

Graceful Strides Relay

Objective: To illustrate the concept of grace, fairness, and equality, as depicted in the parable of the workers in [Matthew 20:1-16](#).

Materials Needed: Open outdoor space, markers for start and finish lines.

Setup:

1. Divide participants into teams of equal size.
2. Set up a relay course in the designated outdoor space.
3. Place markers to indicate the starting and finishing lines.

Gameplay:

1. Each team forms a single-file line behind the starting marker.
2. Explain to participants that this relay has a unique twist: each person will take steps of different sizes during the race.
3. The first person in line takes small, slow steps. The second person takes slightly larger steps, and this pattern continues down the line, with each person increasing their step size.
4. The last person in line takes big strides.

Race:

1. Start the race by signaling the first participant on each team to begin taking their small steps.
2. When the team member reaches the finish line, the second person in line takes slightly larger steps than the first person, and this pattern continues down the line. Each person's steps are larger compared to the person before them.
3. The last person in line for the team takes big strides.
4. The relay continues until everyone on the team has completed their turn. The first team to finish "wins".

Discussion:

1. Gather all participants after the race.
2. Lead a discussion about the experience and its connection to the parable.
3. Ask questions such as:
 - Was it easier for the people who took smaller steps or larger steps?
 - How did the experience of taking different steps during the relay make you feel?
 - In the context of the relay, what do the varying step sizes symbolize for you? How does this relate to the parable of the workers?

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- How did the game challenge your ideas of equality and inequality? Were there any surprises in the outcome?
- Reflecting on the parable of the workers, how does the game illustrate the concept of grace? How does it align with the idea that God's grace is extended to all, regardless of their "effort"?
- Can you think of situations in your own life where you've witnessed or experienced unequal efforts and equal rewards, similar to the relay and the parable?
- What does the game teach us about the complexities of comparing our efforts with those of others? How might this influence our interactions with others?
- How can the lessons about equity and fairness applied to real-life scenarios where people receive different outcomes despite their varying efforts?
- How can we balance the pursuit of excellence and putting in our best effort with the understanding that grace transcends these efforts?
- In your own words, how would you explain the concept of grace to someone who hasn't experienced it before, using the parable as an example?

Key Points:

- Emphasize that the goal of the relay is to experience the journey together despite different efforts.
- Highlight that the relay represents the workers' varied contributions in the parable and how they received equal pay.

Takeaway: Through this Graceful Strides relay game, participants gain a tangible understanding of grace and fairness, grasping the idea that God's grace is extended equally to all, regardless of individual effort.

Resources

[Get some Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard Stickers](#)

[Get more youth ministry games](#)