

Parable: The Laborers in the Vineyard

The Building Blocks of the Lesson

Bible Reference

Matthew 20: 1-16

Memory Verse:

Matthew 20:16



Objectives



To help participants . . .

- *Realize that God is good and generous.
- *God loves all people equally.
- *God keeps His word.

Theological Themes



Grace, love, hospitality _____
_____(your ideas, too) _____.

Music



“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”
- With One Voice #612

Catechism Connection



* Lord's Prayer – “Give us this day our daily bread.”

* Baptism – we are all God's children

* Communion – around the Lord's Supper, we are all equal.

Additional Resources



Check with your Chamber of Commerce to see what the average wages are for waitresses/waiters are. What role are tips to play in their overall salary? How realistic is this? Talk about the justice issues here. Talk with your state Lutheran public policy office or the Lutheran Office of Governmental Affairs in Washington, DC about ideas on what you can do when you find an unjust situation. What action will you take as a result of what you have learned?



Context

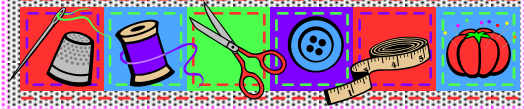
In Jesus' time, laborers gathered in the market area in the villages hoping to be hired for the day. They were expected to work from sunrise, about 6:00 AM until sunset, about 6:00 PM. The denarius was worth about 20 cents and was the minimum wage of the day. It barely covered expenses for food for a family. Wages were usually paid at the end of the day as was dictated by law. (Deuteronomy 24:15)

??? Discuss /Ask???

Before class: Rip a piece of colored construction paper into many small pieces. Put them in a box. Now rip a piece of paper of a different color into slightly bigger pieces and place them in a different box. Do the same with the three more colors, making the pieces bigger and bigger. The last color should only have about six pieces. Place each color in a different box. Ask for volunteers to do something for you. Choose them in order of enthusiasm. If you have more than five participants, put them into groups. If you have less than five, let them work alone. Negotiate with the first person/group who volunteered for the number of peppermints they will receive when they pick up all the pieces of paper in the box and put them in a plastic bag. Give that participant the box with the smallest pieces and a plastic bag. Instruct them to put each piece into the bag individually. Give the next participant/group another box and plastic bag with the same instructions. Continue distributing the boxes according to the number of participants/groups you have. The last should receive the box with the largest pieces. If these groups want to (the one with the big pieces) first and the first (those with the smallest pieces) last. Give each child the same number of peppermints (according to the number the first group agreed upon). What happened? Did those with the smallest pieces complain? If so, tell them they got exactly what they agreed to receive.

- How did you feel when you picked up your pieces of paper? (Some may be angry they had so many when others had so few).
- How did you feel when you received your share of the candy? (The first volunteers may feel they were cheated. Help them to understand they agreed to the candy pay).
- Is this the same thing that happened in the parable? How?
- Why did everyone get the same reward? (Everyone will get the same reward in heaven no matter how long each was a Christian).
- Why should we do good things if we get the same reward as those who do not? (Because Jesus loves us and died for us. We do good things to thank Him for what He has already done for us).

Activity



Make a clock using paper plates, markers, black construction paper for hands, and a brad to fasten the hands. Write on the clock, "I can work all day for Jesus". Talk about ways you will actually do that in your daily life. Put one idea into practice this week.

Sending



Plan at least one way you can help someone this week and then do it.

Prayer



**Thank you, Jesus, for loving us. Thank you for the ways we can help you and help other people.
AMEN**