the last few days, you may recall our reporting on a certain man of much following, a man whose fame is as widespread even as far as Galilee. Some say He is the Messiah, but the chief priests, teachers of the Law, and the Jewish leaders hold nothing but contempt for this Man. There have been accountings of spying and plots of trickery against this man by the same. The level of questioning that these men have wagered against Jesus, the proclaimed Messiah, has been nothing short of intense.

**Peter:** And how has Jesus responded to this questioning, David?

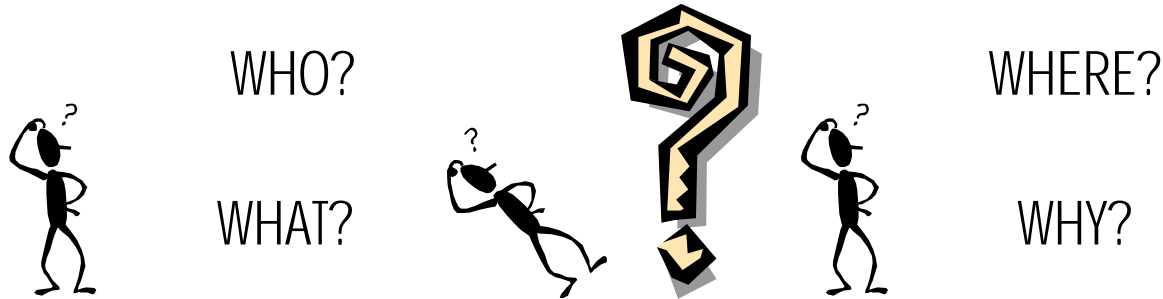
**David:** Quite well, actually. Accounts of trick questions to trap Him within the sacred writings of the law and His responses have only re-enforced the devotion of His followers. He oftentimes answers questions with a question or tells a simple story known as a parable to put across His points. These are sometimes very pointedly directed at the chief priests themselves who most times seem a little tongue-tied as to a response. It has been said of this eloquent storyteller that we may very well find ourselves in each of His stories if we only will open our eyes and hearts to identify with its characters.

**Peter:** David, what now for Jesus? Have their been any charges brought against Him? How do you think the chief priests will respond to this latest of events?

**David:** Sources aren't sure but there have been vicious rumors of a plot to kill this gifted and well-liked Man. It is unclear the true motive behind this, but some say it is the inability of those in power to accept such a humble and loving Savior to the lost as He is known to so many. I'm David Isaacs, more on this as events unfold. Now, back to you, Peter.

## What Was the Question?

When Jesus was teaching in the temple, the chief priests, scribes, elders, and Sadducees (and their spies) asked Him some tricky questions. They were trying to trap Jesus into saying something they could use against Him. But Jesus asked them some questions of His own. Fill in the missing “question” word: Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How? Then draw a line across to the answer that was given in reply. (Jesus’ last question was never answered.)



Leaders: “\_\_\_\_\_ gave You this authority?” (20:2,3)

Jesus: “From \_\_\_\_\_ was John’s baptism?” (20:4,7)

Spies: “\_\_\_\_\_ is right? Should we pay taxes to Caesar or not?” (20:22,25)

Jesus: “Show me a denarius. \_\_\_\_\_ has his image and inscription on it?” (20:24,25)

Sadducees: “There were seven brothers who were married to one woman. At the resurrection, \_\_\_\_\_ will be married to her?” (20:29-36)

Jesus: “David calls the Messiah ‘Lord.’ \_\_\_\_\_ then can He be his Son?” (20:41-44)

“Caesar”

“Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

“We don’t know where it was from.”

“Those in the resurrection will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels.”

“I will also ask you a question.”

Cut out the signs on Pgs. 1 and 2. Glue back to back with dots of glue at outer corners. Make small punch hole at dot and string to hang. To think about: What did Jesus say would happen to those who showed these signs? Read Luke 20:45-47.



**SIGNS TO WATCH FOR:**

**Flowing robes**

**Excessive greeting in public**

**Wanting to sit in the most important seats in the church**

**Wanting the places of honor at banquets**


**Taking from the helpless**

**Long prayers**

# PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

**DIRECTIONS:** Color the pictures on pages 1 and 2. Make sure to color the three servants differently. Cut out the three farmers on the dotted lines, and glue on a Popsicle stick. Then carefully cut out the owner's son and the three servants. Cut out the holes for your fingers. Read Luke 20:9-16, and act out the story using the puppets.



Glue onto a Popsicle stick.  EVIL FARMERS

OWNER'S SON

# THE THREE SERVANTS

Color each one differently.



# Give What to Whom?

Cut out the rectangular shapes below. Glue tin foil at edges and attach where shown. Make sure to center it so as not to cover up verses. Glue shapes back to back with craft stick inserted from bottom to serve as a handle.

"...give to Caesar what is Caesar's..."



"... and to God what is God's." Luke 20:25

Glue  
tin foil  
here

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him." Genesis 1:27

# S ONGS OF PRAISE

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D  
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Y



# MONEYMAKERS OUT

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# TENANTS, TAXES & OTHER TEACHINGS

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# WENT BACK TO THE TEMPLE TO TEACH

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