

THE LANDLORD



40 Days of Letting Go A JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

This year during Lent we're letting go of the things that hold us back from truly experiencing God in this world. What do you need to let go in order to have room for the aliveness that Jesus offers? Can you let go of your ego, and the common assumption that most problems are other peoples' fault? What is your role, your calling, in this world? What new thing is God saying to you, if only you'll listen?

MARK 12:1-12

A vineyard owner (God) hires tenants (people of God) to care for his vineyard. He sends several messengers (prophets), one after another, to the vineyard to collect the fruit. Each messenger is beaten or killed by the tenants. Instead of giving up, the vineyard owner sends his own son (Jesus) into the violent situation, thinking the tenants will certainly listen to him. But they don't. They kill him, too.

TALK ABOUT THIS ...

Is God crazy for sending well-meaning messengers into the jaws of death, hoping each time for a better ending? This story increases the tension between Jesus and the political/religious authorities. It illustrates the people's failure to be faithful to God, and their failure to live out justice and righteousness. It's also an illustration of the unrelenting love of God for everyone, no matter what.



LOVE

Is this story primarily about violence, or is it about a big love that persists even in the face of hate? What does this have to do with our lives today?



SURPRISE

Have you ever acted like the tenants in this story? Have you ever ignored the call of God to care for people around you, even those you don't like?



PROGRESS

Where in this brutal story do we see a picture of what God's kingdom looks like? Why do we tell this story today? What difference does it make in our lives?

FAITH 5 ... A BEDTIME ROUTINE FOR FAMILIES

SHARE your highs and lows from the day. READ the Bible story. TALK about how the Bible story relates to your highs and lows. PRAY for one another's highs and lows, and BLESS one another.

MORE INFORMATION: faith5.org