



# 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

February 15-16, 2014

DATE

Parables

LESSON TITLE

Matthew 20:1-16 (Pg. 1077-1078 NIV)

WHERE TO FIND IT

Parable of the Vineyard Workers

MAIN POINT

## schedule

**Connect Time (15 minutes):** Five minutes after the service begins, split kids into groups and begin their activity.

**Large Group (30 minutes):** Model what it looks like to be engaged in large group. And don't be afraid to redirect kids who aren't!

**Small Group (15 minutes):** Keep kids in small groups until parents arrive. If you *all* have extra time at the end, you can review the video and songs together.

## tips

Today is Week 1 of three weeks about parables. When kids first walk in the door, talk to them about books they are reading for school or movies they've seen recently. Begin discussing what lessons they may have learned from those stories.

## check-in/out

As kids leave, remind them to explain why they have a prize and what they "did" to get it.

## large group heads up

Today, we're learning the parable of the vineyard workers. It's the first of several parables we'll learn, so we'll spend a little time identifying what a parable is. Then we'll look at the meaning of this one: no matter if we follow Jesus for one minute or one century, we will one day get to share in God's Kingdom and enjoy the perfect home God will re-create for his entire family.



## connect time

**GOAL:** *Connect Time is all about engaging kids in an activity that allows them to connect with each other right away while simultaneously piquing their curiosity for Large Group and preparing their minds for what they're going to hear.*

### **MAKE A MOSAIC**

- Lay out sheets of **computer paper**
- Place a **pile of mosaic pieces** at each paper
- Split kids into groups; one paper per group
- Tell kids the goal: fill the paper with the coolest design. Also, the person who contributes the most pieces (and follows the rules) will win a prize
- Let the tallest person at each table begin (nobody else can touch the pieces)
- After 30 seconds, let the shortest person at each table begin (the tallest can keep going)
- After 30 more seconds, let all kids work together.

**This is also a time for you to connect with kids: After they've created, ask them how their weeks went. You can also remind them of the expectations you have for Large Group behavior: (1) be kind, (2) listen when somebody speaks, and (3) follow the leader's instructions.**



## instructions

**Goal:** Kids will (1) retell the story and (2) recognize the truth in the story, and (3) identify ways they can serve the Lord this week.

**Why?** Jesus taught in parables. It's important for kids to be able to discern what truth Jesus is communicating through those parables.

**Tip:** Set up the extensive story review through the lightning retell and the character cards. Then try to encourage kids to draw their own conclusions about what the parable means (of course, you can help them out if they're struggling or coming up with wild ideas!).

## small group

### REVIEW THE STORY

1. What's a parable?
2. Why do you think Jesus told parables?
3. Retell the story at lightning speed:
  - a. Choose a timekeeper to use your cell phone (or his/her own)
  - b. Give each kid 15 seconds and retell it as a group. Each kid picks up where the previous person left off at the end of his/her 15 seconds.

### IDENTIFY WITH THE CHARACTERS

4. Let each kid **choose a card** (types include: owner, sunrise worker, 9am worker, noon worker, 3pm worker, and 5pm worker card)
5. Have kids get into groups with people who chose the same card. Their job is to decide how that person felt during payment—and why. Give kids 2 minutes and let them use a **Bible** for help.
6. Share. Let other groups respond or ask questions.

### DIG DEEPER *\*Refer to Matthew 20:1-16 for help!*

7. Why did the landowner pay everybody the same?
8. Who are the workers? (us) Who is God in the story? (the landowner) What does this story show us about the Kingdom of God?
9. How can we love God and love others (without worrying about anybody else) this week? When you have an idea, draw it on the back of your card.

**\*Pray with the kids, asking God to help us serve him out of love this week. And thanking him that he is so generous with everyone who follows him.**

**\*\*DID WE SAY PRIZE?\***

Just like everybody in God's family we will get the same reward, everybody who put on even ONE piece of the mosaic gets a reward! Choose what you want from this bag.

*Extra time? Kids can figure out how to use their prizes. Or break the kids into two groups. Have them act out the story (or **draw** a picture of it). Tell them the one who's most accurate will win! Or play Pictionary using scenes from the story. As always, you can also grab a group game and bring it to the table or play Simon Says.*

## special notes

The script is longer than usual. Move through it quickly by limiting kids' sharing and making sure you stick to the script during the storytelling portion.

## presenter tips

We are spending a fair amount of time understanding how to interpret truth from a parable. That's because we'll be learning a new parable for the next three weeks and want to make sure kids are comfortable with understanding how to hear a story and extract meaning.

## script

Hi everybody. Welcome to Kids' Club! We'll talk about your mosaics in a minute. But first, let's talk about parables. For the next three weeks, we're going to learn a parable that Jesus told people. Now, does anybody know what a parable is? (Let kids respond.) Yes, it's a story that teaches us a lesson.

### **PRACTICE UNDERSTANDING PARABLES**

Before we hear Jesus' parables, let's make sure we know how to figure out what lesson a parable teaches. We're going to watch a video of a story. As you watch, see if you can figure out what lesson this video teaches us:

#### ***Video: For the Birds***

OK, so tell me what the little birds did when they saw the big bird who they thought looked weird (Let kids respond.) That's right. They laughed at him, made fun of how he looked, tried to leave him out. But then, what happened to those little birds? (Let kids respond.) Yep, they lost all their feathers...which made them look REALLY strange—not even like birds anymore!

What lesson do you think we can learn from that story? (Let kids respond. Focus on this one: don't make fun of others, but if kids give other insightful answers, great!)

### **INTRO TO TODAY'S PARABLE**

Now that you know how to figure out the lesson in a parable, let's get to today's story. The mosaics you worked on are connected to the story. I noticed that some of you worked harder than others. I want everybody who spent the most time on the group's mosaic to bring it up here and show us. (Let kids come up.)



## script continued

Wow, these look great. And since you guys spent the most time creating them, I think you should get a reward. (Turn to the crowd.) Do you guys think that's fair? (Let kids respond.) Why (or why not)? (Let kids respond. Since they were not "allowed" to work on it as long, let them vent about it being unfair, if they want.)

OK, you know what? You guys ALL helped out. I'm actually going to give ALL of you a reward. You'll get it when you get back to small groups. (Turn to the "winners.") Do you guys think that's fair? (Let kids respond.) Why or why not? (Let kids respond; don't push the kids toward a certain opinion. Just let them see an example of the parable and start to identify with the characters.) You guys go ahead and have a seat. (Let kids sit.)

### THE PARABLE OF THE VINEYARD WORKERS

You know what? The way I've decided to give you ALL a reward... is similar to what happened in a story Jesus told in the Bible. This story didn't really happen, but Jesus told it in order to teach us a lesson. That means it's a.... (Let kids say: parable.) That's right! And Jesus told this parable to teach us what God's Kingdom is like. Let's take a look:

**(Show picture of the sunrise.)** Early one morning, the owner of a vineyard went to find workers. A vineyard is where you grow grapes. Back then, people would wait around to get hired. So the owner of the vineyard went to find people who wanted to work, chose a few, and offered to pay them a certain amount of money for the day. They said, "Yes!" and went to work.

**(Show picture of mid-morning.)** At nine o'clock, the owner of the vineyard went back out and asked some more people to come work. He promised to pay them too.

**(Show picture of noon.)** At noon, the owner of the vineyard went out *again* and asked some people to work for him for money.

**(Show picture of afternoon sun.)** At three o'clock, what do you guys think happened? (Let kids respond.) Yes, the landowner went out and found more people to work. He did this again at five o'clock, when the day was almost done!

### PAYING TIME

Well, the workers noticed that some of them got there early and some got there late. Some worked for over 8 hours; some for barely more than one hour. So when it came time to get paid, do you think they all expected to get the same paycheck for the day? (Let kids respond.) No way! The ones who got there early expected to get the most money.

But guess what? ...*They all got paid the same.* (Pause)

How do you think the ones who got there early felt? (Let kids respond.) Yes, they got mad! They said, "We did most of the work and were in the hot sun all day!" The vineyard owner reminded them that had agreed to work for the amount of money they got. If he wanted to be generous with others, he could be!



## script continued

### CONSIDER WHAT THIS MEANS

Alright, so why do you think Jesus told that story? What does this teach us about the Kingdom of God? When you have one guess in your head, I want you to stand up. Don't worry...I won't put you on the spot. But everybody think of one possible thing that story could mean. (Let kids stand.) OK, find one person who's wearing the same color as you...and **tell that person what lesson it teaches us about God's Kingdom.** (Let kids tell a friend. Then they can sit. Ask who heard a really good lesson; let 2-3 kids share.)

### GOD'S KINGDOM CAN'T BE EARNED

We are like the workers. And we like to earn things and even compete with other people. But we can't earn God's Kingdom. Some people might seem like they are doing a lot of good stuff for Jesus. Some people might seem like they aren't doing very much good stuff for Jesus at all.

God doesn't want us to compare ourselves to other people or try to do more good stuff than them! He only wants us to do this:

***SLIDE: Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."***

Let's all say this together. (Repeat the verse.) Great! God is like the landowner. He wants everyone to come serve him by loving him and welcomes *anyone* into his family. Then his whole family will get to share the perfect home God will one day re-create for us, whether we follow Jesus for an hour or a hundred years!

Let's all tell our King we love him right now! Stand up and we'll worship him together.

### WORSHIP

This first song reminds us that God made us unique—and exactly the way he wanted us to be. So we don't need to compare ourselves to others. Let's just serve God as we are! The second song reminds us to follow Jesus.

***Music Video: Who I Am***

***Music Video: Grow Up Like Jesus***

### PRAY

Ask somebody to come and thank God that he invites us all to be a part of his Kingdom.



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# PREP needs



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## connect time supplies

- 1 stopwatch per leader (or use cell phone)
- 1 computer paper per small group
- mosaic pieces: OT: IN-57/2252

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## small group supplies

- 1 stopwatch (or use cell phone)
- 2 Bibles
- Markers and paper
- 1 card per kid (template to be cut provided; small groups, make sure you have an equal number of each of the

- six types, or as equal as possible; please print on colored card stock
- 1 "prize" per kid: OT: IN-5/715 (can use leftovers from K2\_020914 lesson)

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## large group supplies

- NIV Adventure Bible (pp. 1077-1078)

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## a/v needs

- Video:  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VITDi6EpbK4> (Please use 0:19-3:01 only!)
- Image: sunrise
- Image: 9am sun
- Image: noon sun
- Image: afternoon sun

- SLIDE: Matthew 22:37-38 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: "Love your neighbor as yourself."
- Music Video: Who I Am
- Music Video: Grow Up Like Jesus (with hand motions)

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## connect questions

Tell me about the workers in the vineyard.  
What does today's parable teach us about God's Kingdom?

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## parent page

For the next couple weeks, we're learning Jesus' parables. So today, we spent a little time identifying what a parable is. Then we learned the parable of the vineyard workers, which is in Matthew 20:1-16. Read it together. Then talk about what truth Jesus was teaching us through that story (your kids will already have an idea!).