



NOVEMBER THEME

RE-FOCUS

Know Where to Look

BIBLE STORY

Matthew 20:1-15

Sour Grapes | Parable of the Vineyard
Workers

Spark Story Bible | pg. 298-299
The Vineyard Workers

BOTTOM LINE

Adjust your attitude

MEMORY VERSE

“Give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ
Jesus.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV

LIFE APP

Gratitude | Letting others know you
see how they’ve helped you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice and
with God’s help, I can!

FOR LEADERS ONLY

GOD VIEW: the connection between **GRATITUDE** and God’s character, as shown through God’s big story.

This WEEK: Key Question: What do you do when you don’t feel grateful? Kids will learn soon enough, that sometimes it’s hard to feel grateful. Through asking this question, we hope kids will come away with a plan to refocus on what really matters and discover how they can show gratitude.

In **Matthew 20:1-15**, we’ll dig into a parable Jesus told one day about some vineyard workers. In the story, a few of the workers started making comparisons to what others were getting paid and became ungrateful and started complaining. Then, at the end of the day, they had a bad attitude because they thought it wasn’t fair.

Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude. We can change our whole outlook on life if we take the time to refocus and think about all that we’ve been given. We pray that kids will see their own life differently and discover all the ways they can show gratitude.

SOCIAL: PROVIDING TIME FOR FUN INTERACTION

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today’s story.

Before kids arrive, **PRAY** for each regular attendee by name. Pray for those who might visit your group for the first time. Pray especially for the kids who struggle with negative attitudes. Ask God to show them their chances to turn their attitudes around and find something to be grateful for. Pray that all kids would leave today knowing that they can always adjust their attitudes.

•• EARLY ARRIVER IDEA

Made to Connect | An activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask kids if they have ever seen something happen that wasn’t fair. What did they do about it?
- Ask the group if they feel like fairness is important to them. What kinds of things do they say, “That’s not fair,” about?

•• WHAT TIME IS IT?

Made to Play | An activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group



What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Start with everyone sitting in a circle.
- Explain that you'll choose someone to start an hour-by-hour countdown beginning with 6:00.
 - As soon as that person speaks, someone else (not the kid sitting next to the first person) must say "5-o'clock."
 - Continue the countdown until the group is back to 6:00.
 - If two kids speak at the same time or if there is more than a 2-second pause in the countdown, call out, "Stop the Clock!"
 - Then start over at 6:00.
- Challenge everyone to count down as quickly as possible without pauses or repeats.

What You Say: "It was super frustrating to lose all that time when 2 people talked at once or when there was too much of a pause! Think about other times when you put time into something and didn't get the result you wanted. **[Transition] Today in Sunday CM worship/WOW family worship, we'll hear/we heard a story about a group of people who felt the same way!**"

[Sunday Leaders: Lead your group to the Family Room for Children's Ministry worship. Wednesday Leaders: Continue with the study.]

GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

•• **GET PICKING** [Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Divide the group into four teams.
- Explain that every team will have the opportunity to pick grapes. However, each team cannot begin until you say, "Go," as they will all receive different amounts of time to work.
- Instruct kids that when their group is given the "Go", they will mime picking grapes calmly and steadily.
- Start the game by allowing one team to begin.
 - Wait about 30 seconds and then allow the next team to begin.
 - Allow 30 more seconds to go by and allow the third team to begin.
 - After 30 more seconds, allow the last team to begin.
 - As soon as the last team has picked a few grapes, tell everyone to freeze!
- Ask a few questions:
 - Which team do you think should be the winner? *(Most likely they'll say the team that started first and ended up with the most grapes; the more astute kids will probably be able to see where you're going, though.)*
 - Should the workers who picked grapes the longest—and ended up collecting the most grapes—get paid more than the workers who didn't collect as many?
 - If we all dumped our grapes out into a big pile and then each took the same amount, how would that make you feel? Do your feelings change depending on which team you were on?

What You Say: "You would think that since the first team spent the most time collecting grapes that they would be going home with the



most reward. But, just like in today's story, we learned that things aren't always fair. This can either work out in our favor or it can make us frustrated. When this happens, you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude** because you always have so much to be grateful for!"

[Make It Personal] *(Describe a time when you thought something wasn't fair but you adjusted your attitude.)*

•• **DIARY OF A GRATEFUL KID** [Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: "Diary of a Grateful Kid" activity pages, markers

What You Do:

- Ask kids what kinds of things typically make them mad or upset. For example: when they don't get what they want for lunch, when a friend doesn't want to play what they want to play at recess, when they miss a goal in soccer, or when they mess up what they're playing on an instrument.
- Tell kids that when those kinds of things happen, they have an opportunity to adjust their attitudes and find something to be grateful for. These journals can help them do just that.
- Give each kid a journal and set out the markers in the middle of the group.
- Ask kids to pick one of the situations that was mentioned earlier and fill out the first page of the journal accordingly.
- Help give ideas to those who might be stuck thinking of something to be grateful for in a given situation.

What You Say: "You know, there are times when life isn't fair and we end up having a bad attitude. This happens to everyone! The difference we can make is what we do once we realize we have a bad attitude. What I've learned is that gratitude and attitude totally work together! When I keep track of all of the things I have to be grateful for, it really adjusts my attitude. This week, when you feel a bad attitude coming on, use your journal to focus on what you are grateful for so you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**"

•• **GIVE THANKS EVEN WHEN** [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Imagine | An activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Copy paper, pen

What You Do:

- Ask your few to think of bad things that could happen—big or small. For example: You are stuck in traffic and are late to your baseball game. Your dog gets out and runs down the street.
- Write down as many of the things they share as possible.
- After you have written down five to eight things, read the first sentence of the memory verse, but replace "in all circumstances" with each scenario. For example: Give thanks even when the dog gets out and runs down the street. Give thanks even when you're stuck in traffic and late to your game.

What You Say: "It doesn't matter what happens or what situation we find ourselves in, God's Word tells us that we can give thanks no matter what. Next time you are wanting to get frustrated or bummed out, remember that you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude** because there is nothing that can happen that should stop your gratitude!"

PRAY AND SEND [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect | An activity that creates space for personal understanding and application



**PRINCE
OF PEACE**
Called to Connect

NOVEMBER
12/15
2017

GRADE 2-3
SMALL GROUP EXPERIENCE

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Ask your small group to give a few examples of things they don't think are fair.
- Explain that God is our helper and we can ask God to help us with our attitudes when we don't think things are fair.

What You Say: "God, thanks for loving us even when we don't have great attitudes! Your love is not determined by what we do or how we act. You love us anyway! We do know that you desire for us to have a grateful heart. This week, would you help us adjust our attitudes? We want to show everyone how awesome of a God you are and how grateful we are to belong to you! We love you! In Jesus' name. Amen. Friends, you can always ask God to help you **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**"

What You Do: As adults arrive to pick up, ask each kid show off their gratitude journal. Encourage adults to check in with their kids during the week to see the progress they have made. Remind each kid that gratitude and attitude go together, so this week they can remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**

Give each child a **GodTime** card. Sunday Leaders: Pass out **Parent Cue** cards as adults arrive to pick up.