

27TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE PARABLE OF THE TENANTS

This week we will learn how Jesus told stories to his disciples, or followers. The stories Jesus told are known as parables. Parables use examples from daily life to teach an important lesson about God's love and the ways we can be more like Jesus. Some people rejected Jesus and his parables, others used them to learn and grow as disciples. One of these parables is known as the "Parable of the Wicked Tenants." In this parable, we learn about how Jesus is the "cornerstone", or foundation, of our Church.

PRIMARY TEACHING OBJECTIVES

People often reject God's prophets, even His own Son, Jesus.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 21:33-37](#); [Isaiah 5:1-7](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 679](#)

Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church.

Scripture Resources: [Matthew 21: 42](#); [Acts 4:10-12](#); [1 Peter 2:6](#)

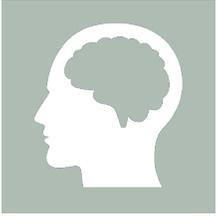
Catechism Resources: [CCC 457-459](#)

We are the living stones of the Church that bear fruit in the world.

Scripture Resources: [Philippians 4:6-9](#); [Galatians 5:22-23](#)

Catechism Resources: [CCC 736-756](#)





PONDER: EXPLORE KEY THEMES FOR THE WEEK

Look for opportunities throughout the week to communicate these truths to your child(ren). Use the questions below each objective to explore the topic throughout the week. Remember that our faith is a mystery and you don't always need all the answers. Refer to the Parent Guide for more recommendations on pondering with your child(ren).

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN:

Learning Objectives

01 People often reject God's prophets, even His own Son, Jesus.

A prophet is a person who gives messages to us from God

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Who are the people whom God sends to give us his message?
- Have ever you been left out by a friend or a loved one? How did that make you feel?
- Jesus wants to be your friend and show you He loves you. Have there ever been times when you have left Jesus out or rejected His love?

02 Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Can you describe a rock to me? *(A rock is strong, firm, can be the base to hold a construction e.g.)*
- Who in our family has those characteristics?
- How is God a rock for our family church? *(Compare with a rock and answer.)*

03 We are the living stones of the Church that bear fruit in the world.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Have you ever seen plants, flowers, or a fruit tree? What do they need to grow and bear fruit?

- We also need to care for our bodies, our minds, and our spiritual lives. How do we care for our body? How do we care for our mind?
- How do we care for our spiritual life? (By reading the Scriptures, praying, going to Mass, being joyful, obeying and helping our families so they can see God though us)
- Can you think of some ways you can show God's love to your parents, siblings, and friends?

FOR OLDER CHILDREN:

Learning Objectives

01 People often reject God's prophets, even His own Son, Jesus.

God sends people to give us his message. And sometimes we reject those people because we don't like to be corrected or change the way we do things. Jesus was sent to us because God loves us and He wants us to be good to others and close to Him. This means to obey the commandments and do things the right way – even when they are hard for us to do and we are not getting everything we want.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- Can you think of a time when your parents/grandparents/teachers ever asked you to do something you didn't want to do (to take a shower, go to bed early, turn off the TV?) How did you react to them?
- Even though sometimes we don't like doing what our parents/grandparents/teachers ask us to do, why is it good to listen to the people who love and care for us and do what they ask?
- Like our parents, God loves you and wants what is good for you too. So, God sends people to guide you to do what is good in life. Some of these people give us messages or directions that God wants us to hear. Has someone ever given you a message like that?
- What was that message? Was there anything you did not like about that message?
- Is there any consequence for us when we do not obey the rules? (Remember, a consequence is not punishment, it is the result of our actions.)

02 Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church.

A cornerstone is a foundation, or a solid stone, which is used to hold the weight of buildings so they did not fall apart and possibly hurt people. Jesus is the cornerstone of our entire Church. He holds the Church (the people of God) together and help us support one another. Our family is called the “domestic Church.” Your domestic church also has a cornerstone. Like Jesus, the cornerstone of the family is what keeps it together and strong, especially in difficult times. The cornerstone of your family may be your parents/grandparents or a someone in your family who keeps you all safe and leads you to closer God.

- Is there anyone in your household that your family relies on when there is a need (when someone is sick, something is broken, or there is a problem of any kind?) Who is that person? How do you know you can rely on that person?
- Some people may forget to tell you they love you, but when they do good things for you, they show their love and support. What are some ways that your family members have shown you they love you through their actions? Share some of your experiences together with your family.

03 We are the living stones of the Church that bear fruit in the world.

Jesus sets an example for us of how we should live our lives. He was obedient to God, caring, and helped people in need. He prayed for and with others. And He made people feel loved with his words and deeds.

To help your child ponder this idea, ask:

- *Jesus often show us His love for us through the kindness and love that others show to us. Have other people shared Jesus' love with you in your life?*
- *How can you share Jesus' love with others through your actions?*

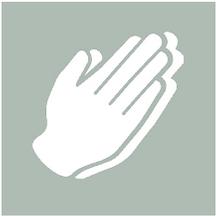
The stone that the builders rejected
HAS BECOME THE CORNERSTONE.
 Matthew 21: 42



LISTEN: FAMILY LECTIO DIVINA

Use the passage below for this week's family Lectio Divina time. Ask what your child's favorite part is or what stood out to them. Ask what God may be trying to show your child through the chosen scripture. Please refer to the Parent Guide for further recommendations on doing Lectio Divina with children.

[Matthew 21: 33-43](#) - The Parable of the Tenants



PRAY: SPECIAL PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

With your family, pray one paragraph of the prayer (below) each day for three days. Spend a minute or two after your prayer to reflect on the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer for the Twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit

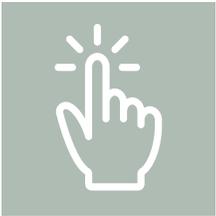
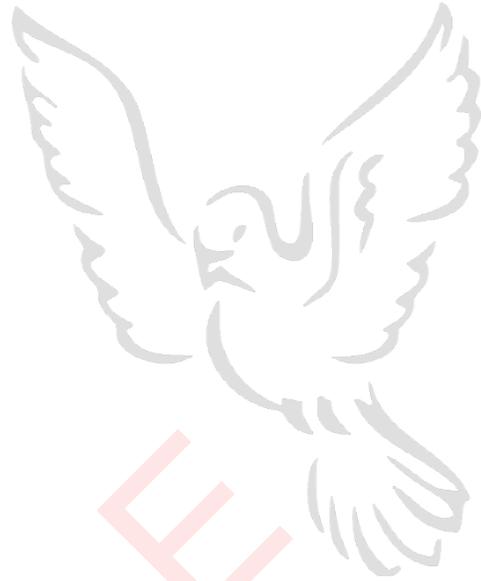
Holy Spirit, eternal Love of the Father and the Son, kindly bestow on us the fruit of charity, that we may be united to you by divine love; the fruit of joy, that we may be filled with holy consolation; the fruit of peace, that we may enjoy tranquility of soul; and the fruit of patience, that we may endure humbly everything that may be opposed to our own desires.

Divine Spirit, be pleased to infuse in us the fruit of benignity (kindness), that we may willingly relieve our neighbor's necessities; the fruit of goodness, that we may be benevolent toward all; the fruit of longanimity (long-suffering), that we may not be discouraged by delay but may persevere in prayer; and the fruit of mildness (humility), that we may subdue every rising of ill temper, stifle every murmur, and repress the susceptibilities of our nature in all our dealings with our neighbor.

Creator Spirit, graciously impart to us the fruit of fidelity, that we may rely with assured confidence on the word of God; the fruit of modesty, that we may order our exterior regularly; and the fruits of continence and chastity, that we may keep our bodies in such holiness as befits your temple, so that having by your assistance preserved our hearts pure on earth, we may merit in Jesus Christ, according to the words of the Gospel, to see God eternally in the glory of his kingdom.

THE TWELVE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Charity
2. Joy
3. Peace
4. Patience
5. Kindness
6. Goodness
7. Long-suffering
8. Humility
9. Fidelity
10. Modesty
11. Continence
12. Chastity



ACT: CONCRETE WAYS TO LIVE OUT THIS WEEK'S THEME

FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN: BUILD A TOWER with blocks or rocks. Then, get some sticky notes: on one of the sticky notes, write the name Jesus. On each of the others, write the names of your family member (one name per sticky note). Then, place Jesus' name on the bottom block (or rock) and the names of the members of your family on others on top of (or around) the Jesus rock. Place it in your prayer space (or a safe and visible space in your home) as a sign of recognition that Jesus is the rock that supports and holds your family together.

FOR OLDER CHILDREN: Using arts and crafts materials, make a **SPIRITUAL TIMELINE** of your journey with God. Begin with the day you were born and end with today. Think about special times when have you encountered God throughout your life and place them on the timeline. Be sure to include special events such as your Baptism and First Communion.

FOR THE FAMILY: Adults, throughout the week, look for ways to share some experiences of how God has supported you (through the Church Community, in prayer, or in other ways) with your child(ren). After you share, invite your child(ren) to share their own experience of God's loving support with you too.