

The Workers in the Vineyard

Bible Verse

Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. (Matthew 25:29)

Teacher Enrichment

This is the seventh and last lesson in the *Small Stories, Big Lessons: The Parables of Jesus* series. A parable is an everyday, relatable story used by Jesus to illustrate a lesson about God. Each week, this series will examine one of Jesus' parables and explore its teachings.

The Workers in the Vineyard parable begins with a landowner hiring field workers at sunrise. Throughout the day he continues to hire more workers with the last being hired at 5pm. At the end of the day, all are given a full day's pay. Those hired first are unhappy, even though they have been paid what they were promised. The landowner asks, "Why should you be jealous if I want to be generous?" Jesus used this parable to describe the kingdom of heaven. We do not earn eternal life by working the longest or the hardest. We are given eternal life by choosing to follow God; and whether that be for a hundred years or for an hour God rewards all believers. God rewards us all generously with salvation.

In this lesson children will learn God's kingdom is given to everyone who loves and believes in God – no matter how long. They will understand they should not compare themselves with others, but rather focus on their own relationship with God.

Welcome

- ◆ Greet each child individually as they arrive. Introduce yourself by name.
- ◆ If children bring monetary offering, they may place it in the offering basket on the altar table.
- ◆ Direct children to complete a **Workers in the Vineyard activity sheet**.
- ◆ Encourage conversation among the children and with you! Get to know the children in your group by asking about their week including activities and families. Introduce new children to each other and encourage friendships.

Children's Worship

- ◆ The Children's Worship Leader will direct the class to leave their tables and sit in the carpet area.
- ◆ Encourage children to participate in Children's Worship and provide re-direction if necessary. Assist the Children's Worship leader with activities as needed.

Small Groups

All Grades – Grape Craft

- ◆ Provide each child with a Vine worksheet.
- ◆ Make purple finger paint available to table.
- ◆ Direct children to create a bunch of grapes by adding fingerprints.
- ◆ Allow children to color the leaf and add a curled, green pipe cleaner to their vine.
- ◆ Provide wipes for cleaning fingers.

TAKE WHAT BELONGS TO YOU AND GO; I CHOSE TO GIVE TO THIS
LAST THE SAME AS I GIVE TO YOU.
MATTHEW 20:14

