



# Church of God Sunday School

## ELIJAH AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD

1 Kings 21

King Ahab, the wicked king of Israel, continued to disobey God, even after Elijah had revealed on

Mount Carmel that God was the only true God. King Ahab liked to have his own way. God wants us to do His will and not to go our own way, but King Ahab and Queen Jezebel were very selfish people, and they were very wicked, as we shall see.

Once there was a man named Naboth who had a very nice vineyard. It was in Jezreel, right by the palace of King Ahab. Every time King Ahab looked out his palace window, he could see this nice vineyard of Naboth's. Since this nice vineyard was so close to the palace, King Ahab thought it would be the very thing to have as a garden for his herbs.

King Ahab asked Naboth to sell the vineyard to him. Oh, Ahab was fair in his dealings with Naboth. He told Naboth that he would give him a better vineyard or pay him what it was worth. But Naboth did not want to sell his vineyard to King Ahab. His reply to King Ahab was, "The LORD forbid it me, that I should give the inheritance of my fathers unto thee."

King Ahab was not at all pleased to hear that. He thought to himself: Wasn't he the king? Couldn't he have whatever he wanted? Why shouldn't he have that nice vineyard? Naboth could get another one. It just was not fair; he should have what he wanted—or so he thought.

But Naboth would not sell his vineyard to King Ahab, so King Ahab turned around and went into his palace feeling "heavy and displeased." He laid down on his bed, turned himself to the wall, and would not eat. King Ahab was pouting!

When Queen Jezebel heard that the king had taken to his bed, she went to see him. She asked him, "Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?"

King Ahab told her how he had offered to buy Naboth's vineyard or give him another one of equal value, but Naboth had said he would not sell his vineyard to him.

Jezebel looked at King Ahab and said, in so many words: "Aren't you the king? Get up and eat something. I will give you Naboth's vineyard." How could Jezebel take Naboth's vineyard away from him and give it to Ahab?

Jezebel was a wicked woman, so here is what she did. She wrote letters to the elders and nobles of the city, telling them to proclaim a fast, as if something wrong had been done. The men were to get Naboth and bring him before the people. Two wicked men were supposed to tell lies about him and say that Naboth had blasphemed God and the king. These were crimes with strict punishment. Naboth was to be taken out and stoned to death!

When the nobles and the elders received the Queen's letters, they did just as Queen Jezebel had told them to do. They never asked if Naboth was innocent. They just hired two men to lie about him and brought him before the people. The people listened to the accusations of the two men. Then they took poor Naboth outside the city and killed him, by throwing stones at him until he died! Naboth did not have a chance!

After heartless Queen Jezebel was told that Naboth was dead, she went to wicked King Ahab and told him. King Ahab asked her no questions. No doubt he knew she had caused Naboth's death somehow. King Ahab was happy then. He just got up out of that bed and went to take possession of the vineyard, thinking, at last he could have what he wanted.

But God had seen all that had taken place. He was not pleased. He sent the Prophet Elijah to Naboth's vineyard with a very sad and sober message for the king.

When Elijah found King Ahab among the



*Elijah and Naboth's Vineyard*

grapevines, he said to him: "Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? [Was Naboth's death really Ahab's fault?] . . . Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine. . . . because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD." King Ahab was going to die, and the dogs would lick up his blood because he had been so wicked!

Elijah told Ahab that his family would not escape punishment either. Ahab's household was going to suffer greatly from God's hand. Jezebel would die a terrible death, since she was one reason why Ahab had done much of the evil: she would think of wicked things for King Ahab to do and get him to do them! So the dogs would lick up her blood too!

King Ahab listened to all Elijah had to say—and then—the great king humbled himself before God. He tore his fine clothes to show his grief. He put on

sackcloth (the rough clothing people wore when someone had died). He fasted (or did not eat). He was not pouting now. He was very careful of his actions before God. He wanted the Lord to see his sorrow.

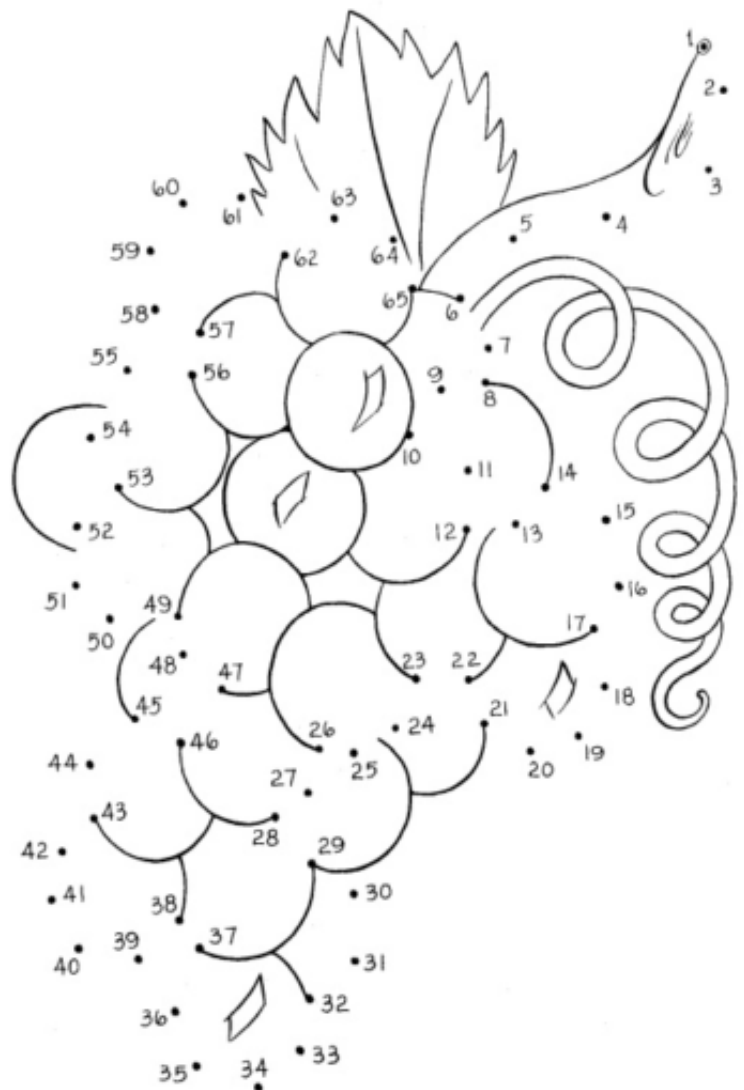
God saw all that King Ahab did. He told Elijah to deliver another message to the king. God said that since Ahab had humbled himself before Him, the evil that was to come on Ahab's household would not come in his days, while he lived. God would keep the evil times away from Ahab's family until Ahab died. Then, when Ahab's son was made king, the evil would come.

**MEMORY VERSE:**

*"But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness . . . whom Jezebel his wife stirred up."*  
—1 Kings 21:25

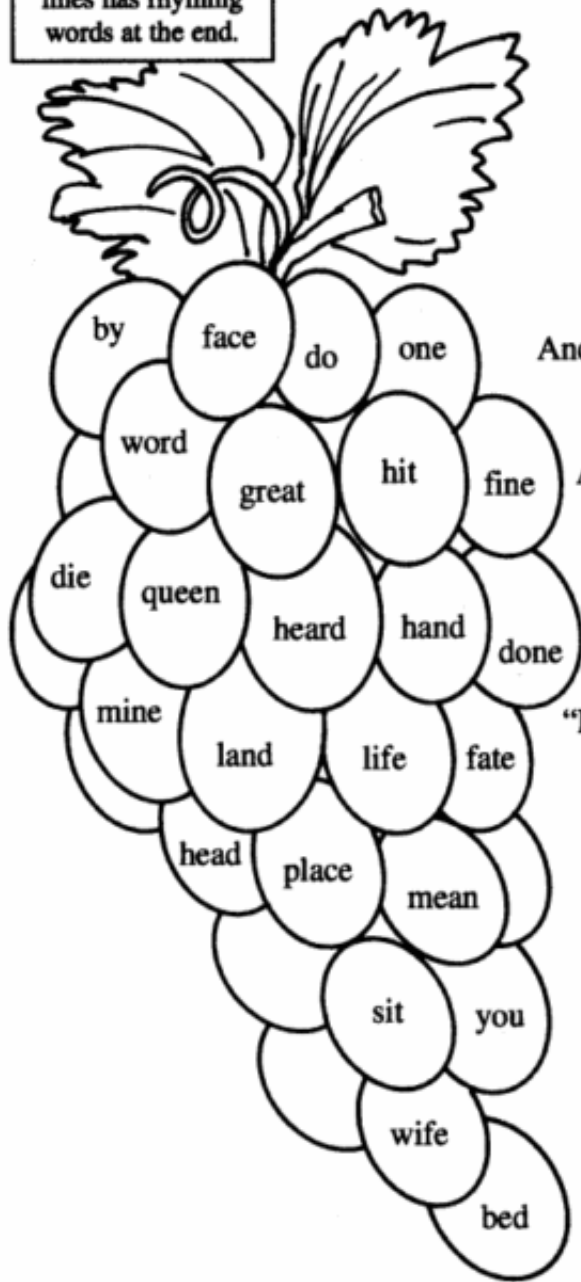


**What Did Ahab  
Want From  
Naboth?**

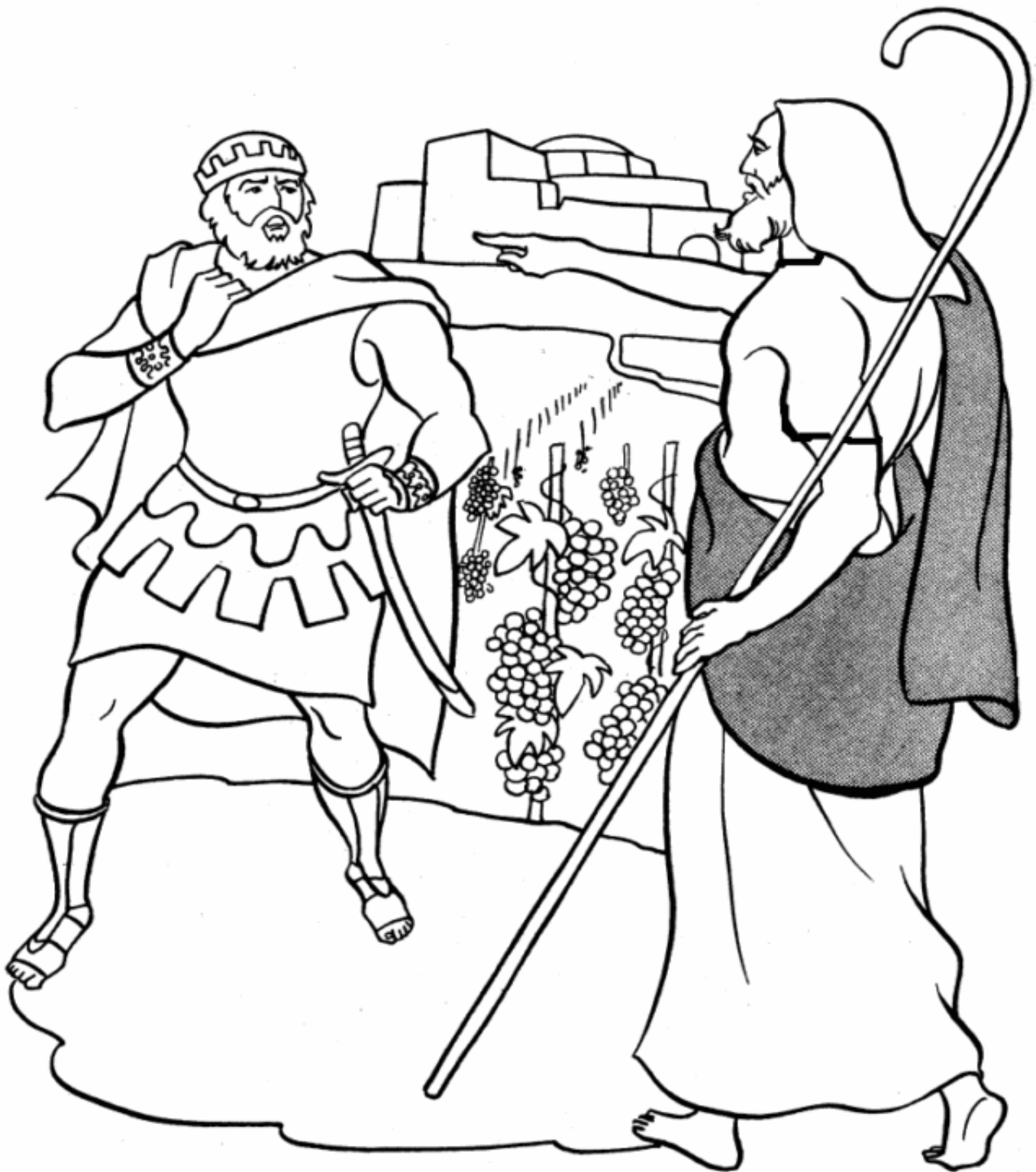


**CHILDREN'S**  
**BIBLE**  
ACTIVITY SHEETS

Fit the words from the grapes into the poem. Each set of 2 lines has rhyming words at the end.



**N**aboth owned a vineyard \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ahab said, "I'll make it \_\_\_\_\_."  
 Naboth said, "It can't be \_\_\_\_\_."  
 The Lord had said, "Sell to no \_\_\_\_\_!"  
 So Ahab pouted in his \_\_\_\_\_;  
 He wouldn't eat and turned his \_\_\_\_\_!  
 Well, Jezebel was an evil \_\_\_\_\_,  
 And she made a plan that was very \_\_\_\_\_.  
 At an honored place Naboth did \_\_\_\_\_,  
 And then with lies, he did get \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Stoned to death was Naboth's \_\_\_\_\_,  
 And Jezebel felt mighty \_\_\_\_\_.  
 Then to the king she sent the \_\_\_\_\_  
 "It's your vineyard now – have you \_\_\_\_\_?"  
 So Ahab went to claim the \_\_\_\_\_  
 That he'd won by an evil \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The LORD sent Elijah to that \_\_\_\_\_,  
 Where He met Ahab face to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 "Your evil deed will not pass \_\_\_\_\_;  
 You caused an innocent man to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 I bring word from God about your \_\_\_\_\_  
 And of Jezebel, your evil \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The LORD will punish both of \_\_\_\_\_  
 So no more deeds like this you'll \_\_\_\_\_."



# Elijah Finds King Ahab Among the Grapevines