

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

24 September 2023 - Year A

“Are you jealous because I am generous?”

Something to Think About

Have you ever felt that something was unfair? Do you sometimes think others are getting more than they should, instead of being grateful for what you have?

The Story

The men who stood in the market were waiting for work. This was how the system worked. Early in the morning a man would take his tools and go to the market and wait for someone to offer him work for the day. If a man missed out on a day's work, then his family could starve. A normal working day began at 6.00am and ended at 6.00pm. Therefore those who were hired at 5.00pm would have worked no more than an hour. On the surface it is easy to understand the grumbling and the discontent - that all received the same wage for working very different hours. God does not judge in the same way we do. God is generous and welcomes everyone into the Kingdom no matter what time they arrive!

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

20:1-16

As Jesus was telling what the kingdom of heaven would be like, he said:

"Early one morning a man went out to hire some workers for his vineyard. After he had agreed to pay them the usual amount for a day's work, he sent them off to his vineyard.

About nine that morning, the man saw some other people standing in the market with nothing to do. He said he would pay them what was fair, if they would work in his vineyard. So they went.

At noon and again about three in the afternoon he returned to the market. And each time he made the same agreement with others who were loafing around with nothing to do.

Finally, about five in the afternoon the man went back and found some others standing there. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. Then he told them to go work in his vineyard.

That evening the owner of the vineyard told the man in charge of the workers to call them in and give them their money. He also told the man to begin with the ones who were hired last. When the workers arrived, the ones who had been hired at five in the afternoon were given a full day's pay.

The workers who had been hired first thought they would be given more than the others. But when they were given the same, they began complaining to the owner of the vineyard. They said, 'The ones who were hired last worked for only one hour. But you paid them the same that you did us. And we worked in the hot sun all day long!'

The owner answered one of them, 'Friend, I didn't cheat you. I paid you exactly what we agreed on. Take your money now and go! What business is it of yours if I want to pay them the same that I paid you? Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Why should you be jealous, if I want to be generous?'

Jesus then said, "So it is! Everyone who is now first will be last."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video: [The Parable of the Vineyard Workers](#)



Group Discussion

We may not like everyone, but we should respect people and treat them fairly. Is there anyone you have treated unfairly or without respect this week?

The simple message of today's reading is that God loves us totally and freely. We cannot earn God's love - it is for God to give to us! God's love is not payment for work done or a life well lived - it is pure gift and there is nothing we can do to earn it. Think about your parents and their constant willingness to forgive and to show their love for you. What gift of love can you offer someone this week?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be generous. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we treat people with love and respect. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for people who are searching for work. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for those who don't have enough to eat today. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will thank God for the generous love that is shown to us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear God,
We praise you for your generous and patient love. Open our eyes to the ways in which we can love others throughout the day.
Amen.

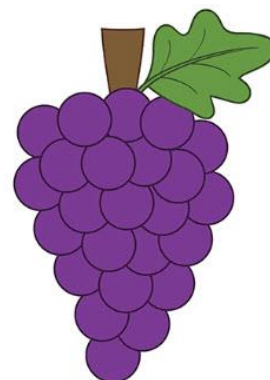
Group Activity

God is generous to me!

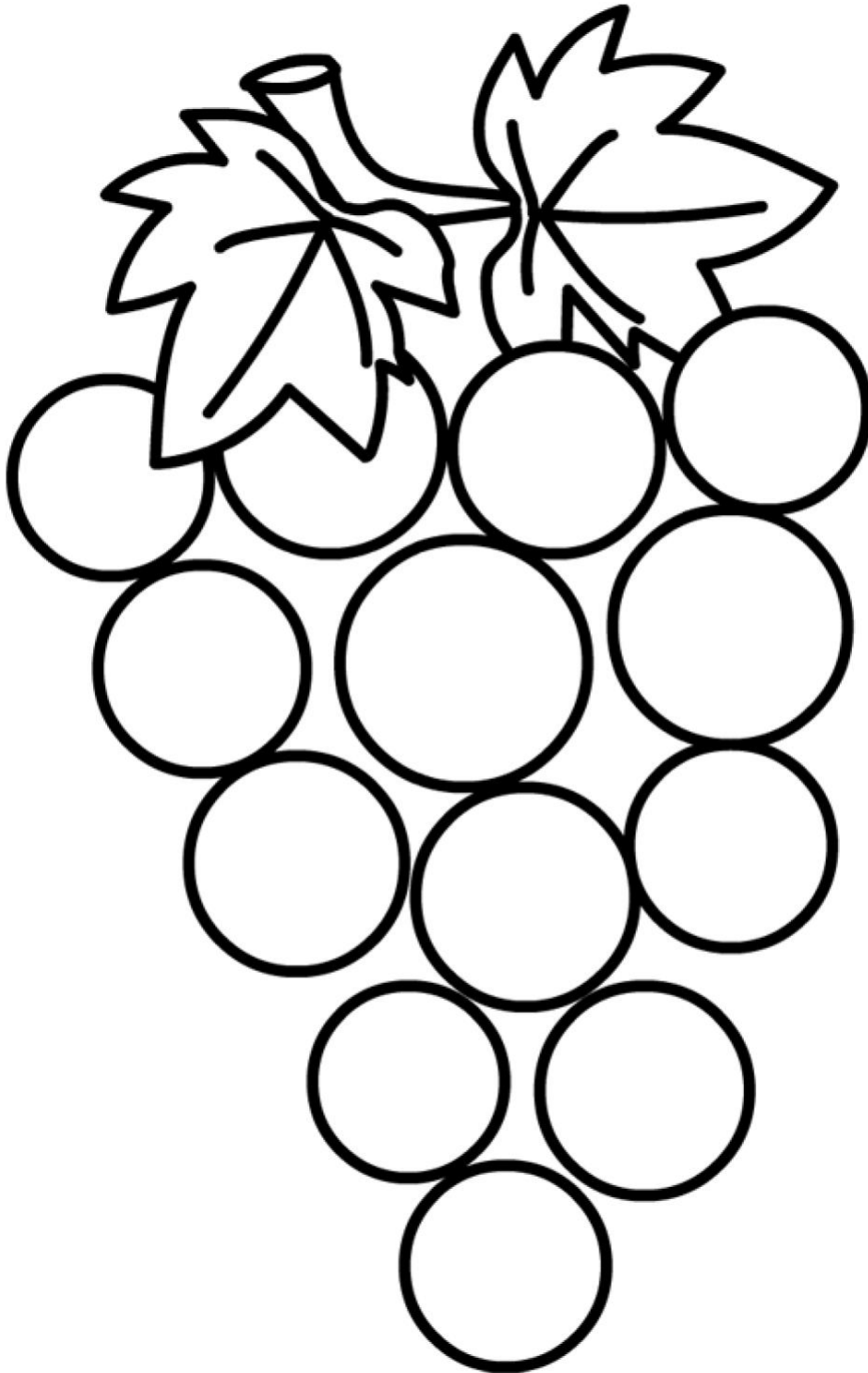
You will need: grapes template for each child, coloured pencils.

Optional green tissue paper to stick on for the leaves of the grapes.

- 1) Invite children to think about all the ways in which God is generous to them. What blessings can they name?
- 2) Ask children to write one of these blessings on each of the grapes, and remember the generosity of God.
- 3) Children may like to collage the leaves, or add glitter glue.



The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard



God is so generous! Write or draw things or people you are grateful for in each of the grapes. Then add colour!

WHAT DOES JACK DO?

Jack has been helping Grandma in the garden all morning. She gives him some lollies to say 'thank you'. But when Ava and Mum come to pick him up, Grandma gives lollies to Ava as well. Is it fair?

DRAW THE EXPRESSION ON JACK'S FACE.



Meet the twins, Jack and Ava, with Clover the dog.

IT'S NOT FAIR!