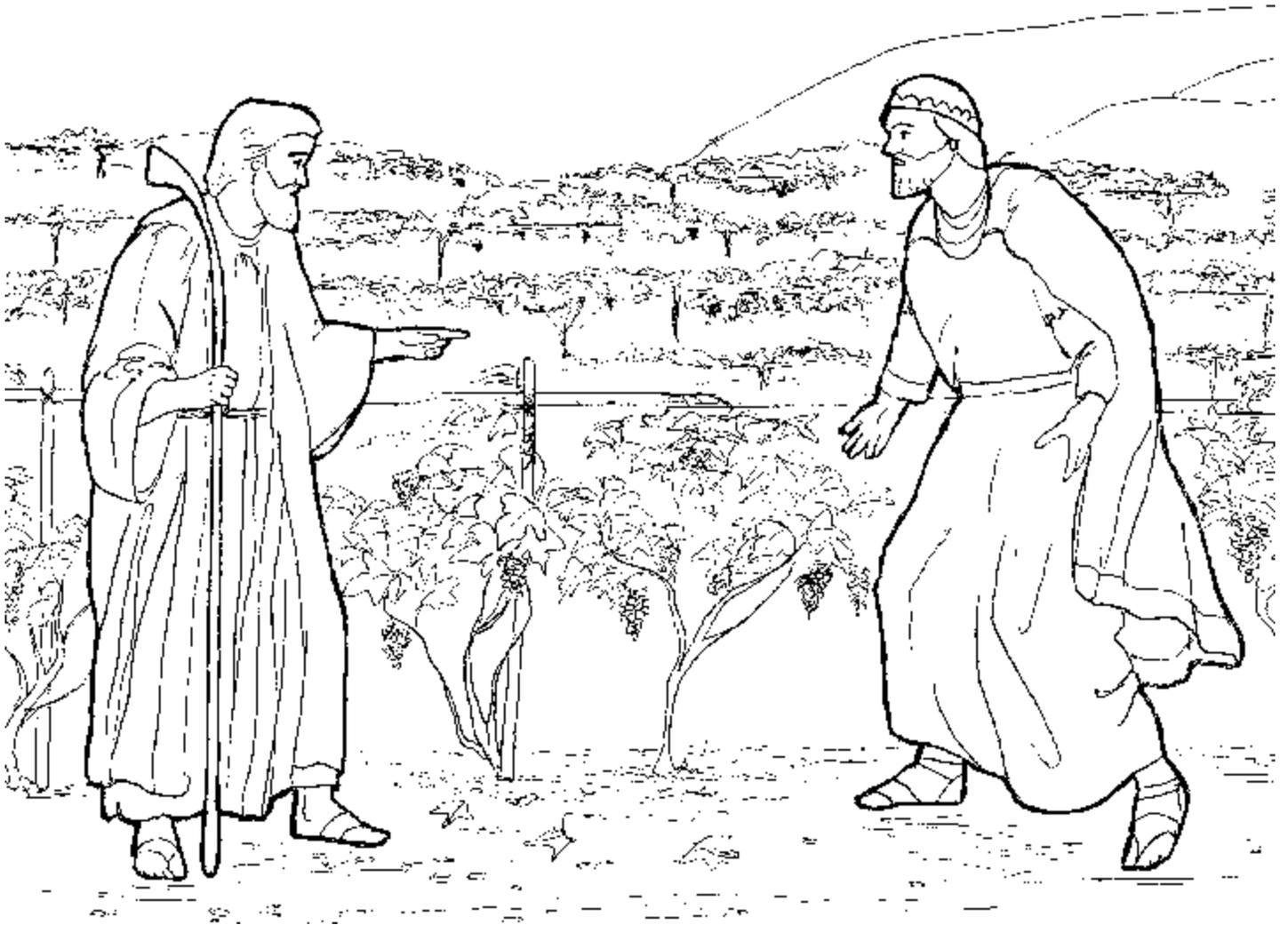


Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21-22



The Story

Naboth had a vineyard near King Ahab's palace. King Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. He said, "Give me your vineyard, so I can plant a garden since it is so close to my house. I will pay you, or I will buy you a different vineyard."

Naboth said, "I can't. It is from my father. God wants me to keep it."

King Ahab went home and was sad. He went to bed and wouldn't eat. When Queen Jezebel saw him, she asked, "Why are you so sad that you won't eat?"

King Ahab told her about the vineyard. Queen Jezebel said, "You're the king. Let me get Naboth's vineyard for you."

Jezebel wrote letters as if she was

King Ahab. She sent them to the leaders of the town. The leaders should find two men who would lie about Naboth. Those men should say that Naboth said bad things about God and the king. Then they would have to take Naboth and stone him to death.

The leaders did what the letter said. They threw stones at Naboth until he died. Jezebel told Ahab that Naboth was dead. Ahab took the vineyard.

God sent Elijah to Ahab. Elijah said, "God says, 'You did evil things. You will die. Jezebel will die, too.' "

A while later King Ahab went to war. King Ahab was hit with an arrow. He died. A little later Jezebel died, too.

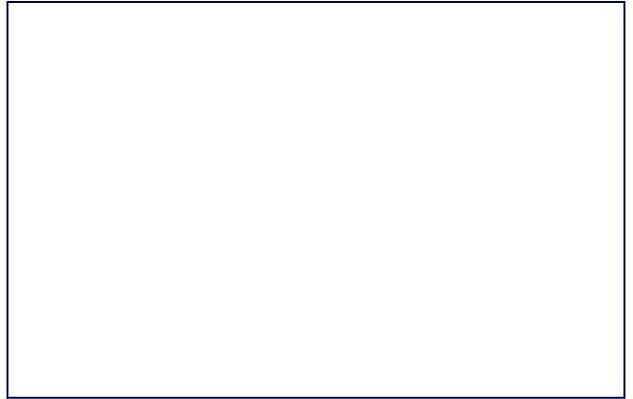
Ahab and Jezebel went against God and with Satan to get what they wanted.

Activity One - Follow the directions below to color the picture on page 1.

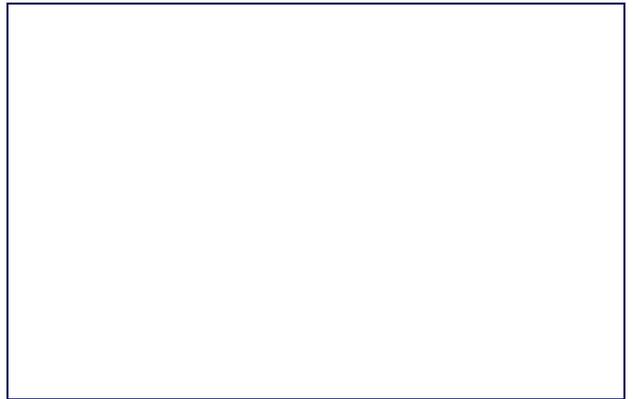
1. Circle the man who owns the vineyard.
2. What is his name?
3. Why could he not sell the vineyard?
4. Put an X on the king.
5. What is his name?
6. Why did he want the vineyard?
7. What sin did the king do because he wanted the vineyard in a sinful way (covet)?
8. Color the rest of the picture.

Activity Two -Follow the directions below.

1. Ahab did not love Naboth like God wanted. Draw and color grapes to show that Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard.



2. Draw and color stones to show how Naboth was murdered.



3. Draw and color a heart to show that God wants us to love Him and everyone else more than things.



A life without God always leads to disaster in time and for eternity. A life with God is full of blessing now and in eternity.

Passages

Matthew 22:39 - 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

Deuteronomy 5:21 - 'You shall not covet ...'

Deuteronomy 5:17 - 'You shall not murder.'

Hymn - TLH #416 v. 1, 4

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Make me to walk in Thy commands -
'Tis a delightful road -
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God. Amen.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

You love me so much that You died for me. Thank You. Help me to love You and all people as Your commandments tell. Amen.

Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21-22



The Story

Naboth owned a vineyard near the palace of King Ahab. King Ahab wanted Naboth's vineyard. He said, "Give me your vineyard, so I can plant a vegetable garden since it is so close to my house. I will pay you, or I will buy you a different vineyard."

Naboth answered, "I can't. It is my inheritance. God wants me to keep it."

King Ahab went home and pouted. He went to bed and wouldn't eat. When Queen Jezebel saw him, she asked, "Why are you so sad that you won't eat?"

King Ahab told her about the vineyard. Queen Jezebel said, "You're the king in Israel. I'll take care of it and get Naboth's vineyard for you."

Jezebel wrote letters in King Ahab's name. She sent them to the leaders of the town. The letters said that they should have a city-wide fast and give Naboth a place of honor. They should also find two men who would lie about Naboth. Those men should say that Naboth dishonored God and the king. Then

they would have to take Naboth and stone him to death.

The leaders did what the letter said. So Naboth was stoned and died. The leaders sent a letter to Jezebel to tell her it was done. Jezebel told Ahab, and Ahab took the vineyard.

God told Elijah to go to Ahab in the vineyard. Elijah said, "God says, 'Do you murder and take?' God says, 'You will die, and the dogs will lick your blood in the same place that they licked Naboth's blood. You will not have any grandchildren or great-grandchildren. Jezebel will die, too.' "

A while later, King Ahab went to war. He put on a disguise to protect himself. God directed an arrow and it hit King Ahab. Ahab told his chariot driver to take him out of the battle, but he died in his chariot later that evening. His body was taken to Samaria. The blood that was washed out of the chariot was licked up by the dogs just like God said. A while later, Jezebel was killed, too.

Ahab and Jezebel went against God and with Satan to get what they wanted.

Activity One - Write the word and then find it in the WORD SEARCH. The words go across, down and diagonally.

1. the king's name_____
2. the queen's name_____
3. what Naboth owned that the king wanted_____
4. the crime for which Naboth was killed_____
5. what the people used to kill Naboth_____
6. the man God sent to Ahab_____

A	C	L	J	E	Z	E	B	E	L	M	N
H	R	O	V	L	V	L	F	K	X	T	R
A	N	U	E	I	S	I	W	O	J	D	S
B	B	R	Q	J	N	N	U	P	L	F	T
S	T	B	L	A	O	E	H	B	R	X	O
R	W	Q	D	H	Y	O	Y	E	Q	C	N
C	B	A	R	T	I	P	S	A	L	Z	E
B	L	A	S	P	H	E	M	Y	R	D	S
I	E	W	C	V	I	N	E	U	C	D	M

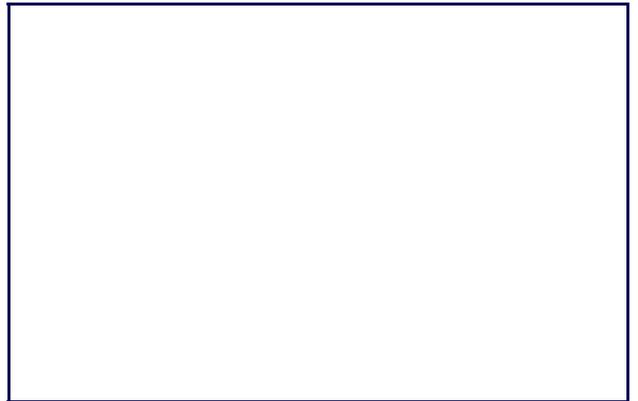
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Activity Two - Follow the directions below.

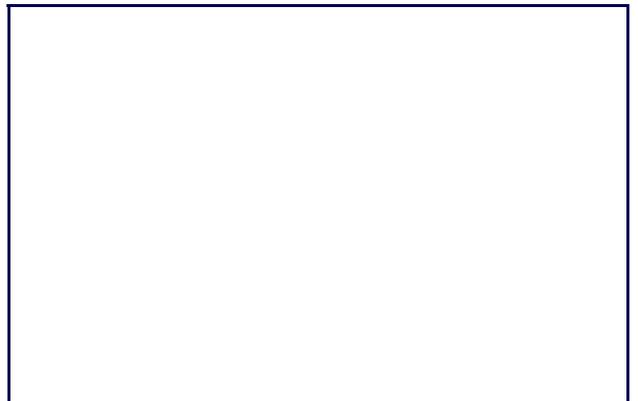
1. Ahab did not love Naboth like God wanted. Draw and color grapes to show that Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard.



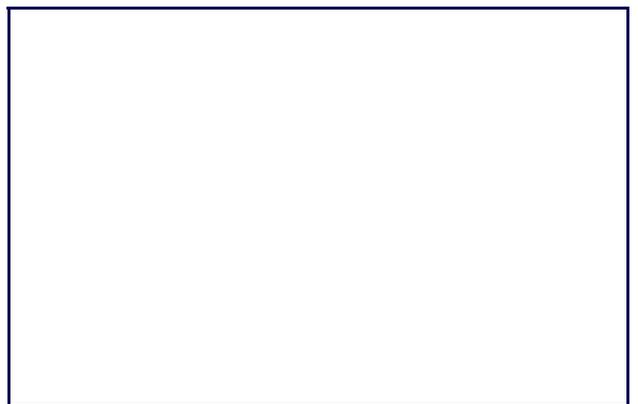
2. Draw and color stones to show how Naboth was murdered.



3. Ahab was punished by God for his sins against Naboth. Draw a bow and arrow to show how Ahab died.



4. Draw and color a heart to show that God wants us to love Him and everyone else more than things.



Passages

Matthew 22:39 - 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

The Fifth Commandment ©Sydow Catechism 2000

You shall not murder.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not hurt nor harm our neighbor's body; but we should help and be a friend to him in every bodily need.

The Ninth Commandment ©Sydow Catechism 2000

You shall not covet your neighbor's house.

What does this mean?

We should fear and love God that we do not sinfully desire to get our neighbor's inheritance or house by a trick or in a way that appears to be right; but we should do everything we can to help him keep what is his.

Hymn - TLH #416 v. 1, 4

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
To keep His statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
To know and do His will!

Make me to walk in Thy commands -
'Tis a delightful road -
Nor let my head or heart or hands
Offend against my God. Amen.

Prayer

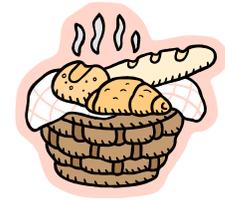
Dear Jesus,

I, too, have coveted things that belong to other people. I have also hurt people. Thank You for taking away my sin. You love me so much that You died for me. Help me to love people so that I do not hurt them. Amen

Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-24, 22:30-38; 2 Kings 9:30-37

What are some things that God says everyone needs to live on this earth?
How many of these things do you have?
What are some things that you have beyond those needed things?



Prayer

Dear Father in heaven, Thank You for all the blessings You have given us. Help us to be content with what we have. Please help us to love and care for each other. Forgive us when we want things You don't want us to have. Forgive us when we want things that belong to other people. Keep us from going after things that belong to other people and things You don't want us to have. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 21, 22; 2 Kings 9

1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. {2} So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

{3} But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

{4} So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

{5} But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

{6} He said to her, "Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite, and said to him, 'Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you another vineyard for it.' And he answered, 'I will not give you my vineyard.'"

{7} Then Jezebel his wife said to him, "You now exercise authority over Israel! Arise, eat food,

and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

{8} And she wrote letters in Ahab's name, sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters to the elders and the nobles who were dwelling in the city with Naboth. {9} She wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and seat Naboth with high honor among the people; {10} and seat two men, scoundrels, before him to bear witness against him, saying, "You have blasphemed God and the king." Then take him out, and stone him, that he may die.

{11} So the men of his city, the elders and nobles who were inhabitants of his city, did as Jezebel had sent to them, as it was written in the letters which she had sent to them. {12} They proclaimed a fast, and seated Naboth with high honor among the people. {13} And two men, scoundrels, came in and sat before him; and the scoundrels witnessed against him, against Naboth, in the presence of the people, saying, "Naboth has blasphemed God and the king!" Then they took him outside the city and stoned him with stones, so that he died. {14} Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, "Naboth has been stoned and is dead."

{15} And it came to pass, when Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite,



which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." {16} So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

{17} Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, {18} "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. {19} "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours." "

{20} So Ahab said to Elijah, "Have you found me, O my enemy?"

And he answered, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD: {21} 'Behold, I will bring calamity on you. I will take away your posterity, and will cut off from Ahab every male in Israel, both bond and free. {22} 'I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and made Israel sin.'

{23} "And concerning Jezebel the LORD also spoke, saying, 'The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.'

{24} "The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Ahab and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field."

22:30 And the king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "I will disguise myself and go into battle; but you put on your robes." So the king of Israel disguised himself and went into battle.

{31} Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel." {32} So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out. {33} And

it happened, when the captains of the chariots saw that it was not the king of Israel, that they turned back from pursuing him.

{34} Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." {35} The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. {36} Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

{37} So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. {38} Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.

2 Kings 9:30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. {31} Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

{32} And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. {33} Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.

{34} And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." {35} So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. {36} Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; {37} 'and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel." "

Outer Aim - Ahab and Jezebel went against God and with Satan to get what they wanted.

What the Story Tells Us - Number these events in the order in which they happened.

- _____ Liars said that Naboth was a blasphemer.
- _____ Elijah told Ahab he would die because of what happened to Naboth.
- _____ Naboth was stoned to death.
- _____ Ahab tried to buy Naboth's vineyard.
- _____ Jezebel died.
- _____ Jezebel sent letters to the leaders to tell them to arrange Naboth's death.
- _____ Ahab died.
- _____ Ahab pouted when he couldn't get what he wanted.

What God's Word Tells Us - Use the following questions for discussion.

1. Against which commandment did Ahab sin when he kept on wanting Naboth's vineyard after he found out he couldn't have it?
2. Against which commandment did Jezebel sin when she arranged to get Naboth's vineyard by a seemingly legal way?
3. Against which commandment did the liars sin when they testified falsely against Naboth?
4. Against which commandment was Naboth's death?
5. How are Ahab and Jezebel guilty of all these sins?
6. What did they deserve for their sins?
7. How could they have avoided eternal damnation?
8. Against which commandment did they sin by not depending on God for everything?

Inner Aim - A life without God always leads to disaster in time and for eternity. A life with God is full of blessing now and in eternity.

Your Turn - List ten things for which you are thankful. From Whom have these things come?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.

Passages

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Matthew 22:37-39 - Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' "

Psalms 1:6 - For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Hymn - Read TLH #395 v. 1-4, 7, 8 and answer these questions together with the class.

O God, Thou faithful God, Thou Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts in mercy art bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
A conscience free from blame, a soul unhurt by sin!

Grant Thou me strength to do with ready heart and willing
Whate'er Thou shalt command, my calling here fulfilling;
To do it when I ought, with all my might, and bless
The work I thus have wrought, for Thou must give success.

Oh, let me never speak what bounds of truth exceedeth;
Grant that no idle word from out my mouth proceedeth;
And then, when in my place I must and ought to speak,
My words grant pow'r and grace lest I offend the weak.

If dangers gather round, still keep me calm and fearless;
Help me to bear the cross when life is dark and cheerless;
And let me win my foe with words and actions kind.
When counsel I would know, good counsel let me find.

Let me depart this life confiding in my Savior;
Do Thou my soul receive that it may live forever;
And let my body have a quiet resting-place
Within a Christian grave; and let it sleep in peace.

And on that solemn Day when all the dead are waking.
Stretch o'er my grave Thy hand, Thyself my slumbers breaking.
Then let me hear Thy voice, change Thou this earthly frame,
And bid me aye rejoice with those who love Thy name.

1. Which phrase of hymn 395, stanza 1, describes God's generosity?
2. Which stanza asks for a committed spirit to serving God?
3. Which stanza talks about guarding our speech? In what ways?
4. Read stanza 4. Who in the lesson had to face great danger?
5. Read stanza 7. Which person in our lesson did not have a Christian grave?
6. Who will be raised on the last day?
7. Which people do we pray to join?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, Thank You for all the blessings You have given me. Help me to see that I do not need to want things that other people have or try to get things in evil ways. You know what I need. You love me so much You want to give me whatever is good for me. You have the power to give me those things that are good for me. Forgive me when I forget and start to covet. Thank You especially for the forgiveness of my sins and the promise of heaven. Amen.

Naboth's Vineyard

1 Kings 21:1-24, 22:30-38; 2 Kings 9:30-37

What are some things that God says everyone needs to live on this earth?
How many of these things do you have?
What are some things that you have beyond those needed things?



Prayer

Dear Lord, You have been so generous to me by providing everything I need for my body and my soul. Help me to remember this every day. Forgive me when I covet and when I hurt other people because of my selfishness. Lord, give me a contented and loving heart so that I may help and be of service to others and may avoid getting into things that help Satan. Lord, keep me faithful to You that I may join You in heaven. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

The Story - 1 Kings 21, 22; 2 Kings 9

1 Kings 21:1 And it came to pass after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel, next to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. {2} So Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, "Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden, because it is near, next to my house; and for it I will give you a vineyard better than it. Or, if it seems good to you, I will give you its worth in money."

{3} But Naboth said to Ahab, "The LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you!"

{4} So Ahab went into his house sullen and displeased because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." And he lay down on his bed, and turned away his face, and would eat no food.

{5} But Jezebel his wife came to him, and said to him, "Why is your spirit so sullen that you eat no food?"

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food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite."

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dead, that Jezebel said to Ahab, "Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead." {16} So it was, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, that Ahab got up and went down to take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

{17} Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, {18} "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. {19} "You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?" ' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" "

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{31} Now the king of Syria had commanded the thirty-two captains of his chariots, saying, "Fight with no one small or great, but only with the king of Israel." {32} So it was, when the captains of the chariots saw Jehoshaphat, that they said, "Surely it is the king of Israel!" Therefore they turned aside to fight against him, and Jehoshaphat cried out.

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{34} Now a certain man drew a bow at random, and struck the king of Israel between the joints of his armor. So he said to the driver of his chariot, "Turn around and take me out of the battle, for I am wounded." {35} The battle increased that day; and the king was propped up in his chariot, facing the Syrians, and died at evening. The blood ran out from the wound onto the floor of the chariot. {36} Then, as the sun was going down, a shout went throughout the army, saying, "Every man to his city, and every man to his own country!"

{37} So the king died, and was brought to Samaria. And they buried the king in Samaria. {38} Then someone washed the chariot at a pool in Samaria, and the dogs licked up his blood while the harlots bathed, according to the word of the LORD which He had spoken.

2 Kings 9:30 Now when Jehu had come to Jezreel, Jezebel heard of it; and she put paint on her eyes and adorned her head, and looked through a window. {31} Then, as Jehu entered at the gate, she said, "Is it peace, Zimri, murderer of your master?"

{32} And he looked up at the window, and said, "Who is on my side? Who?" So two or three eunuchs looked out at him. {33} Then he said, "Throw her down." So they threw her down, and some of her blood spattered on the wall and on the horses; and he trampled her underfoot.

{34} And when he had gone in, he ate and drank. Then he said, "Go now, see to this accursed woman, and bury her, for she was a king's daughter." {35} So they went to bury her, but they found no more of her than the skull and the feet and the palms of her hands. {36} Therefore they came back and told him. And he said, "This is the word of the LORD, which He spoke by His servant Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 'On the plot of ground at Jezreel dogs shall eat the flesh of Jezebel; {37} 'and the corpse of Jezebel shall be as refuse on the surface of the field, in the plot at Jezreel, so that they shall not say, "Here lies Jezebel.'" "

Outer Aim - As instruments of Satan, Ahab and Jezebel carried out the Devil's murderous plans.

What the Story Tells Us - Identify the person from the lesson who fits the description.

1. Rightfully owned a vineyard_____
2. Wanted to honor God with His inheritance_____
3. Was not happy with "no" as an answer_____
4. Pouted and was depressed_____
5. Set up an evil plan_____
6. Was lied about_____
7. Was killed because he had something someone else wanted_____
8. Was instructed by God to reprove a sinner_____
9. Went into battle with Jehoshaphat_____
10. Wore a disguise to try to protect himself_____
11. Died in the battle_____
12. Was thrown out a window_____
13. Was eaten, after dying, by dogs_____

What God's Word Tells Us - Mark each as (T) rue or (F)alse.

1. ____ It is OK to go after anything you want.
2. ____ Godliness with contentment is great gain.
3. ____ The end justifies the means
4. ____ God knows when we covet.
5. ____ Coveting often leads to other sins.
6. ____ Coveting is unforgivable.
7. ____ Contentment is the opposite of coveting.
8. ____ Everything that is legal is right in God's eyes.
9. ____ Greediness can lead people away from God.
10. ____ The love of money is the root of all evil.

Your Turn

Friends of yours want you to help them get something they want that belongs to someone who wants to keep it. What do you do?

You realize that you are coveting a friendship. What sins might that coveting lead you to commit if you are not careful? Write a prayer to God that would help you to be free of coveting.

Inner Aim - A life without God always leads to disaster in time and for eternity. A life with God is full of blessing now and in eternity.

Passages

Galatians 6:7-8 - Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

1 Timothy 6:6-9 - Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

1 John 2:15 - Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

Deuteronomy 5:7, 17, 19-21 - You shall have no other gods before Me... You shall not murder... You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his male servant, his female servant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.

Hymn - Read TLH #447 and answer these questions together with the class.

1. What are the "good fight" and "straight race"?
2. Which stanza talks about contentment?
3. What are 6 descriptive names used for Christ in this hymn?

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, You have been so kind to me in living a perfect life for me and dying for my sins. Lord, I do covet. Please forgive me when I do and keep me from sinning even more in an attempt to get what I want. Help me to trust in Your perfect wisdom, love, and power that will give me only what is good for me in my life. Amen



STORY

Naboth's Vineyard - I Kings 21-22, II Kings 9:30-37

TEACHER PRAYER

Lord God, Your gracious forgiving love is before me every day as I labor for You in Your kingdom. I need Your forgiveness, Your guidance and Your constant love as I continue through this world of sin. Help me to accept the responsibility of teaching Your lambs Your precious Truths that they may clearly see You as the one true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent. For in You and You alone will they reach the highest potential for true life here in time and for all eternity. In Your holy name I pray, Amen.

VOCABULARY

Jezeel - 30 miles north of Samaria (21:1)

Scoundrels - wicked, immoral and dishonest men (21:10)

Dogs - classed as unclean animals in the Law of Moses, thus, viewed by Israel with contempt (21:19, 23, 24)

OUTER AIM

As instruments of Satan Ahab and Jezebel carried out the devil's murderous plans.

INNER AIM

A Godless life always leads to disaster in time and, unless there is repentance, for eternity.

BACKGROUND

 (*Rupprecht Bible History References Vol. 1*, pp. 356-361)

Satan worked through Jezebel and the prophets of Baal who were successful in drawing King Ahab into the kingdom of Satan. He became a pawn in Satan's murderous schemes. Yet, we must realize that Ahab was responsible for his own actions. The Lord has said of Satan, "He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it." (John 8:44) Ahab became Satan's child.

The royal palace for the King of Israel was in Samaria, the capital city. However, Ahab had built his own private palace at Jezreel. Adjoining Ahab's property was the vineyard of Naboth. Ahab wished to expand his holdings by either buying Naboth's vineyard or trading a better vineyard in another location for it.

At this point, apparently, there is nothing unusual or sinful about the proposal itself. These kinds of transactions go on all the time and often are carried out for the benefit of both parties. However, there were circumstances which had to be considered. In the first place, "Naboth said to Ahab, 'the LORD forbid that I should give the inheritance of my fathers to you.'" The LORD forbade the people to sell their land permanently. (Cf. Lev. 25:23-28; Num. 36:7-9) Secondly, Naboth, evidently, wasn't interested in any proposition even on a temporary basis.

Ahab was accustomed to getting what he wanted. Besides, Jezebel was quick to remind him, "You now exercise authority over Israel!" Ahab was depressed. Jezebel devised a plan and promised Ahab, "Arise and eat food, and let your heart be cheerful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite." Did Ahab caution Jezebel and urge her not to do anything illegal or contrary to the Word of God? Not at all. His silence was approval for the words and actions that followed.

STUDENT PRAYER

Dear Lord, You have been so gracious to me and have provided for all my needs both physical and spiritual. Help me to realize this each day of my life. Forgive my sins of covetousness and lovelessness. Give me a heart, O Lord, which is not greedy but one which rather is ready to help my friends and neighbors keep what belongs to them. Give me Your Spirit that I may be able to recognize the activity of Satan and avoid it. And so may I live with you and for You in righteousness to the glory of Your holy name. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION

The greed of Ahab accompanied by the satanic devices of Jezebel led to a plan for murder. With Naboth out of the way Ahab could realize his petty desire of having Naboth's property. (Cf. King David's lust for Bathsheba led to adultery and murder.

Cain's jealous hatred of Abel led to murder.) Jezebel was well aware that, "Whoever blasphemes the name of the LORD shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him..." (Lev. 24:16) Somehow, Naboth would have to be portrayed as blasphemer so that he could be put to death "legally" before the people. (Cf. Jesus on trial on trumped up charges.)

Jezebel, filled with the spirit of Satan, had beaten her conscience into submission and was governed totally by her sinful flesh. Might made right in her eyes. The forgery of the king's seal on fictitious documents was a minor matter in her devilish scheme. The fact that the forged documents especially called for "scoundrels" to bear witness against Naboth was an open admission that the charges were false. These "sons of Belial" (KJV) were lawless, vile persons who would stoop to any crime for a price.

Apparently, the "elders and nobles" of the city were so eager to follow the orders of the king (in fact, the orders of Jezebel) that they failed to be concerned about justice. The law of God was clear and guarded against this very kind of abuse. (Read Deut. 19:15-21) It would appear that Naboth had no heirs who could legally claim the property after his death. Such property reverted to the king. An honorable king would, of course, restore such property to heirs if they should be found in the future. (Cf. II Sam. 9:6-7)

The judgment of God upon Ahab and Jezebel was announced to Ahab, quite fittingly, as he was in the vineyard which he had stolen from Naboth. Elijah was given the task. Because of Ahab's spiritual blindness, he could see Elijah only as his enemy. Yet, Elijah would not be intimidated but told it like it was, "I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD." (I Kings 21:20) Both Ahab and Jezebel would die dishonorably. The dogs would drink the blood of Ahab and eat the flesh of Jezebel. It appears that Ahab showed signs of repentance after Elijah announced God's judgment upon him and Jezebel. (I Kings 21:27) Because of His infinite mercy the LORD delayed the action of His judgment upon Ahab until after his death. "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life." (Gal. 6:7-8)

APPLICATION

Walking in ungodly paths always leads to disaster. Ahab and Jezebel had all the luxury, worldly comforts and honor before men imaginable. Yet, their life was a disaster. Not only did they destroy themselves but how many souls did they lead into the kingdom of Satan and finally into hell?

The world around us exonerates such things as worldly wealth, lust, prestige, power and honor before others. These are often bought at the price of rejection of God and His salvation in Christ. The unholy trinity of the world is wealth, sex and power. If we look around we will see the dedication and worship of this godless trinity everywhere.

“Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But you, O man of God, flee these things and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. (I Tim. 6:6-12)

Children are constantly bombarded with man-made religious philosophies as well as the thinking and ways of the world about us. Their friends, movies, television, neighbors all may become tools of Satan to draw these impressionable minds and hearts into a way of thinking, judging, talking and acting which may lead to a compromise of their faith in their Savior and could finally lead to a rejection of God and His Word.

Offense is also something which our children need to take seriously. We are called to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. We are called upon to show forth the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.. Together with being one of God’s own in Christ comes responsibility. As God’s own we have been bought with a price-the price the Christ paid for us in love as He gave Himself a ransom for all.

There are many influences which threaten the faith of our children. However, none of them can rob us and our children of the blessings that are ours in the kingdom of God for time and for eternity as we remain close to our Lord and His Means of Grace.

Sometimes believers suffer because of the wickedness in the world. Naboth died, but he joined his Savior in heaven.

PASSAGES

These passages can be assigned as memory work or simply discussed in class as to how they fit the lesson.

I John 2:15 - “Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

I Timothy 6:6-9 - “Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. Having food and clothing, let us be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Galatians 6:7-8 - “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.

Deuteronomy 5:7 - “You shall have no other gods before Me.

Deuteronomy 5:17 - "You shall not murder."

Deuteronomy 5:19-20 - "You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

Deuteronomy 5:21 - "You shall not covet your neighbor's wife; and you shall not desire your neighbor's house, his field, his manservant, his maidservant, his ox, his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

Psalms 1:6 - "For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the ungodly shall perish."

Matthew 22:37-39 - "Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"

HYMN CHOICES

O God, Thou Faithful God - TLH #395

My Soul, Be On Thy Guard - TLH #449

Fight The Good Fight With All Thy Might - TLH #447

How Shall The Young Secure Their Hearts - TLH #286

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast In Thy Word - TLH #261

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways - TLH #416

The Man is Ever Blest - TLH #414