

THE STORY

Jesus told this story to show that God's kingdom is not like the kingdoms of this world. The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a day's work and sent them into his vineyard.

In the middle of the morning he saw others standing in the market place doing nothing. He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you what is fair." So they went. He went out again in the middle of the day and in the afternoon and did the same thing. An hour before work was over, he went and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?"

"Because no one has hired us," they answered.

He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard."

When evening came the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first."

The workers who were hired for one hour came and each received a day's pay. So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But they also received a day's pay. When they received it, they grumbled to the landowner. "These men who were hired last worked only one hour," they said, "and you have made them equal to us who have worked all day in the heat."

But he answered them, "Friends, I am not being unfair to you. You agreed to work for one day's wage. Take your pay and go. I want to give each worker the same. Don't I have a right to do what I want with my money? Or are you envious because I am generous?"

Jesus said, "So the last shall be first, and the first will be last."

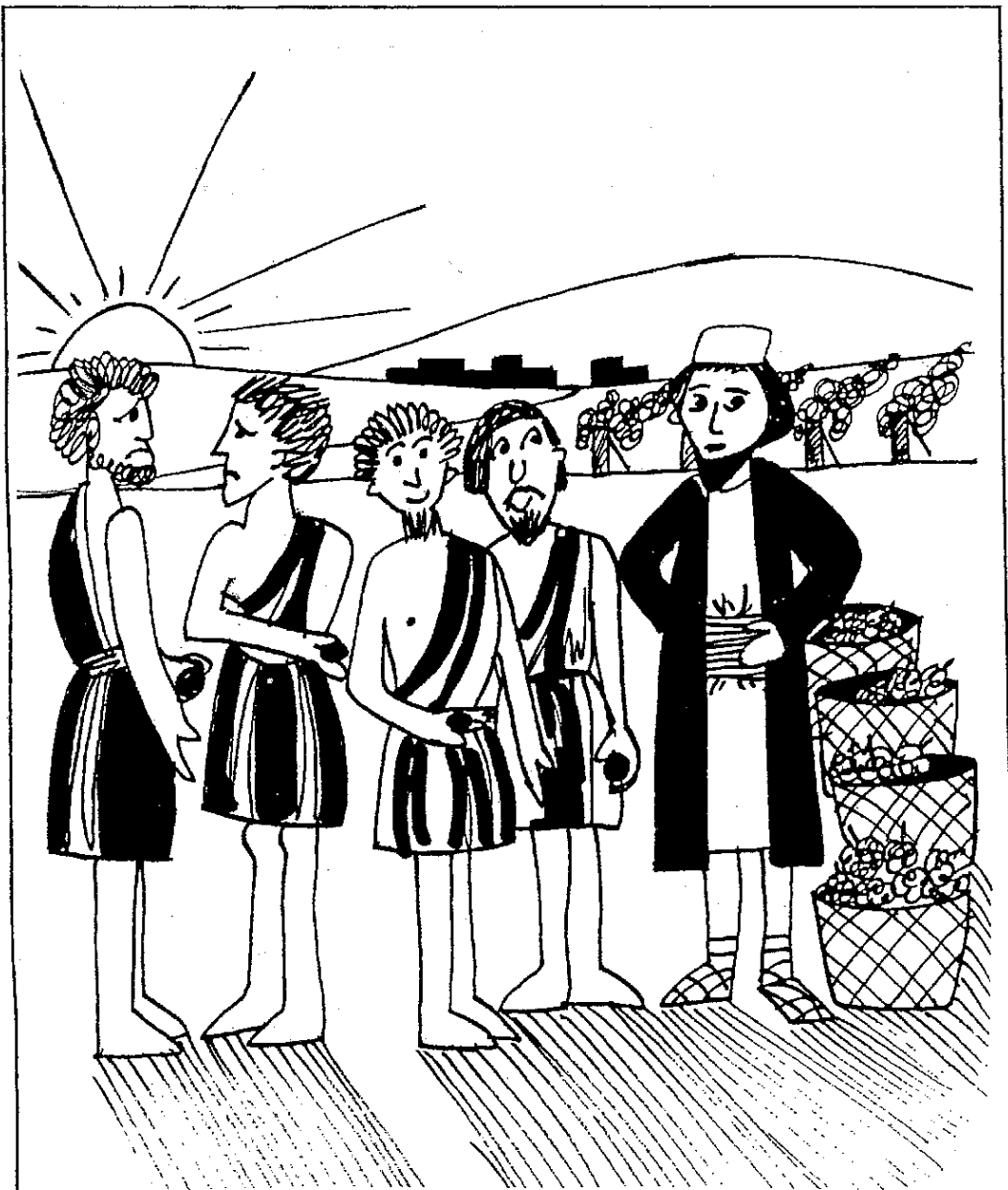
FAITH AND FAMILY TIME

- Talk about the story picture, and the children's activities. Read more about the workers in the vineyard in Matthew 20:1-16, or in a Bible story book.
- Look at and talk about payslips. Why is it good that God does not 'pay' us the same way that employers do?
- Share some things that you consider not fair. What are some things that God gives us that are more and better than we deserve? Remember to include thanks to God for all that He has given us.
- Allow children to have a household job for which the reward is just the smooth running of family life. Let them know they are needed and helpful.



PRAYER

Dear Jesus, thank You for loving us and helping us even though we do not deserve it. Help us to trust in Your love and to be happy that You love other people just as much as You love us. Amen.



**THE PARABLE OF THE
WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD**
Matthew 20:1-16

The owner of the vineyard paid
each one the same.

Draw a coin in each worker's hand.



They were paid
the same,
but they did not
feel the same.

Finish the faces.

God is loving and gives us
good things because He
loves us.

Bible Verse
**The gift of God
is eternal life.**

Romans 6:23

•••••
• The best Gift of God
• The owner of the vineyard paid
• each worker in the story the same.
• They were paid more than they
• earned. God gives us gifts that we
• could never earn. The best gift
• God gives us is the promise that
• we will live with Him in heaven
• forever. He gives us eternal life.
•••••

Number the sentences in the order of the story.

- ___ Jesus told a story about workers in a vineyard.
- ___ The workers agreed to work for 1 silver coin.
- ___ The owner got workers for his vineyard in the morning.
- ___ He got more workers near the end of the day.
- ___ He paid each one the same.
- ___ He got more workers in the middle of the day.
- ___ Jesus said, "The last will be first and the first will be last."



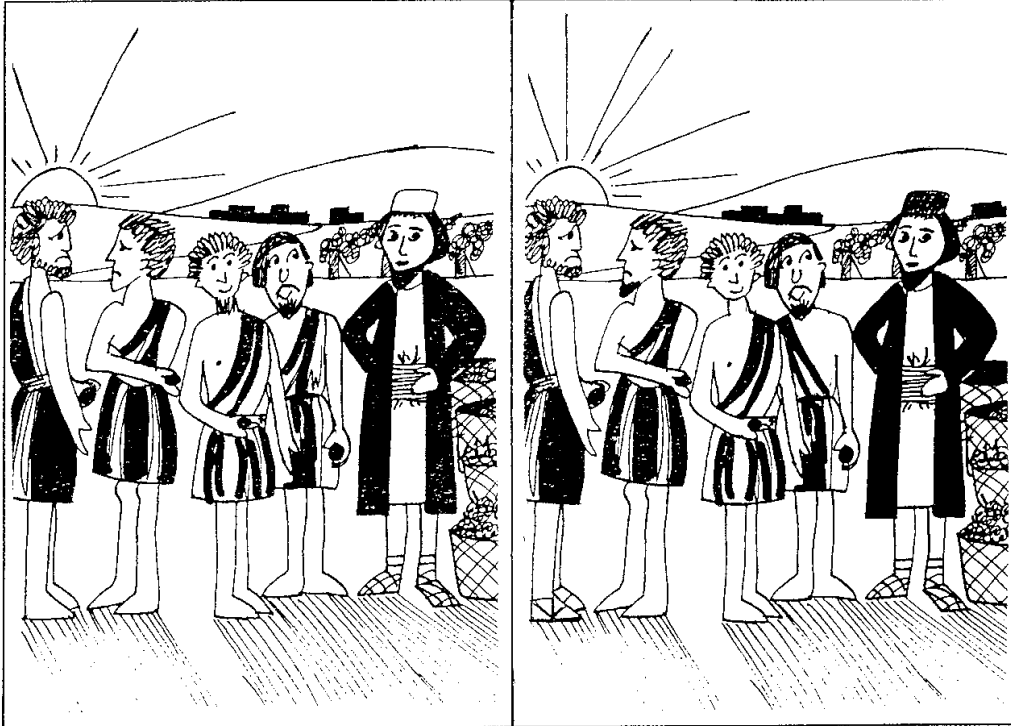
God gives us good things because He loves us.



Sing the story [Tune: The farmer in the dell]

1. The farmer has some vines (rep.)
Hi ho it's time to pick
The grapes from off the vine.
2. He hires some men to help (rep.)
Hi ho at six o'clock
He hires some men to help.
3. He hires some men to help (rep.)
Hi ho at nine o'clock
He hires some men to help.
4. He hires some men to help (rep.)
Hi ho at twelve o'clock
He hires some men to help.
5. He hires some men to help (rep.)
Hi ho at three o'clock
He hires some men to help.
6. He hires some more to help (rep.)
Hi ho at five o'clock
He hires some men to help.
7. He pays them all to help (rep.)
Hi ho at six o'clock
He pays them all the same.

← Find 10 differences between the pictures.



Bible Verse
The wages of sin is **DEATH**,
but the gift of God is **ETERNAL LIFE**
in **Christ Jesus**.
Romans 6:23

About the Bible Verse


We can be very thankful that God does not pay us the wages which we deserve.

What do we deserve?

We can be thankful that God gives us gifts because of His own love and generosity. Christ Jesus, our Lord, paid for these gifts for us.

What are the gifts of God?

Join each sentence to the right ending.

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| A landowner went out early in the morning | more workers for his vineyard. |
| The men agreed to work | to hire men to work in his vineyard. |
| The owner went out again and found | worked for one hour. |
| The last workers hired only | generous to the last workers. |
| At the end of the day the workers | for one day's wage. |
| Everyone was paid | first will be last in God's kingdom. |
| Those who were hired first | were paid what they were owed. |
|  The owner was | one day's wages. |
| The last will be first and the | grumbled to the landowner |

Bible Verse
The wages of sin is DEATH, but the gift of God is ETERNAL LIFE in Christ Jesus.
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About the Bible Verse
 We can be very thankful that God does not pay us the wages which we deserve.
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 What are the gifts of God?



WHAT IS THE HIDDEN MESSAGE?

Cross out the letters C, G, M, and U to see what Jesus said.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | T | H | E | G | M | L | A | S | T | U | C | W | I | L | L | U | M | G |
| B | E | G | F | I | R | S | T | U | A | N | D | M | U | T | H | E | C | M |
| M | F | I | R | S | T | C | W | I | L | L | G | B | E | M | L | A | S | T |

D•I•Y•BIBLE STUDY [Use NIV Bible]

Read Matthew 4:18-22.
 What did Simon Peter and Andrew do? At once they _____ their _____ and _____ him.
 What did James and John do? Immediately, they _____ the _____ and their _____ and _____ him.
FIFTEEN CHAPTERS (AND A LOT OF ADVENTURES) LATER.....
 Read Matthew 19:27.
 What does Peter say to Jesus? We have _____ to _____ you. _____ then will there be _____ ?
 Read Jesus answer in Matthew 19:29.
 Everyone who has _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ or _____ for my sake, will receive a _____ times as much, and will

inherit



All that seems O.K. Then Jesus adds
NOT..... Matthew 19:30
 ...many who are first will be last, and many who are last will be first.

Jesus tells a story to explain the **NOT**. Read Matthew 20:1-16.
 In the story, who was FIRST and became LAST? _____

Who made the LAST FIRST? _____
 Why? _____

BASED ON THIS STORY

Who will get this? _____
 Who will give it to them? _____
 Why? _____