

## Sunday Teacher's Lesson for

# Life of Christ

### A story about workers in a grape vineyard

### Matthew 20:1-16

#### Younger Verse

We do not dare compare ourselves to others. 2nd Corinthians 10:12

#### Older Verse

We do not dare compare ourselves to others. 2nd Corinthians 10:12

#### Welcome Time

Have you ever said, "That's not fair!" It is easy to compare ourselves to others or see what others get compared to us. Let's see what Jesus says about this.

#### Bible Story

*Please note: This portion of the lesson is given to help in teaching the lesson. Please read through the story and read it in the Bible. Do **NOT** read from this piece of paper. Instead, make a note sheet and place it next to the story in the Bible.*

Jesus was sharing and teaching many people. They all listened and wanted to know about God. Then, Jesus told a story to help all the people see how much God loves them. Listen and see if you can figure out who the workers are supposed to be and who the owner is supposed to be.

Once there was a man who owned a vineyard. A vineyard is a big piece of land that has lots of grapes growing on it. When a person owns a vineyard, he must have lots of help taking care of the vines and harvesting the grapes.

The man needed help in his vineyard. Early one morning, he went to town to hire some people to work in the vineyard. The workers agreed to work all day for 1 silver coin.

At about 9:00, the owner went back to town to find more help. He saw more people standing around, so he hired some of them to help with his vineyard.

The man went out at 12:00 and 3:00 and also found men to work in his vineyard.

Around 5:00 in the afternoon, the owner went back and found some men to help with his vineyard. He asked the men why they had done nothing all day. They answered that no one gave them jobs to do.

Quickly the kind man hired them to work in his vineyard.

At the end of the day the workers lined up to get their money. The owner asked the boss to pay first, the people that were hired last. When they came to get their money, to their great surprise, they got 1 silver coin! They were so excited. The kind man had paid them very well.

The others who were there all day became excited. They figured that since they had been there all day, they would get lots of silver coins.

When it was their turn to receive their money, they all received 1 silver coin.

#### Lesson Goals

Describe what it means not to compare ourselves with others or see what is "fair"  
Tell how God has been so good to us—He gave us Jesus

They could not believe their eyes. It seemed so unfair. They complained and did not understand why the owner gave them the same wage as the one who had only worked a little while.

The owner explained that he had been fair to the workers. They had agreed to work for 1 silver coin for the day. They should have been happy with what they got and happy that others received good money.

Sometimes we compare ourselves to others and think someone else is not fair to us. Jesus tells us that we should not compare or measure ourselves with others. Instead we should be grateful for what He has given us and be glad for others.

This story is also a picture of how God is kind to us. The owner was like God. He loves all people and wants them to go to Heaven. Some believe in Him early and live their whole lives with God. Others trust him in the middle of their lives. Still others ask Him to come into their lives when they are older in age.

God is excited when anyone wants to believe and trust. He does not want you to wait until you are older. The time is now. Would you like to make a decision to follow Jesus? We have seen how kind and good God is—He sent His only son, Jesus, to pay the price for all the bad stuff we have done. He died for our sins. Best of all, Jesus came back to life! Because He lives, we know that if we trust and believe in Him, we will go to Heaven one day and be with God forever.

**Learning Activities**

Use the ideas to help the kids understand God's kindness and love for all people.

**Memory Verse Activities**

What a GREAT verse to memorize. Challenge the kids to learn it and remember it!

**Prayer Time**

Ask God to help everyone and not compare ourselves to others.

**Snack Time/CleanUp**

You may want to bring grapes or grape juice today as a reminder of the lesson.

Planning for October 5th  
A Mom asks Jesus for a favor  
Matthew 20:20-28

Preschool Lesson  
for  
The story of the workers in the grape vineyard

(Remember—children this small will not totally understand the concept of time and how long a day is.)

(A fun way to tell the story is to have paper cutouts of people waiting for jobs. Let the cutout of the owner come and go and get people as the story tells it. This will help the kids visualize the story. You may also want to have “silver” nickels or dimes as the wage.)

Jesus was sharing and teaching many people. They all listened and wanted to know about God. Then, Jesus told a story to help all the people see how much God loves all people.

Once there was a man who owned a land that had grapes on it. He needed lots of help to take care of the grapes and pick them.

Early one morning, he went to town to find some people to work in the grape vineyard.

The workers agreed to work all day for 1 silver coin. (Hold up 1 finger)

At about 9:00, the owner went back to town to find more help. He saw more people standing around, so he hired some of them to help with his vineyard.

The man went out at 12:00 and 3:00 and also found men to work in his vineyard.

Around 5:00 in the afternoon, the owner went back and found some men to help with his vineyard. He asked the men why they had done nothing all day. They answered that no one gave them jobs to do.

Quickly the kind man hired them to work in his vineyard.

At the end of the day the workers lined up to get their money. The owner asked the boss to pay first, the people that were hired last. When they came to get their money, to their great surprise, they got 1 silver coin! (Show them a “silver” coin) They were so excited. The kind man had paid them very well.

The others who were there all day became excited. They figured that since they had been there all day, they would get lots of silver coins.

When it was their turn to get their money, they all got 1 silver coin. They could not believe their eyes. It seemed so unfair. They did not understand why the owner gave them the same wage as the one who had only worked a little while when they had worked all day.

The owner explained that he was fair to the workers. They had agreed to work for 1 silver coin for the day. They should have been happy with what they got and happy that others received good money.

This story was a picture of how God is kind to us. He loves all people and wants them to go to Heaven.

Sing, “Jesus loves me this I know.”

Hands-on Activities  
for  
The story of the workers in the grape vineyard

Serve grapes or raisins as a snack today to remind the kids of the story.

Make the boxview vineyard project to let the kids visualize the story.

Make silver coin rubbings to help them remember the generous owner. Place paper over nickels and quarters. Lightly rub to see the impression of the coin!

Another lesson in the story today is not to compare ourselves to others. The workers were looking at others and comparing themselves. God tells us not to do this. We are all special to Him just like we are!

Another snack idea: Freeze grapes. They taste slushy and delicious! Or, wash the grapes and coat with powdered sugar for a sugary treat!

Weave together small grapevine wreaths (or buy little ones in a craft store). Glue the verse to the grapevine to help them remember to be kind. If this craft is not feasible for you, draw a grapevine and write the verse on the page.