

NOVEMBER THEME



BIBLE STORY

Matthew 20:1-15

New Attitude | The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard

Spark Story Bible pg. 298-299

The Vineyard Workers

BOTTOM LINE

Adjust your attitude

MEMORY VERSE

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.
His love endures forever."

Psalms 136:1, 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 Jesus' help, I can!

●● THEME OVERVIEW

Key Question: What is keeping you from being grateful? Sometimes it's hard to feel grateful. Through asking this question, we hope we will come away with a plan to refocus on what really matters and discover how we can show gratitude.

This week, we head to **Matthew 20:1-15**. Jesus told a parable about a few vineyard workers making comparisons about what others were getting paid. They became ungrateful for what they did receive and started complaining. In the end, they needed to adjust their attitude and be grateful.

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 we will see our own life differently and discover all the ways we can show gratitude.

●● WOW @home

What You Do: Watch this week's WOW @home in the comfort of your family's @home prayer + worship spot. The video can be found on popmn.org/youtube or facebook.com/popchildrens. Then use this Family Guide, GodTime & ParentCue cards, and FAITH5 daily devos to keep the conversation going...

●● ATTITUDE ADJUSTMENT [Talk about God | Bible Story Review]

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

What You Need: Bible, Spark Story Bible (optional), masking tape and small candies (such as M&Ms, chocolate chips, or mini-marshmallows)

What You Do:

- Review this week's Bible story by reading Matthew 20:1-15. (Note: you can also read the story in the Spark Story Bible, but you will need to adjust your True/False questions to match the information presented in that version of the story.)
- Create a masking tape line on the floor.
- Tell your family to stand on the line shoulder to shoulder and facing you.
- Explain that you're going to play a jumping game. Share the rules.
 - You will read a True/False statement.
 - If the answer is true, players should jump toward you and in front of the line.
 - If the answer is false, players should jump away from you and behind the line.
 - For every right answer, each person will get a piece of candy.
 - The person with the most candy at the end of the game will be the winner.

- Read a True/False question (*below*), and direct players to jump to show their answer.
- For the “False” statements, review the correct answer.
- Once all questions have been read, have everyone count their candy pieces. (*NOTE: If everybody has an equal or almost equal amount of candy, you may need to ask bonus questions with only one winner such as “guess what number I am thinking of” or play a few rounds of “rock, paper, scissors.”*)
- Declare the player with the most candy the winner. However, like in the Bible story today, everyone will receive equal pay; so make up the difference by giving everyone the same number of candy pieces as the winner.

True/False Questions

- Today is Friday. True or False? (*just a practice question to make sure everybody has the rules down*)
- Our story today is from the book of Matthew. True or False? (*True*)
- The landowner in our story needed workers for his vineyard. True or False? (*True*)
- He hired all the workers he needed at one time. True or False? (*False: He went out to get workers 5 times, early morning, at 9, at 12, at 3, at 5.*)
- The landowner told all of the workers that they would earn the same pay at the end of the day. True or False? (*False: He only told the first workers he hired how much they would get paid*)
- The landowner was a generous man. True or False? (*True*)
- All of the workers received the payment they were promised. True or False? (*True*)
- Everyone was happy with the payment they received for a day’s work. True or False? (*False: The workers hired first thought they should make the most money even though they received what they were promised.*)
- Some of the workers, when they were paid, needed to stop and adjust their attitude. True or False? (*True. Follow up with: What workers needed an “attitude adjustment?”*)

What You Say: “Sometimes, it’s hard to focus on what you have and to be grateful. In the Bible story today, the workers who were hired in the early morning had a hard time being grateful. They were paid exactly what they were promised, but instead of being grateful for what they had, they complained about what others were given. They definitely needed to adjust their attitude!

“In our game today, I chose to be generous and give everyone the same amount of candy. Just like the workers hired in the morning in our Bible story, the person who answered the most questions correctly has two options: they can be thankful for what they have, or they can complain because everyone got the same.

“When you start focusing on what others have, stop, **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude**, and remember to be thankful for the things you have as well as to be happy for those around you. It’s important to thank God for the gifts God has given you and to not compare it with what God has given others.” **[Make it Personal]** (*Share a time when you had to adjust your attitude to be thankful for what you have. Maybe your friend got a new bike, and it was nicer than your bike. Or your friend is a better tennis player than you. Tell how you felt and how—with God’s help—you chose to [Bottom Line] adjust your attitude and be thankful.*)

•• CHANGING THE WAY WE THINK [Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Invite your family to sit in a circle.
- Explain that you’re going to play an imagination game.
- Instruct family members to close their eyes, and tell them you’re going to name something for them to imagine.

- Give them something to imagine—like a cat.
- Ask someone to share a detail they're imagining about the cat—like the cat's color.
- Guide the rest of your family to adjust their mental picture to include the detail that was just added. For example, you can say something like, "If you were imagining a black cat, adjust the color of your cat to be a [color named] cat."
- Ask a different family member to share a detail about their mental picture—like a [color previously determined] cat sitting on a chair.
- The goal of this activity is not to tell a story, but to adjust the mental picture being imagined.
- Make sure everybody has a chance to add a couple details to the picture.
- Play another round with a different object to imagine.

What You Say: "That was fun to change the pictures in our heads! We used our imaginations so well! Did you know that we can change or adjust the way we think just like we changed the picture in our head? Sometimes, we need to do just that. In this week's Bible story, we heard about some people who needed to adjust to an attitude of gratitude. Unlike the people in the story, we can choose to be grateful even if things don't go the way we want, the way we think they should or match what we think is "fair." We can choose to have a thankful attitude when we are sad or angry. When we choose to be thankful, we make the choice to think about what we DO have instead of thinking about what we DON'T have."

"What are some things we can choose to be thankful for, when we are tempted to have a bad attitude about something? (*God's love, our family, home, pet, a brother/sister, etc.*) Next month we will celebrate Christmas. How can we choose to be thankful this Christmas, even if something doesn't go our way? (*We can be thankful for baby Jesus; we can be thankful for our presents even if we don't get the exact present that we want; we can be happy when someone gets the toy he/she wants; etc.*) So, remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.** With God's help, we can choose to be thankful, even when something doesn't go our way or seems unfair!"

•• GRATITUDE GRAPES [Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Create | An activity that explores ideas through the process of drawing, building, designing, and problem-solving

What You Need: Plastic/paper cup, paper, scissors, pens/markers/crayons, yarn, tape

What You Do:

- Work together as a family to create a bunch of "Gratitude Grapes" to help you learn and remember this month's Memory Verse.
- Using a cup as a guide, trace 10 circles onto pieces of paper and cut them apart.
- Write the Memory Verse on the circles as follows: Give / thanks / to the Lord, / for / he is good. / His / love / endures / forever. / Psalm 136:1 NIV
- While your family is cutting, writing, and/or decorating, ask if anyone has Psalm 136:1 memorized.
- Give everyone the opportunity to recite the verse from memory.
- Lay out pieces of yarn, and work together to arrange the "grapes" on the "vine" in the order of the Memory Verse.
- Tape your creation together, with the yarn running down the center, and hang it someplace you will see it often to remind you of this week's Bible story and this month's Memory Verse.

What You Say: "There will be times when it will be hard to have a grateful attitude. When you find yourself focusing on what others have or when you find yourself focusing on something that seems unfair, that's when you need to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.** Reciting Psalm 136:1 and remembering that God's faithful love for you continues forever can help you **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**"

●● **PRAY** [Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

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

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say: “Let’s pray. *(Pause briefly after each sentence, leading your family to whisper the sentence after you.)* God, you are good. *(pause)* You are loving. *(pause)* You are faithful. *(pause)* Your love for me never stops. *(pause)* Please forgive me *(pause)* when I focus on what I don’t have. *(pause)* Please help me adjust my attitude. *(pause)* Please help me be grateful. *(pause)* Help me think about your love. *(pause)* Help me think about Jesus. *(pause)* Thank you, Lord. *(pause)* I love you SO much. *(pause)* Amen. *(pause)*”

●● **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

Looking for a devo for your kids? Want to keep the conversation going? Check out the following resources at popmn.org/cm. Use them this week to continue the conversation around our **[Bottom Line]: Adjust your attitude.**

GodTime Card | A 4-day devotional for elementary-aged kids based on the weekly theme kicked off on WOW @home

ParentCue | A tool for parents based on the weekly theme. Also available as an app, it sends alerts and encouragement specific to the age of your children (parentcue.org)

FAITH5 | A 6-day family devotional based on Faith Inkubators’ FAITH5

●● **WHAT’S NEXT**

Set a reminder to join us for WOW @home on Wednesday 11/25 at 6:00 pm live at facebook.com/popchildrens or anytime after that at popmn.org/youtube for a time of worship centered around the **[Bottom Line]: Get in the habit of being grateful.”**