



Bonus Activities

Date: May 3rd

Bible Passage: Matthew 20:1–16

(Parable of the Workers in the Field)

God is Gracious

Additional activities for younger children:

You may choose to do these all on Sunday, or spread them out throughout the week, reminding your children what they learned in the past lesson.

Option 1: Cross Cuttings (Craft)

Children remember that God is fair by decorating a cross.

SUPPLIES

- Craft materials (stickers, glitter, markers)
- Scissors
- Ribbon or string
- Cardboard or thick paper cut into a cross

RELATE

Today we learned that everyone who believes in God and accepts His love receives the same reward (salvation) at the end of the day. People who work an hour receive the same reward (salvation) as those who work all day: not because the vineyard owner (God) is being unfair to those who worked all day, but because He is being generous to all (with His grace). Provide children with crafts materials to cut out a cross and add stickers, glitter, etc. Make little snips all around the cross for decoration and use bright magic markers to write THANK YOU GOD FOR BEING FAIR. Add a ribbon to the top of the cross and encourage children to give to someone special to them.

Option 2: Grapes of grace (craft)

Children create a grape vine to remind them that God is gracious.

SUPPLIES

- Purple circles (made from paper or tissue paper or you can use purple paint and their finger prints or a toilet paper tube to make prints etc)
- Green paper or marker
- White piece of paper

RELATE

In the story the workers were working at a vineyard picking grapes. Let's make a bunch of grapes

to help up remember that God is gracious and fair. On the paper you can write “I am “grapeful” for grace”.



Option 3: Item harvest (game)

To remember that God is gracious, children play a game collecting items in which they learn it is not the amount of work we do for God, but it is God's kindness and love that allows us into his loving presence forever.

SUPPLIES

- Large playing area like a living room rug or a big blanket laid out
- 15-30 items of various sizes (balls, blocks, cardboard tubes, stuffed animals etc)
- Reusable grocery bags (one per person)

SET UP

Establish a large playing area using a rug or blanket. On the rug or blanket playing area spread items of various sizes like balls, blocks, cardboard tubes, etc. Give each player a large bag.

RELATE

Tell your family the object of the game is to pickup as many items as possible in the amount of time they are given.

- Have the players line up on the outside edge of the playing area.
- Place bags behind each player.
- Tell them you will call out one or two of their names and those people will be given a few seconds to pick up some of the items from the center of the circle and place them in their bag.
- Players may only grab one item at a time, then return to the edge to put it in the bag, and return to the field to collect another item. (During play you may call out different modes of entering the circle. For example, hopping, skipping, broad jumping, etc.)
- Players may continue to collect items until you yell stop (give the players a few seconds). You then call another name or two and play proceeds as before.

- Vary the amount of time for the different players to collect items. Be obvious that some players are receiving more time to collect items than other players.

When the circle is cleared, have the players count their items. Make a big deal that some of them collected a lot of items and really deserve a reward. Then start giving the rewards (candy works well), starting with the ones that gathered the least amount. Say, "You've earned your reward and I will give each of you one piece of candy." Then ask the players, "If they earned one piece, how much should I give to the players that collected more items?" "Two, three, four?", "No, I will only give one piece to everyone."

Discuss the following:

- How is our game like the parable of the workers in the vineyard? (Some of the players worked longer than the others)
- Was our game fair or unfair? (Why or why not)
- How will this game help you remember the parable of the workers in the vineyard? (To remember that none of us deserve to go to heaven. It is not the amount of work we do for God or how long we have followed him, but it is God's undeserved favor, his kindness and love, he died in our place, that allows us into his loving presence for eternity.)

BLESS:: 5 min.

Children receive a blessing. A blessing can be a prayer of commission, a portion of Scripture, or words to encourage and guide. Read this over your children at least once this week.

SUPPLIES

- Bible

RELATE

Ask children to sit on the floor with you. Before speaking the blessing, encourage children to clap and cheer to celebrate that Jesus is alive! Then pray this prayer of blessing over them:

Children, Jesus is alive! May you know His great love for you today and always.

Open a Bible and read Luke 24:6a:

He has risen!