

XTRA! 4th March 2021 Naboth's Vineyard

Gathering Song: Be Still and Know that I am God

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbBlmzfVy94>

Why don't you set a worship space: purple cloth, cross and candle

Greeting

Peace be with you

And also with you

Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God

to whom all hearts are open,

all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hidden,

cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit

that we may perfectly love you

and worthily magnify your holy name

through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Kyrie Confession

Think through the week that you have had; all the things that have happened... Then:

Father God, we are sorry for the times when we have thought things that do not please you. [*pause*]

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

We are sorry for the times when we have said things that do not please you. [pause]

Christ have mercy

Christ have mercy

We are sorry for the times when we have done things that do not please you. [pause]

Lord have mercy

Lord have mercy

Absolution

May the God of love bring us back to himself,
forgive us our sins,
and assure us of his eternal love
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This story from the Old Testament isn't a happy one, and might make you feel angry at the behaviour of some people...

Reading: Naboth's Vineyard (1 Kings 21. 1-16)

Near King Ahab's palace in Jezreel there was a vineyard owned by a man named Naboth. One day Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard; it is close to my palace, and I want to use the land for a vegetable garden. I will give you a better vineyard for it or, if you prefer, I will pay you a fair price."

"I inherited this vineyard from my ancestors," Naboth replied. "The LORD forbid that I should let you have it!"

⁴Ahab went home, depressed and angry over what Naboth had said to him. He lay down on his bed, facing the wall,

and would not eat. His wife Jezebel went to him and asked, “Why are you so depressed? Why won't you eat?”

He answered, “Because of what Naboth said to me. I offered to buy his vineyard or, if he preferred, to give him another one for it, but he told me that I couldn't have it!”

“Well, are you the king or aren't you?” Jezebel replied.

“Get out of bed, cheer up, and eat. I will get you Naboth's vineyard!”

Then she wrote some letters, signed Ahab's name to them, sealed them with his seal, and sent them to the officials and leading citizens of Jezreel. The letters said: “Proclaim a day of fasting, call the people together, and give Naboth the place of honour. Get a couple of scoundrels to accuse him to his face of cursing God and the king. Then take him out of the city and stone him to death.”

The officials and leading citizens of Jezreel did what Jezebel had commanded. They proclaimed a day of fasting, called the people together, and gave Naboth the place of honour. The two scoundrels publicly accused him of cursing God and the king, and so he was taken outside the city and stoned to death. The message was sent to Jezebel:

“Naboth has been put to death.”

As soon as Jezebel received the message, she said to Ahab, “Naboth is dead. Now go and take possession of the vineyard which he refused to sell to you.” At once Ahab went to the vineyard to take possession of it.

Wondering Questions

- In this story Jezebel is a bully. I wonder how can we stand up to bullies in our lives?
- I wonder why Elijah, the man of God, didn't intervene sooner?
- This story is full of terrible behaviour. I wonder why people act like that?
- I wonder why Ahab, the king, could no longer tell right from wrong?

Prayers/Action

Colours can be associated with how we feel, our emotions.

Draw a bunch of grapes and make the grapes quite large. Colour the grapes different colours: some green (for jealousy), some red (for anger), blue (for feeling low) and yellow (for cowardly behaviour). Pray about the times you may have felt like that, and ask God to turn those negative thoughts into positive ones.



Lord's Prayer

**Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come, your will be done,
On earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
As we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are
yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing

**May the lightness of God go with you
May the brightness of God go with you
May he shine on all you do.
May God bless you.**

Messy Grace

**May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you now and evermore.
Amen**

Resources:

Refreshments
Purple cloth, candle, matches, cross
Paper and Pens

