



# The Workers in the Vineyard

**Lesson Aim:** To know God is fair and generous.

## THE WORSHIP

**Who God is:** The King Who Teaches

## THE WORD

**Bible Story:** Matthew 20:1-16

**What He has done:** Jesus taught about a fair and generous land owner.

**Key Verse:** Matthew 20:13

## THE WAY

**Christ Connection:** Proverbs 14:30

## BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Unit 5: The King Who Teaches—Parables 1			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
23	The Lost Sheep, Luke 15:1-7	Jesus taught that God finds those who are lost.	To know God pursues sinners and brings them back to Himself.
24	The Sower, Luke 8:4-8, 11-15	Jesus taught about four different responses to God's Word.	To understand why some believe God's Word and some do not.
25	The Vine and the Branches, John 15:1-5, 9-12	Jesus taught He is the Vine and we are the branches.	To understand what it means to remain in Jesus and bear fruit.
26	The Workers in the Vineyard, Matthew 20:1-16	Jesus taught about a fair and generous landowner.	To know God is fair and generous.
27	The Great Banquet, Luke 14:15-24, Matthew 5:3	Jesus taught about guests invited to a banquet.	To see that we need to respond to Jesus' invitation.

## TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Psalm 40:9-11. Please join us in praying, "Thank you, Lord, for teaching us with Your parables. Help us teach Your children so they might better understand You and Your kingdom. Amen."

## TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at [Resourcewell.org](http://Resourcewell.org). You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	<b>Meet &amp; Greet</b>	None
		<b>Game:</b> Fair "Foot" Ball	One ball for each team, identical prizes for all the children
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	<b>Worship</b> Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	<b>Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song:</b> "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" <b>Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions:</b> "The Lord Is My Shepherd" "The Fruit of the Spirit" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" <b>Additional Hymn Suggestion:</b> "Amazing Grace" <b>Additional Song Collection Suggestions:</b> Absolute All Time Favorites For Kids Cedarmont Worship for Kids: Volume 2
		<b>Worship Scripture Reading:</b> John 1:16	Bible
		<b>Offering</b>	Baskets
		<b>Worship Illustration</b>	Lesson 26 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	<b>Read the Word:</b> Matthew 20:1-16	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster, highlighters
THE WAY	Up to 25	<b>Discuss the Word</b>	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster, highlighters, GRINNERS & GRUMBLERS game supplies (See GOT TIME?)
		<b>Christ Connection:</b> Proverbs 14:30	
		<b>Golden Bowl</b>	
	Final 5	<b>Final Five Minutes</b>	Treasure Treat—The Workers in the Vineyard Kingdom Parable Stickers, W <sup>3</sup> s, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love The Lord"
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	<b>Snack:</b> Fair and Generous Snack	Raisins (or other fresh or dried fruit), juice
	Up to 10	<b>Craft:</b> Parable Wind Chimes—The Workers in the Vineyard	Ribbon, large bead, large flat buttons, yellow and/or brown paper, pencils, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch
	Up to 10	<b>Game:</b> Grinners & Grumblers	Notecards or sturdy paper, Grinners & Grumblers Coin, Grinners & Grumblers Cards A and B (available at ResourceWell.org or create your own)
	Up to 5	<b>Bonus Parable:</b> The Wise Builder	Bible open to Matthew 7:24-27, The Wise Builder Kingdom Parable Stickers
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> Color Decode	Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors
	Up to 10	<b>Bible Memory Verse Activity:</b> The Wave	Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster or Bible
	Up to 5	<b>Kingdom Parable Review</b>	Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper

**RESOURCES:** Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

## THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.  
**Meet & Greet Question: What kind of chores do you do?**

### **GAME: FAIR "FOOT" BALL**

**Purpose:** To play a game to introduce the concept that God is fair and generous.

**Supplies:** One ball for each team, identical prizes for all the children

**We have been learning some of Jesus' parables. Why did Jesus tell parables?** (To teach a lesson about God's kingdom.) **Today, we will hear Jesus' Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. Before we begin, let's play a game. Pretend your team is working in the vineyard. Your team's job is to pass a giant grape around your circle three times. Do your best. There will be prizes at the end of the game.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Form two or more teams with equal numbers of children on each team.
2. Each team forms a circle. Children lay down on their backs with their legs in the air towards the middle of the circle. (Girls wearing dresses sit and pass the ball with their elbows.) Place a ball as a giant grape between the feet of one child on each team.
3. On your signal, each team passes their giant grape around the circle using only their feet. If they drop the giant grape, they must pick it up with their feet and continue playing.
4. When the giant grape reaches the starting point after being passed around the circle three times, the team signals it has finished by standing up.
5. Play until all the teams have completed the task.
6. Give all the children the exact same prize. Start by announcing and awarding the team who finished last and finish by awarding the same prize to the team who finished first.

**Did you expect to all get the same reward?** (Children respond.) **Who did you expect to get the biggest reward?** (The team who finished first.) **Often, the first-place winner is given the greatest reward, but this time, I only asked for you to finish the job and to do your best. You all passed the grape three times and you did your best. Do you think it is fair that I gave you all the same reward?** (Children respond.) **In today's parable, the owner of the vineyard was fair and generous. Let's find out what he did for his workers.**



Jesus as the King who teaches

## THE WORSHIP

**Teacher Tip:** To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



**Today, we worship Jesus as our Teacher. In Jesus' Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard, He teaches us that God is fair and generous. Generous means giving freely. God gives us so much. He gives us friends and families, a place to learn about Him, fun times, and all kinds of treasures and blessings! How has God been generous toward you? (Children respond.) God gives us all these things even when we don't earn or deserve them! That's called grace. Read John 1:16.**



**Let's be generous toward God by giving our offerings.** Collect offering and sing: "Amazing Grace."

**In today's story, the workers came to the vineyard at different times. We can come to God any time. He welcomes us and let's us join in the building of His kingdom. We build His kingdom by loving God and loving one another.** Sing Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord." You may also choose to sing songs that focus on God's goodness, generosity, and fairness.



**Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 5, Lesson 26.**



The workers in the vineyard

## THE WORD

**Teacher Tip:** As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

**Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."**

**Last time, we heard Jesus' Parable of the Vine and the Branches. The branches must stay connected to the vine so they can bear fruit. Who is the one called the True Vine? (Jesus.) Who are the branches? (Believers.) We learned we must stay connected to Jesus so we can bear the fruit of good deeds and good attitudes. Today, we will learn about the attitudes of the workers in the vineyard. A vineyard is a field of grapevines. They worked in the vineyard to be paid a denarius. A denarius was the usual pay for a full day's work. It is an ancient Roman coin made of silver.**



**Let's play Find It First! Bring out your Bible; keep it right in front of you.** Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals the Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 20:1-16. **Let's see who can Find It First. Ready? Set? Go!** Children race to find it first. The winner helps others find it. **Let's highlight our Key Verse: Matthew 20:13.**

**Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us?** Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

**As I read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story.** Read Matthew 20:1-16.



Grin or grumble

## THE WAY

**What did the vineyard owner pay the workers?** (They all received the same amount—one denarius.) **Why did some of the workers grumble?** (They thought the owner was being unfair.) **How would you have felt if you worked all day and were paid the same as those who only worked for one hour?** (Children respond.) **The vineyard owner was fair because he paid each of them what he had promised.**

**The owner was very generous to the ones who came later. Generous means giving freely. How was he generous?** (He gave a full day's pay to all of the workers, even those who only worked one hour.) **God is fair and generous like the vineyard owner in the parable. What does God give to everyone who follows Jesus?** (Life forever with Him.) **How is God fair?** (He keeps His promise to give life forever with Him to everyone who follows Jesus.) **How is God generous?** (He gives life forever with Him to everyone who follows Jesus, whether we have followed Him for a very long time or a very short time.)

**The owner gave the workers who came later a denarius they had not fully earned or deserved. That is called grace. In God's grace, He gives us blessings we have not earned. What are some examples of gifts of grace—things He has given you that you did not earn?** (Children respond.) **What is the greatest gift God has given us that we did not earn?** (God sent His Son to give us life forever with God, even though we did not earn it.)

**Some workers chose to grumble. What other choices could they have made?** (To be thankful for the denarius and glad the landowner was generous to the others.)

If time allows, play GRINNERS & GRUMBLERS game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.

**This week, whenever you see someone else has been given extra blessings, I challenge you to choose to smile about our generous God and be a “grinner” instead of putting yourself first and being a “grumbler.”**



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

## CHRIST CONNECTION

**Each of us can choose to enjoy seeing God be generous to others. We will be happier with that choice. Sometimes, when we complain something is unfair, we may be jealous, envying the one who received the special attention or gift. Jealousy and envy are unhappy feelings of wanting what someone else has. Let's see what the Bible says about this.**



**FIND IT FIRST> Everyone, place your Bible closed on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Proverbs 14:30. Let's see who can Find It First! Ready? Set? Go! Find it and highlight it. Read Proverbs 14:30.**

**Have you ever felt jealous of someone who received a generous blessing from God?** (Children respond.) **Next time you are feeling jealous, ask God to help you be truly happy for those who received the blessing. Ask Him to remind you of the blessings He has generously given you.**

# THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

## GOLDEN BOWL

**Teacher Tip:** Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

## FINAL FIVE MINUTES

**TREASURE TREAT:** Today, your Treasure Treat is the Workers in the Vineyard Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Wise Builder (see Bonus Parable in GOT TIME?). You can discover more about this parable in this week's W<sup>3</sup>. Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

**W<sup>3</sup>:** Take home today's W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry as your personal devotional study. Keep your journal entries together at home in a notebook or in your Bible. Distribute W<sup>3</sup> Journal Entry #26. Complete this at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible!

**OFFERING OF ART:** Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a glad worker and a grumbling worker. Draw a denarius (coin) in each worker's hand. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

**BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG:** Play the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Song, "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.





If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

## GOT TIME?

### **SNACK: FAIR AND GENEROUS SNACK**

**Purpose:** Children will eat a snack to help them remember God is fair and generous.

**Snack Suggestion:** Raisins (or other fresh or dried fruit), juice

**We are learning Jesus' Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard. The owner of the vineyard was fair and generous when he paid his workers. Jesus wants us to know God is fair and generous, too! What grows in a vineyard? (Grapes). Let's eat raisins, which are dried grapes. I will make sure each of you get a fair and generous number of the raisins.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Serve the snack and drinks.
2. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
3. Ask the Snack Discussion Question: **"What is the best job you have ever been given?"**

### **CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES—THE WORKERS IN THE VINEYARD**

**Purpose:** Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard.

**Supplies:** Ribbon, large bead, large flat buttons, yellow and/or brown paper, pencils, glue, tape, markers, scissors, hole punch

**Prepare:** Cut a 20-inch ribbon. To keep the wind chime balanced, punch a hole about 1-inch from the edge, directly opposite from the strand attached in the previous lesson.

**Optional:** Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

**Teacher Tip:** Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for any children who join camp in future sessions.

**Today, we heard the story of the workers in the vineyard. Let's make a strand of coins for our wind chimes. Let the coins help you remember the vineyard owner gave fair and generous pay to his workers. Remember, God is always fair and generous.**

#### **Directions:**

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon up through the hole on the edge of the plate.
2. Tie a knot in the 20-inch ribbon on the top of the plate large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate. Tie a bead to bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Choose three buttons and use a pencil to trace each button onto a piece of yellow or brown paper.
4. Cut out the circles.
5. Decorate one side of each circle to look like a coin.
6. Glue the back of the circles onto buttons to finish coins.
7. Glue the back of the coins to the center of ribbon. Allow glue to dry before picking up the ribbon.



# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: GRINNERS & GRUMBLERS**

**Purpose:** This game shows attitude choices children can make when others receive unearned blessings.

**Supplies:** Notecards or sturdy paper, Grinners & Grumblers Coin, Grinners & Grumblers Cards A and B (available for download at ResourceWell.org or create your own according to the directions on this page)

**Teacher Tip:** Create additional cards using situations relevant to your children.

### **Directions:**

1. Divide the children into 2 teams: Grinners and Grumblers.
2. Read the front of "Grinners & Grumblers" Card A.
3. One child tosses the denarius coin in the air to see how it lands.
4. If the denarius lands frown-face up, the Grumblers get 10 seconds to say what seems unfair about the situation on the card. If the denarius lands smile-face up, the Grinners get 10 seconds to say how God was generous in the situation on the card. If children need help, a suggested answer is on the back of the card for both the Grinners and the Grumblers.
5. When they finish, the opposite team has 10 seconds to respond with a reason why their team would choose to grin or grumble in that same situation.
6. Now switch the teams—Grinners are Grumblers, Grumblers are Grinners.
7. Repeat steps 2-5 using "Grinners & Grumblers" Card B.

### **"Grinners & Grumblers" Card Directions:**

1. On a notecard or sturdy paper, print or draw the following on the front of each card:  
Card A: Picture of two girls working in a yard  
Card B: Picture of a boy working in a science lab
2. Below the picture on each card, print or write the following text:  
Card A: Beth helped her dad with yard work for three hours. Kristen helped them for the last 10 minutes. Dad treated them both to ice cream for helping him. What were Beth's choices when she and Kristen received their rewards?  
Card B: Benjamin worked hard on his team's science project. His teammates did not do their part. The teacher gave everyone the same good grade on the project. What were Benjamin's choices when the grades were given?
3. On the back of each card, print or write the following text:  
Card A: GRINNERS—Smile at how Dad was so generous and kind to include Kristen.  
GRUMBLERS—Grumble that Dad was unfair to give them the same treat when she did most of the work.  
Card B: GRINNERS—Smile that he was able to help everyone get a good grade.  
GRUMBLERS—Complain it was unfair. He should have gotten a higher grade than his teammates because they did not do their part.

### **Denarius Coin Directions:**

1. Cut two circles equal in diameter and slightly larger than a coin of your choice.
2. On one circle, draw a happy face and write or print the word GRINNER.
3. On the other circle, draw a grouchy face and write or print the word GRUMBLER.
4. With tape or glue, attach the circles to a coin.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **BONUS PARABLE: THE WISE BUILDER**

**Purpose:** To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

**Supplies:** Bible open to Matthew 7:24-27, The Wise Builder Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

**Today's bonus parable is the story of the wise builder.** Volunteer reads Matthew 7:24-27. **What happened to the wise man's house when the wind and rain came?** (It did not fall.)

**What does it mean to put Jesus' words into practice?** (To do what Jesus says.) **What are some things Jesus has told us to do?** (Love God, love our neighbor, stay close to Him, pray, give, believe, don't be greedy, don't worry, follow Him, make wise choices, etc.)

**The wind and rain in the story stand for hard times in our lives. When we do what Jesus says, we will be able to make it through those hard times. What do you think happens in hard times when we haven't been doing what Jesus says?** (Children respond.)



## **BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES**

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

## **GAME: COLOR DECODE**

**Purpose:** Children unscramble and learn the words to the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Colored paper, Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse poster, marker, scissors

**Prepare:** For every four children, cut a sheet of colored paper into four equal-size cards. On each of the cards write one of these phrases from the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart"/ "and with all your soul"/ "and with all your mind."/ "Love your neighbor as yourself." Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

### **Directions:**

1. Say the Bible Memory Verse together.
2. Mix the sets together. Note: If children do not divide evenly into groups of four, give one or more children two cards of the same color.
3. Give each child a random card.
4. On your signal, the children are to search for the other three children with matching color cards.
5. Once together, the children put their cards in the correct order of the Bible Memory Verse and sit down. (They can use the Bible Memory Verse poster as a reference.)
6. **How should we love God?** (With all our heart, soul, and mind.) **How should we love our neighbors?** (As ourselves.) **Jesus told parables to teach us how to live together in God's kingdom. The parables teach us how to love God and each other.**
7. Play again, as time allows.

# GOT TIME? *continued...*

## **GAME: THE WAVE**

**Purpose:** To help children memorize the Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse.

**Supplies:** Unit 5 Bible Memory Verse Poster or Bible

**Directions:**

1. Assign one phrase from Matthew 22:37, 39 to each child or group.
2. As helper directs, each child/group quickly stands, says assigned phrase while raising both hands up to the sky and then down to thighs and sits down.
3. Repeat three times, faster each time.



## **KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW**

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

**Jesus Teaches about the Sower:** In the Parable of the Sower, the sower stands for God. What does the seed represent? (God's Word, the Bible.) The different types of ground stand for the different hearts that hear God's Word. Jesus said seed that falls on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart who remember and obey God's Word. What are some examples of good fruit we bear when we do that? (Good attitudes and good actions such as showing patience, showing kindness, serving others, sharing God's Word, etc.)

**Jesus Teaches about the Vine and the Branches:** In the Parable of the Vine and the Branches, the gardener stands for God the Father. Who is the True Vine? (Jesus.) What happens to the branches that stay connected to the vine? (They bear fruit.) Name some examples of fruit that we bear as we remain close with Jesus? (The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These are seen in our good deeds and attitudes that build God's kingdom.)

**The Workers in the Vineyard:** What did the vineyard owner pay the workers? (The same amount—one denarius.) Why did some of the workers grumble? (They thought the owner was being unfair.) How was the owner generous? (He gave a full day's pay to all of the workers even those who only worked one hour.) God is fair and generous. When has God been generous to you? (Children respond.) When has He been generous to others? (Children respond.)

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan