



A Story of Two Sons
Theme: The Work God Has Given Us To Do
Matthew 21:28-32 International Children's Bible (ICB)
September 27, 2020- Year A

Matthew 21:28-32

²⁸ “Tell me what you think about this: There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first son and said, ‘Son, go and work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹ The son answered, ‘I will not go.’ But later the son decided he should go, and he went. ³⁰ Then the father went to the other son and said, ‘Son, go and work today in my vineyard.’ The son answered, ‘Yes, sir, I will go and work.’ But he did not go. ³¹ Which of the two sons obeyed his father?”

The priests and leaders answered, “The first son.”

Jesus said to them, “I tell you the truth. The tax collectors and the prostitutes will enter the kingdom of God before you do. ³² John came to show you the right way to live. And you did not believe him. But the tax collectors and prostitutes believed John. You saw this, but you still refused to change and believe him.

Start Lesson:

Prayer: Almighty God, we gather together to listen to your message so we may come to know you and discover how we are called to serve you in this world. Open our hearts and minds that we may explore what you are asking us to do. Amen

The Story: Matthew 21:23-32 In the Bible we hear stories of many people. These people are just like us, they eat and sleep, go to school and work. God has a plan for each of them, and in hearing the stories we learn that God’s plan is for each of us too.

Read *Matthew 21:23-32* to the children using scripture above or your own bible.

Video- [A Story of Two Brothers](#)

Wonderings

- I wonder what Jesus was trying to tell us in his story about the two sons?
- I wonder how the first son felt when he decided to go do the work?
- I wonder how the second son felt when he didn’t go do the work even though he said he would?
- I wonder if someone has ever asked you to do a task and you have either done it or not done it?

What do you think “to seek and serve Christ” means?

In the promises that we make at Baptisms in the Baptismal Covenant, we promise to “seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as ourselves.”

What do you think this means for how we treat one another?

We just heard a story about a father and two sons. In the story, the father asks one son to do the work, he says no, but then later in the day, he decides that he should do the work. The father also asks the second son to go into the field and do the work, he says yes, but then never goes into the field to help. In this story Jesus is reminding us that it is important to go and do the work God asks us to do. It does not matter if we say no first, or if we aren't perfect, or if we mess up sometimes. What is important is that we go and do what God has asked of us. Through our baptismal covenant and by being people of God, we are all called by God to go and do the work. *Let's name some ways that we can “seek and serve Christ in all persons.”*

Activity - Handprint Pledge

Family members can help each other trace each other's hands in the middle of a piece of paper. Once each child or family member has a piece of paper with their traced hand on it, have them write or draw the following-

Inside of the hand: What are the things you can do in your family to do the work of God? (examples: help with chores, pray at meals, be nice to my sister/brother, do something nice for my parents, etc.)

Outside of the hand: What are some things you can do in your community and in the world to do the work of God? (send art or cards to people who are sick or lonely, donate your clothes, books or toys that you no longer use, raise money for those in need, call a grandparent or special senior for a chat, etc.)

Glue the white sheet onto a piece of colored construction paper. Have your children share with the rest of the family. Make a commitment to each other to seek and serve Christ in your home.

Closing Prayer- Can use provided or your own

Gracious and Loving God, we thank you for our time together as we explored what it means to serve you and others. Help us to remember that doing your work in the world, seeking and serving others in your name, and being the people you have called us to be is the most important thing we can do. Be with us as we leave this place and bless our acts of service that we might serve others in your name. Amen.

My Handprint Pledge

hold the door

Show respect to others

Smile at a stranger

Be helpful at school

Volunteer

Tell someone about Jesus

Pray at meals

Help around the house

Be patient

Be respectful

Pray for my family

Be nice to my sister.

Show love

Read my Bible

make cards

Donate to those in need

Seeking and serving Christ in all persons