

LORD, FILL US WITH YOUR LOVE

VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of the splendours of creation.
- > A bunch of grapes.
- > Grape shape cut-outs.

WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

Say/sing together:

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, we belong to you.
Everything we have is yours.
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus told his friends this story: "There once was a rich man who owned a great deal of land. One day, he decided to plant a vineyard. He put up a fence, built a wine press, and built a tower. When it was finished, he had to go abroad on a long journey, so he

DISCUSSION

Have the children retell the story in their own words.

Then move on to asking who the story is really about:
- God the Father, sending Jesus, his only son, to us.

When is it that we behave like the vineyard men?

And what will the owner (God the Father) do?

SHARING

Encourage the children to give examples of the splendours of creation.

What do they think is the most wonderful, the most beautiful? People, too, are part of creation. In what ways are they wonderful?

Look at the grapes in the bunch. They have grown on the same vine,

and all had the same care. Are they all alike? Some are big, some small; some soft, some hard; some are good, some are bad, shrivelled.

What sort of grapes are we? What sort of grapes do we want to be? Jesus wants all of us to be the very best grapes possible.

rented the vineyard to some other men. Some time later, after the grapes had grown fat, been gathered in, crushed and made into wine, the rich man sent his servants to collect his share of the wine from the men renting the vineyard. But they refused to pay up. They captured the servants, beat them up, and even killed one of them. The rich man sent more servants, and the same happened to

them. Then he had an idea. "I'll send my only son", he said, "because they will respect him." When the men at the vineyard saw the son coming they made a plot to kill him. "If we kill him", the vineyard men said, "the vineyard will be ours." And they killed the man's only son. Now what do you think the owner will do to those men? This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

ACTIVITIES

- > Have the children act out the Gospel story, making up their own ending.
- > Have the children act out the story, substituting modern day equivalents of vineyard, etc.
- > Give out the cut-outs.

- > Have the children write or draw a prayer on them, thanking God for all he has given them; asking help to grow more like Jesus.
- > Collect the grape shapes together to form a bunch.