

Bible Stories for Young Children

part of a curriculum prepared for young children

PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS

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MATTHEW 21:33–46

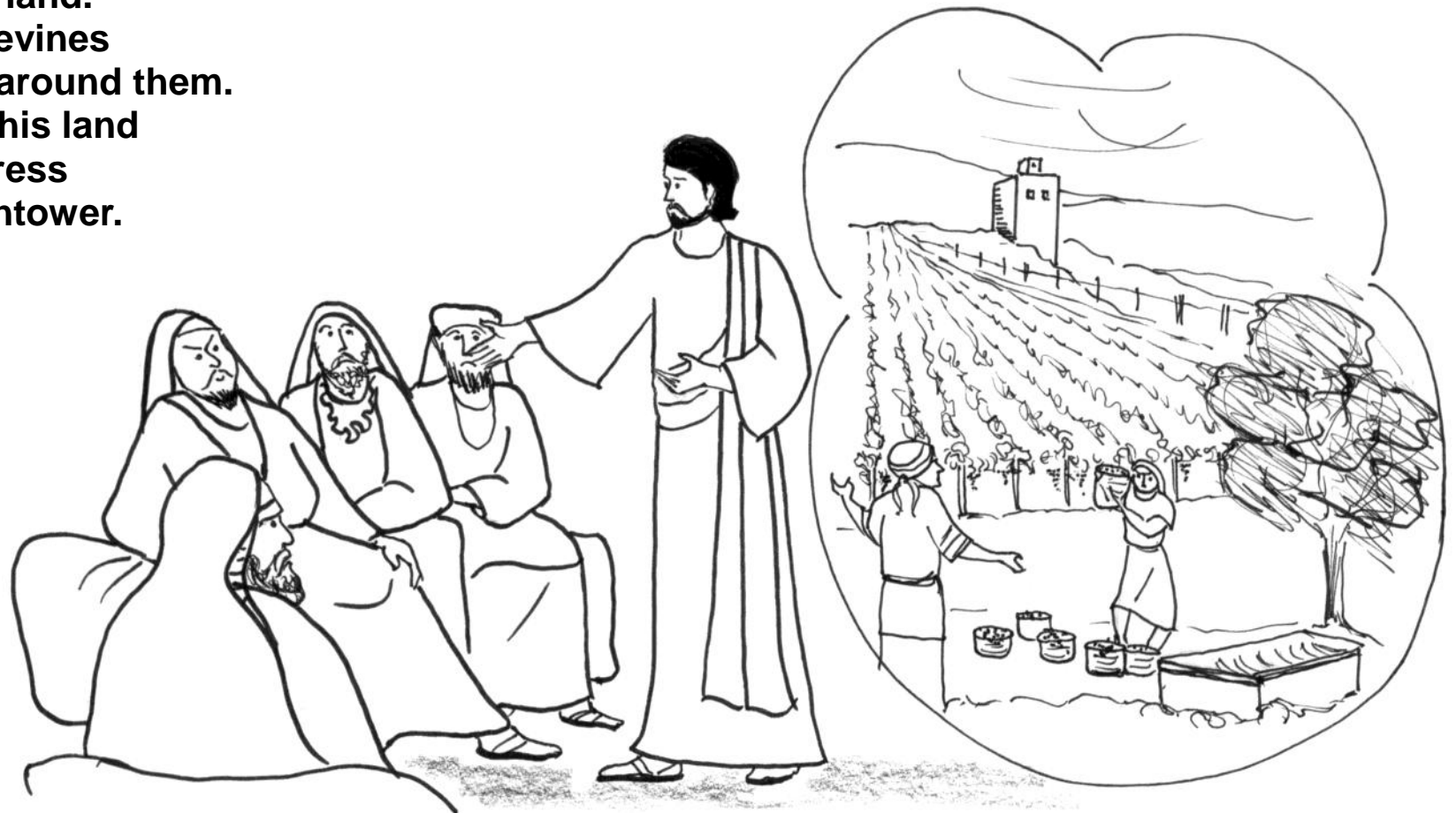
Mark 12:1–12; Luke 20:9–19

PARABLE OF THE WICKED TENANTS

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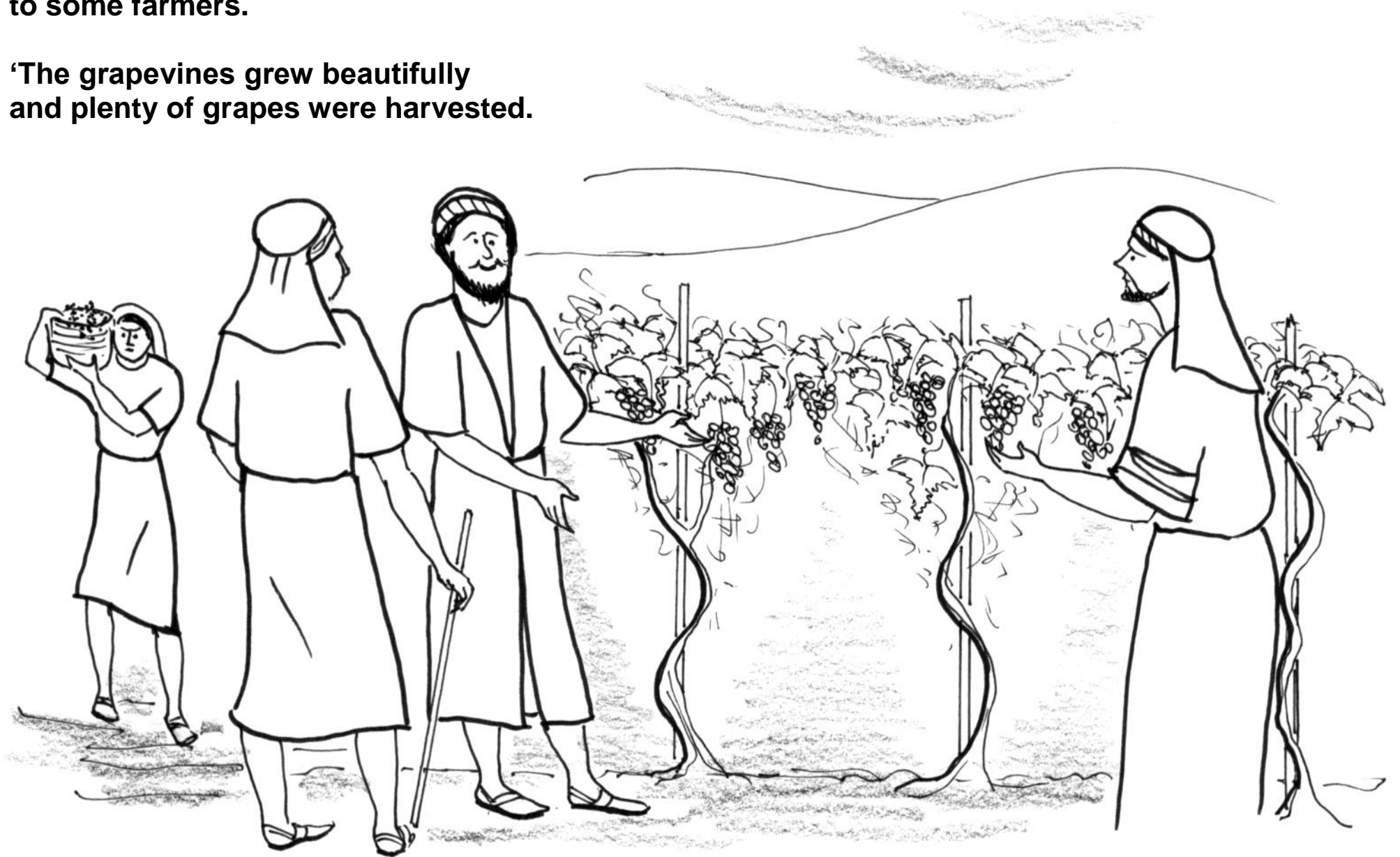
Jesus told this story to the Jewish leaders:

**‘There was a man
who had a lot of land.
He planted grapevines
and put a fence around them.
In the middle of his land
he dug a wine press
and built a watchtower.**



**'The owner was going away
so he rented his vineyard
to some farmers.**

**'The grapevines grew beautifully
and plenty of grapes were harvested.**



'The owner sent his servants to get his share of the grapes.

'The farmers did not give the servants any grapes. Instead they beat one servant, killed another and threw stones at the other.



**‘Other servants were sent.
Surely the owner would get
his share of the grapes
this time.**

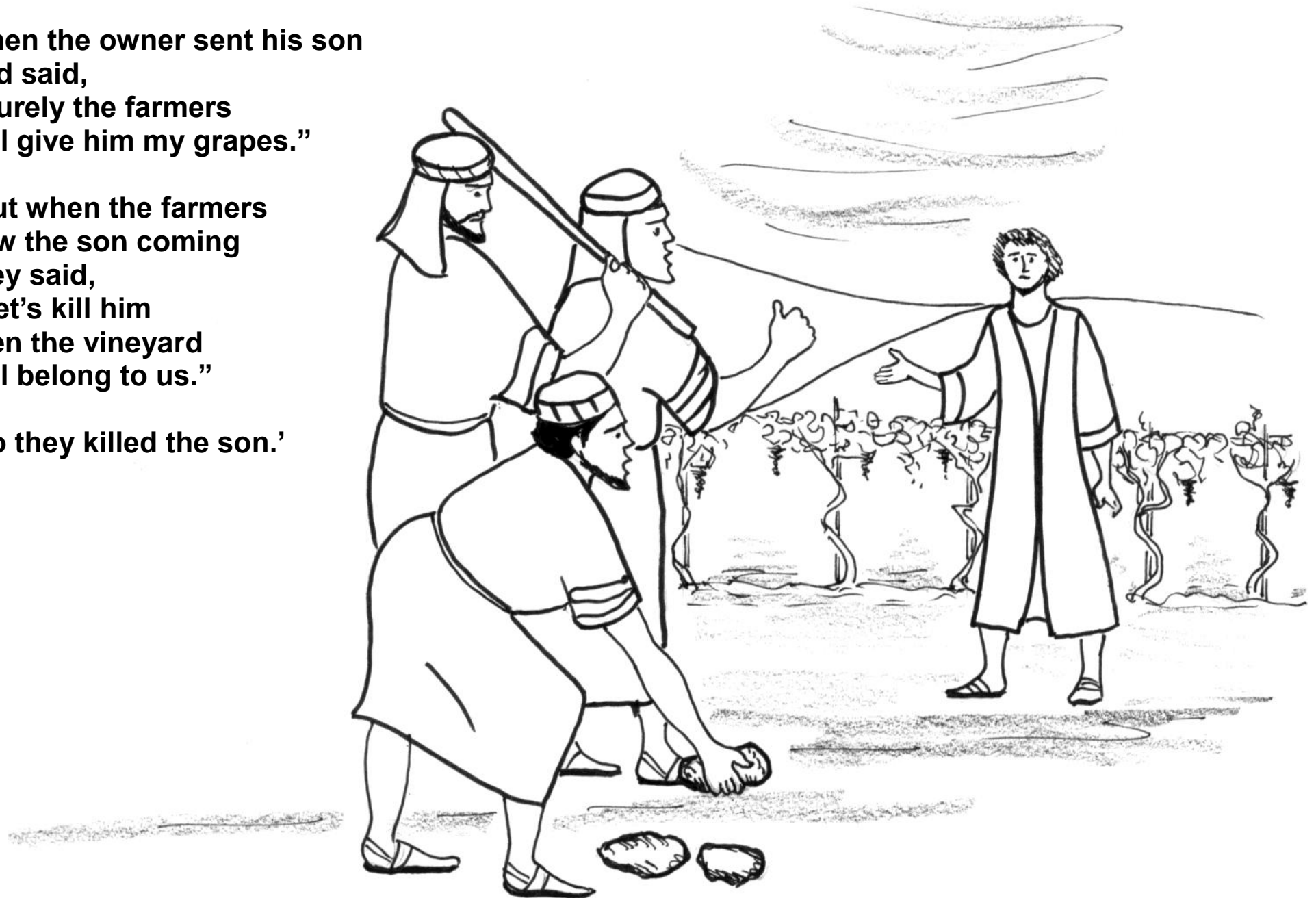
**‘But the farmers did not give
these servants any grapes either.
They did the same as before –
beat one servant,
killed another
and threw stones at the other.**



**‘Then the owner sent his son
and said,
“Surely the farmers
will give him my grapes.”**

**‘But when the farmers
saw the son coming
they said,
“Let’s kill him
then the vineyard
will belong to us.”**

‘So they killed the son.’



**After finishing the story
Jesus asked the Jewish leaders,
'When the owner comes back
what will he do to the farmers?'**

**The leaders answered,
'He will kill them
and get other farmers
to look after his vineyard;
farmers who will let
the owner have his grapes.'**



Then the leaders realised that Jesus had told this story about them.

They became angry and wanted to arrest Jesus, but they couldn't.

God's people thought they were special, but they would not continue as His people if they did not receive Jesus whom God had sent to them.

