

Pick N Mix Family Activities

The fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, 20th September 2020

The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard - Read Matthew 20.1-16

You may like to use this material as a basis for discussion in your family.

Parables are stories that Jesus told to try to illustrate an important point. It was a teaching technique. He usually used a setting for his parable that would be familiar to the people around him – stories about farming, country life, families etc.

This story is about people being hired to work in a vineyard; something that Jesus' audience would have known about. But they would have been shocked by this story! The workers hired at the end of the day were being paid exactly the same amount as those who had worked hard all day in hot and dusty conditions. Is this fair? What do you think? Imagine what would happen if this occurred nowadays. There would probably be a protest from the Trade Unions or workers would go on strike.

What was Jesus trying to teach us?

The vineyard is a symbol of God's kingdom and the workers are us, people working for the kingdom here on earth. The vineyard owner is God. Jesus is telling us that God is generous to everyone. God treats each of us in the same way, giving his grace and love equally to each person.

When did you last see someone being very generous to another person? How did you feel about it?

How does it make you feel to know that God shows the same love and care for each person?

Are you aware of God's love for you in your life?

Activity 1

Have you got a game of Scrabble at home? Use the board and letters to make up words about how you feel about God's love for you. Link the words together like a crossword.



Activity 2

Make heart shaped sandwiches or heart shaped toast and, as you eat them, remember God's love for each person you know.

Prayer

There are many inequalities in the world – some people are rich, others are poor; some people find life easy, others seem to face constant challenges. This does not seem fair. Today's prayer is about those contrasts.

Loving God, sometimes we feel that things are not fair.

Some have plenty; others have nothing.

Some are free to behave and worship as they want; others have controls imposed on them.

Some people find everything easy; others find that life is a struggle.

May we always work and pray for justice,

but also recognise and celebrate your generous love to us. **Amen.**