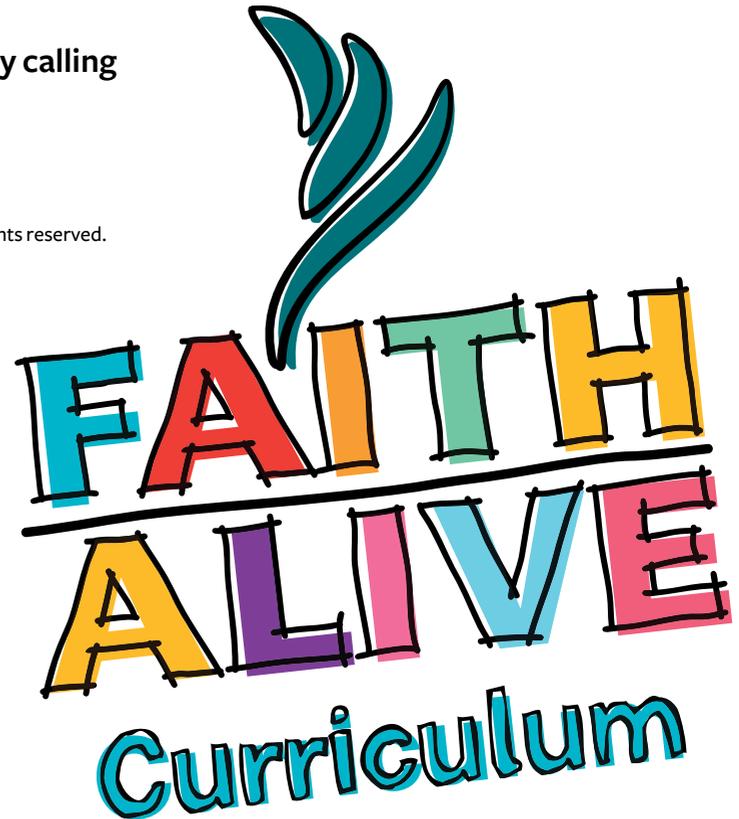


Sample

Full product can be ordered by calling
1-800-333-8300 or by visiting
FaithAliveResources.org.

Property of Faith Alive Christian Resources. All rights reserved.



 [Facebook.com/FACurriculum](https://www.facebook.com/FACurriculum)

 [Twitter.com/FACurriculum](https://twitter.com/FACurriculum)

▶ Tell the Story. Live the Story.

What's Yours Is Mine!

Reader's Theater

Based on 1 Kings 21, *The Message*

Characters

Narrator	Two Stool Pigeons
King Ahab	Voice of God
Naboth	Elijah
Jezebel	

Narrator: Naboth the Jezreelite owned a vineyard in Jezreel that bordered the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. One day Ahab spoke to Naboth.

Ahab: Give me your vineyard so I can use it as a kitchen garden; it's right next to my house—so convenient. In exchange, I'll give you a far better vineyard, or if you'd prefer I'll pay you money for it.

Naboth: Not on your life! So help me God, I'd never sell the family farm to you!*

Narrator: Ahab went home in a black mood, sulking over Naboth the Jezreelite's words, "I'll never turn over my family inheritance to you." He went to bed, stuffed his face into his pillow, and refused to eat. Jezebel his wife came to him.

Jezebel: What's going on? Why are you so out of sorts and refusing to eat?

Ahab: Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite. I said, "Give me your vineyard—I'll pay you for it, or if you'd rather, I'll give you another vineyard in exchange." And he said, "I'll never give you my vineyard."

Jezebel: [*sarcastically*] Is this any way for a king of Israel to act? Aren't you the boss? On your feet! Eat! Cheer up! I'll take care of this; I'll get the vineyard of this Naboth the Jezreelite for you.

Narrator: So Jezebel wrote letters over Ahab's signature, stamped them with his official seal, and sent them to the elders in Naboth's city and to the civic leaders. She wrote,

Jezebel: Call for a fast day and put Naboth at the head table. Then seat a couple of stool pigeons across from him who, in front of everybody, will say, "You! You blasphemed God and the king!" Then they'll throw him out and stone him to death.

Narrator: And they did it. The men of the city—the elders and the civic leaders—followed Jezebel's instructions that she wrote in the letters sent to them. They called for a fast day and seated Naboth at the head table. Then they brought in two stool pigeons and seated them opposite Naboth. In front of everybody the two degenerates accused him.

Stool Pigeons: [*together, pointing to Naboth*] He just blasphemed God and the king!

Narrator: The company threw Naboth out in the street, stoned him mercilessly, and he died. When Jezebel got word that Naboth had been stoned to death, she told Ahab,

Jezebel: Go for it, Ahab—take the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite for your own, the vineyard he refused to sell you. Naboth is no more. Naboth is dead.

Narrator: The minute Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he set out for the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite and claimed it for his own. Then God stepped in and spoke to Elijah the Tishbite.

Voice of God: On your feet; go down and confront Ahab of Samaria, king of Israel. You'll find him in the vineyard of Naboth; he's gone there to claim it as his own. Say this to him: "God's word: What's going on here? First murder, then theft?" Then tell him, "God's verdict: the very spot where the dogs lapped up Naboth's blood, they'll lap up your blood—that's right, *your* blood."

Ahab: My enemy! So, you've run me down!

Elijah: Yes, I've found you out. And because you've bought into the business of evil, defying God, God says to you, "I will most certainly bring doom upon you, make mincemeat of your descendants, kill off every sorry male wretch

who's even remotely connected with the name Ahab. And I'll bring down on you the same fate that fell on Jeroboam son of Nebat and Baasha son of Ahijah—you've made me *that* angry by making Israel sin."

Narrator: As for Jezebel, God said,

Voice of God: Dogs will fight over the flesh of Jezebel all over Jezreel. Anyone tainted by Ahab who dies in the city will be eaten by stray dogs; corpses in the country will be eaten by carrion crows.

Narrator: Ahab, pushed by his wife Jezebel and in open defiance of God, set an all-time record in making big business of evil. He indulged in outrageous obscenities in the world of idols, copying the Amorites whom God had earlier kicked out of Israelite territory.

When Ahab heard what Elijah had to say, he ripped his clothes to shreds, dressed in penitential rough burlap, and fasted. He even slept in course burlap pajamas. He tiptoed around, quiet as a mouse.

Then God spoke to Elijah the Tishbite:

Voice of God: Do you see how penitently submissive Ahab has become to me? Because of his repentance, I'll not bring the doom during his lifetime; Ahab's son, though, will get it.

*Naboth refused to give Ahab his vineyard because of his belief that the land belonged to the Lord, and the Lord had given a perpetual lease to each Israelite family. This lease was to be jealously preserved as the family's permanent inheritance in the promised land.

—Footnote, *NIV Study Bible*

Talk About It

1. What huge unfairness or injustice was committed in this story? By whom? To whom?
2. Wait a minute! Didn't Ahab have the right as a king to take whatever he wanted?
3. At first Ahab didn't just grab Naboth's vineyard—he offered to buy it. So why didn't Naboth sell? It was a good deal, wasn't it?
4. Why do you suppose the local officials in Naboth's hometown went along with Jezebel's wicked plan?
5. How does this story make you feel about what happened to Naboth? How did God feel about it?
6. Why do you suppose Ahab repented? How did God show mercy even to this evil man?
7. What eventually happened to Ahab? (See 1 Kings 22:38.) To Jezebel? (See 2 Kings 9:30-37.) To Joram, Ahab's son? (See 2 Kings 9:25-26.)

Dear Family,

During the next four weeks our group will be learning about justice. We'll focus on God's call to us as Christians to work for justice on earth—and to fight the injustice caused by things like racial prejudice, violence, and greed. We'll talk about being contented with our fair share and think about what we can give up to provide for the needs of the world's hungry people.

During this month your family may want to talk about some of these issues together too. Here are some suggestions for getting involved:

- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or gather food for a food pantry.
- Raise money for an organization that ministers to people in need.
- Protest and fight against injustice in your own community.

As you talk about some of these things, we suggest you memorize Micah 6:8 together too—and challenge each other to live it!

Sincerely,

Dear Family,

During the next four weeks our group will be learning about justice. We'll focus on God's call to us as Christians to work for justice on earth—and to fight the injustice caused by things like racial prejudice, violence, and greed. We'll talk about being contented with our fair share and think about what we can give up to provide for the needs of the world's hungry people.

During this month your family may want to talk about some of these issues together too. Here are some suggestions for getting involved:

- Volunteer at a homeless shelter or gather food for a food pantry.
- Raise money for an organization that ministers to people in need.
- Protest and fight against injustice in your own community.

As you talk about some of these things, we suggest you memorize Micah 6:8 together too—and challenge each other to live it!

Sincerely,

Memory Challenge

He has shown all you people what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8, TNIV

Memory Challenge

He has shown all you people what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8, TNIV

Memory Challenge

He has shown all you people what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8, TNIV

Memory Challenge

He has shown all you people what is good.
And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

—Micah 6:8, TNIV

Memory Challenge

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8, NRSV

Memory Challenge

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8, NRSV

Memory Challenge

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8, NRSV

Memory Challenge

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

—Micah 6:8, NRSV

What Does the Lord Require

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the Lord re -

B \flat F Gm Dm E \flat B \flat

This system contains the first line of music, including vocal melody, piano accompaniment, and bass line. The lyrics are "What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the Lord re -". Chords are indicated below the piano part: B \flat , F, Gm, Dm, E \flat , and B \flat .

Descant I

Jus - tice, kind - ness,

quire of you? What does the Lord re - quire of you?

Cm F B \flat F/A Gm Dm/F

This system includes a descant section labeled "Descant I" and continues the lyrics: "Jus - tice, kind - ness, quire of you? What does the Lord re - quire of you?". Chords are indicated below the piano part: Cm, F, B \flat , F/A, Gm, and Dm/F.

Descant II

To seek jus - tice

walk hum - bly with your God. Jus - tice,

What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the Lord re -

E \flat B \flat /D Cm F B \flat F/A

This system includes a second descant section labeled "Descant II" and continues the lyrics: "To seek jus - tice, walk hum - bly with your God. Jus - tice, What does the Lord re - quire of you? What does the Lord re -". Chords are indicated below the piano part: E \flat , B \flat /D, Cm, F, B \flat , and F/A.

1 Repeat ad lib 2 Last time

and love kind-ness and walk hum-bly with your God. God.

kind - ness, walk hum-bly with your God. God.

quire of you? What does the Lord re - quire of you? you?

Gm Dm/F Eb Bb/D Cm7 F Bb Bb

The Prayer of St. Francis

All: Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.

Group 1: Where there is hatred,

Group 2: let me sow love;

Group 1: where there is injury,

Group 2: pardon;

Group 1: where there is doubt,

Group 2: faith;

Group 1: where there is despair,

Group 2: hope;

Group 1: where there is darkness,

Group 2: light;

Group 1: and where there is sadness,

Group 2: joy.

All: O Divine Master,

Group 1: grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled

Group 2: as to console;

Group 1: to be understood

Group 2: as to understand;

Group 1: to be loved

Group 2: as to love.

Group 1: For it is in giving

Group 2: that we receive;

Group 1: it is in pardoning

Group 2: that we are pardoned;

All: and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.