

## READING

Matthew 21:28-32

## SYNOPSIS

Jesus told a parable to illustrate the point that we cannot just say we will follow the will of God; we must actually do it.



## MATERIALS NEEDED

- One full and one empty package of instant pudding
- Two cups of milk in a pitcher
- Empty pitcher
- Two bowls
- Hand mixer (or a container in which to shake the ingredients)

## DEMONSTRATION

1. Say: *Today you're all in for a treat. We're going to have a pudding snack.*
2. Talk about what you're doing as you pretend to pour pudding mix from the empty box and milk from the empty pitcher into the shaker or bowl. Act surprised when the bowl is empty. Say: *I guess this won't work unless we actually do what we say we're going to do.*
3. As you proceed to really make the pudding, say: *In the Gospel this week, Jesus tells a story about a boy who promised to help his father do some work; however, the boy did not bother to do it. Do you think he was any help to his father? If we say that we love Jesus but do not try to live like he taught us to, then we are not true followers of Jesus. We are just pretending to be. It is no better than pretending to make pudding—it just does not make sense!*
4. Read the scripture passage.
5. Ask: *Have you ever promised to do something but then didn't do it? How did it make that person feel? Can you think of a time when you didn't want to help someone, but then you changed your mind and you did? How did that make someone feel?*

