



FAITH AT HOME

Aldersgate Church ~ St. Louis Park, MN

Week of March 5, 2023: Matthew 20:1-16

Memory Verse

Matthew 20:16: *"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."*



Family Prayer

Dear God, Thank you for loving us equally. Help us to be fair and just to others. Help us to be grateful for what we have. Amen.



Crafts:

Grapes

You will need: cotton balls, purple paint, paper plate, green colored paper or markers, white paper, glue
A vineyard is where they grow grapes. We can make a bunch of grapes. Put purple paint on a paper plate or bowl. Dip a cotton ball into the plate and stamp grapes onto the paper...

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The Story

Theme of the story: Children will often lament the gross "injustice" they might see in their world. Kids want to be first, want to be winners, want to get the best of things. They tend to feel and act upset if they sense that things are not fair. The parable of the workers in the field reminds us that people have always expressed anger for what seems unfair. It also reminds us that God's view of "fair" is not the same as our human understanding, and that is actually quite a positive thing for us. God gives us what is promised. If we have believed in Christ for a long time or just became a believer, it doesn't matter. Everyone is equal in the eyes of God.

Retelling For Young People: There are a lot of times in our lives when things might not seem fair...and believe it or not, that's actually a great thing for us! Sometimes we might feel like we don't deserve things that happen to us. Well, in the Gospel lesson today, there were some people who felt upset over something that happened. Jesus told a parable (a special story) about a farmer who hired workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the first person he hired a certain amount; we'll say it was fifty dollars, for the day of work.



A little while later, he found another person who wanted a job, and hired him on for the same amount

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...Cut out stems and leaves and glue them on or draw them with the markers

The Grass is Greener

You will need: construction paper, markers or crayons, magazines (optional), scissors, glue or tape

1. Cut a strip of paper to use as a "grass hedge." Color if needed.
2. Glue the "grass" in the center of the paper.
3. Draw or cut pictures from a magazine and decorate one side of the paper with items that represent things that are positive and children are thankful for. The other side of the paper should have things longed for or desired.
4. Remember the importance of gratitude for what we have, and give thanks to God for God's blessings!



of money. Then he found another and another worker, and let them start laboring as well. He even found someone who jumped into the job in the last hour of the day. The owner gathered everyone around at the end of the day, and each worker received the fifty dollars. The first workers were upset, because they didn't get any extra pay for working longer. But the owner said that he could do what he wanted with his money, and everyone was going to get paid the same.

In today's world, we sometimes worry a lot about things being fair. We think we earn and deserve things that we get, and we get upset if we think we've been cheated or mistreated. In this parable, Jesus reminds us that we don't always need to be the first, or the hardest working, or the best in society's eyes. Maybe we go to church our whole lives, and maybe we learn about Jesus as we are dying. Maybe we make mistakes, or maybe we aim to do a lot of things right. God offers forgiveness to all of us. Maybe it's a good thing life isn't always fair. If we wanted life to be "fair" so that we would always get exactly what we deserved, we would actually get what we deserved for sin. The Bible promises that we all sin, and for that we deserve death and punishment. But we don't get it! Instead, by God's mercy and grace, we receive eternal life in Heaven. We don't "deserve" or earn that. It doesn't even seem "fair." But what a blessing for us that God has given us Jesus. He died, even though He didn't deserve it at all. And because of that death, we can live in heaven!

Family discussion: Children often say, "That's not fair!" What is fair? To many, this story does not seem fair. Some people did much more work than others but in the end, they all got the same reward. Discuss with your child about things that do not seem fair. Can they think of a time when they think they should have received something more?

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