

# Vineyard Values Activity

## Step 1: Introduction

Start by summarizing the parable of the workers in the vineyard ([Matthew 20:1-16](#)). Emphasize its message about fairness and grace.

## Step 2: Group Formation and Task Assignment

Divide the kids into small groups. Assign each group a specific task with different levels of difficulty and reward. For instance, tasks could range from simple tasks like picking up toys to more complex tasks like solving a puzzle. Here are some suggestions, but you can make up your own:

- Grape Gathering: Provide small faux grapes and ask them to gather a specific number into baskets. This echoes the laborers' job of harvesting grapes in the vineyard.
- Puzzle Prowess: Hand out simple jigsaw puzzles of varying sizes. This represents the different tasks undertaken by workers and the diverse levels of effort required.
- Colorful Creation: Supply coloring pages with varying levels of complexity. This correlates with the parable's idea of different work hours and diverse tasks.
- Story Sculpting: Offer modeling clay for crafting simple figures. This task symbolizes the variety of work the vineyard laborers performed.
- Word Weaving: Present a mix of easy and challenging words for spelling. This draws parallels to the varied jobs and levels of effort in the vineyard.
- Pattern Pioneers: Provide beads and strings for pattern-making bracelets. This activity mirrors the assortment of tasks and hours assigned in the parable.
- Riddle Roundup: Share a range of riddles to solve. This aligns with the diverse nature of tasks the parable's workers undertook.
- Vineyard Verses: Have them create short poems or rhymes. This signifies the diverse roles and contributions within the vineyard.
- Puppet Performance: Give them materials to create finger puppets. This captures the essence of different jobs coming together.
- Block Builders: Provide building blocks for creative structures. This reflects the varied work and effort found in the vineyard parable.

## Step 3: Task Execution

Allow the groups some time to complete their tasks. Make sure the tasks are achievable but with varying levels of effort required.

## Step 4: Reward Distribution

Once the tasks are completed, provide rewards that differ in value. Some groups could receive small treats, while others receive more substantial rewards. Here are some ideas:

- Stickers: Colorful and fun stickers can be a great way to reward kids for their efforts.
- Temporary Tattoos: Children often enjoy temporary tattoos featuring their favorite characters or designs.
- Small Notebooks: Mini notebooks with appealing covers can be both practical and enjoyable for kids.
- Pencils with Toppers: Pencils topped with erasers shaped like animals or characters add a playful touch.

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- Miniature Toys: Small figurines, cars, or animals can be inexpensive and engaging rewards.
- Coloring Sheets: Printed coloring sheets or activity pages related to the parable can be rewarding and educational.
- Puzzle Cards: Mini puzzle cards or simple brain teasers can be entertaining rewards.
- Bookmarks: Decorative bookmarks with inspirational quotes or images can be both useful and delightful.
- Bubbles: Mini bottles of bubbles provide a playful reward that kids often enjoy.
- Crayons or Markers: Sets of colorful crayons or markers can encourage creativity.
- Rubber Bracelets: Rubber bracelets with motivating words or phrases can be a small yet meaningful reward.
- Homemade Certificates: Create certificates of achievement for each child, celebrating their participation and efforts.

### **Step 5: Group Discussion**

Gather the kids back together and initiate a discussion. Ask questions like:

- How did you feel when you received your rewards?
- Did everyone get the same reward? How did that make you feel?
- Were some tasks harder than others? Can you tell us about your task?
- Do you think the rewards were fair? Why or why not?
- Did the amount of work you did match the reward you received?
- How do you think the workers in the vineyard felt when they received different pay?
- Do you think everyone should get the same reward for the same amount of work? Why or why not?
- How does this activity relate to the story we read about the workers in the vineyard?
- What do you think the parable is trying to teach us about fairness and grace?
- Can you think of a time when someone was kind or generous to you even when you didn't do a lot of work?

### **Step 6: Parable Connection**

As the young participants gather and their curiosity blooms, the spotlight shifts to weaving the threads between their hands-on experience and the timeless parable of the workers in the vineyard. Guide the discussion toward uncovering the parallels that bridge the tangible scenario they've engaged in and the profound narrative from Scripture.

Invite their young minds to draw connections. Let them explore the lines that connect the dots between the diverse tasks they've tackled and the different hours the workers were summoned to the vineyard. Just as they've embraced tasks of varying complexity, the parable unfolds its message through laborers hired at distinct times, each contributing their efforts to the harvest.

By fostering these connections, the activity's walls expand beyond the immediate and into the spiritual realm. Young minds grasp the subtleties of divine grace, where reward isn't tied solely to labor, but also to the

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immeasurable generosity that reflects a higher purpose. This bridge between the tactile and the theological sets the stage for their blossoming understanding of timeless truths.

### **Step 7: Reflection**

Encourage kids to share their insights about fairness and grace. Here are some talking points that delve into the concept of God's grace being rooted in His generosity rather than our efforts:

- **Introduction to Grace and Effort:** Begin by explaining what grace and effort mean. Grace is the unmerited favor and kindness that comes from a higher power, like God. Effort refers to the work or actions we put in to achieve something.
- **Using Everyday Examples:** To make this concept relatable, let's think about everyday situations. Ask the children about instances when they received something good without necessarily working hard for it. For example, getting a surprise gift from a friend or a family member just because they care. This introduces the idea that good things can come to us out of love and generosity, not just because we earned them.
- **The Vineyard Parable Connection:** Remind them of the different tasks and rewards in the activity. Relate this back to the parable of the workers in the vineyard. Just like how the workers were paid the same despite working different hours, God's grace doesn't depend on how much we do. It's like receiving a special treat not because of chores or good behavior, but simply because someone cares about us.
- **Unpacking Divine Generosity:** Share how God's grace is like a big-hearted gift. Imagine if you were having a tough day and someone gave you a hug or a kind word to make you feel better. You didn't have to earn it; it was given because of their generosity and love. Similarly, God's grace showers us with love and blessings, not because of what we do, but because of who He is.
- **Lessons from Nature:** Nature can be a wonderful teacher. Talk about how plants and trees provide fruits and flowers without expecting anything in return. This is like God's grace – freely given, without us having to do something specific to deserve it.
- **Applying to Relationships:** Help them relate it to relationships. Just as we forgive our friends or family even if they make mistakes, God's grace forgives us and loves us despite our imperfections.
- **Wrapping Up the Concept:** Summarize by emphasizing that God's grace is a gift that comes from His boundless love and generosity. It's not about what we do, but about His character. Encourage them to embrace this beautiful truth and remember that they are loved and valued, not because of their actions, but because of who they are.

### **Step 8: Conclusion**

Wrap up the activity by summarizing the main takeaway: God's grace is freely given and not determined by our "work."

## **Resources**

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

[More Youth Ministry Activities](#)

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