

20/09/2020

Family Time/Junior Church time on a Sunday

Jesus told his followers a parable to explain what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. When Jesus taught His disciples he used parables or stories to help them understand better. Jesus often told parables when someone had asked him a difficult question. This is a story which shows that in God's Kingdom things can be back to front and the last may end up first because God is generous even when people feel they don't deserve it. The story happens in a vineyard where people grow grapes to make wine.

The Workers in the Vineyard

²⁰ "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a man who went out early in the morning to hire some men to work in his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them the regular wage, a silver coin a day, and sent them to work in his vineyard. ³ He went out again to the marketplace at nine o'clock and saw some men standing there doing nothing, ⁴ so he told them, 'You also go and work in the vineyard, and I will pay you a fair wage.' ⁵ So they went. Then at twelve o'clock and again at three o'clock he did the same thing. ⁶ It was nearly five o'clock when he went to the marketplace and saw some other men still standing there. 'Why are you wasting the whole day here doing nothing?' he asked them. ⁷ 'No one hired us,' they answered. 'Well, then, you go and work in the vineyard,' he told them.

⁸ "When evening came, the owner told his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with those who were hired last and ending with those who were hired first.' ⁹ The men who had begun to work at five o'clock were paid a silver coin each. ¹⁰ So when the men who were the first to be hired came to be paid, they thought they would get more; but they too were given a silver coin each. ¹¹ They took their money and started grumbling against the employer. ¹² 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'while we put up with a whole day's work in the hot sun—yet you paid them the same as you paid us!' ¹³ 'Listen, friend,' the owner answered one of them, 'I have not cheated you. After all, you agreed to do a day's work for one silver coin. ¹⁴ Now take your pay and go home. I want to give this man who was hired last as much as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do as I wish with my own money? Or are you jealous because I am generous?'"

¹⁶ And Jesus concluded, "So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last."

Matthew 20:1-16, Good News Translation

You can also watch the video here (if you are at home):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0craw4O3S48>



Some questions to think about

Have you ever picked fruit? Imagine doing that all day in the hot sun.

How would you have felt if you were one of the workers who arrived early in the morning and worked all day but got the same money as someone who arrived at 5 o'clock in the afternoon?

How would you have felt if you arrived at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and got paid for the whole day of work even though you only worked for an hour?

Do you think what the vineyard owner did was fair or not?

Has anyone ever been generous to you when you didn't expect it? How did you feel?

How is God generous to you?

Activities

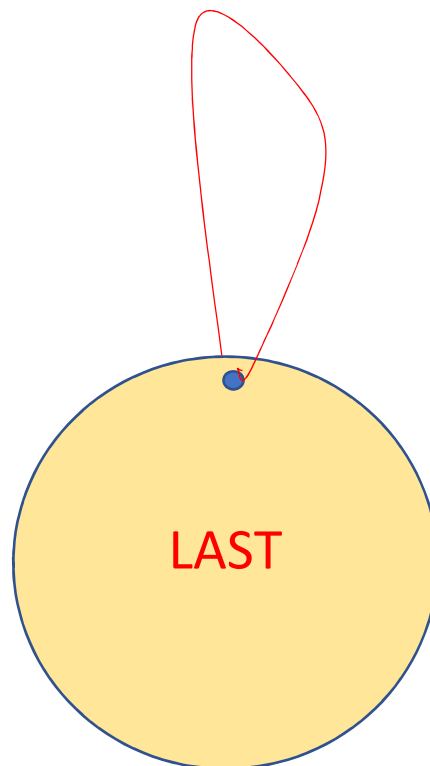
There is a colouring sheet with people picking grapes to remind you of the story.

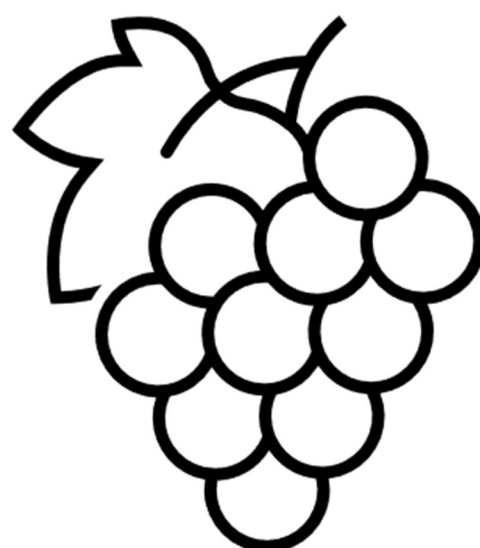
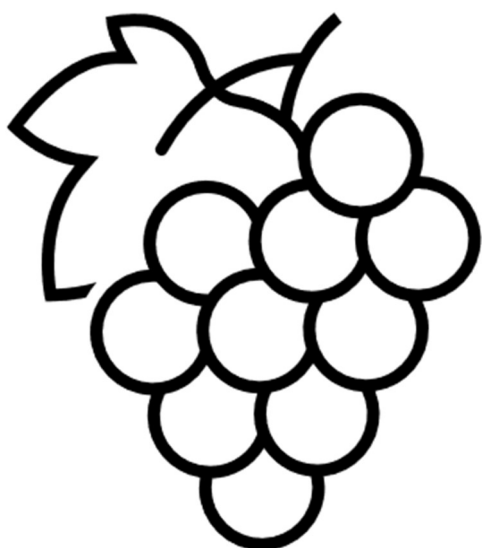
The prayer is on the next page with some grapes which you could colour in.

There is also a word search.

Normally we are given a medal if we come first in a race. But *God* makes the last first. You could make a medal. Instead of writing FIRST place on it, you could write LAST. You could decorate it with grapes or crosses.

This week think about how you can make your friends and family feel loved and important to you. How can you be generous to others?





Dear God

Thank you that you are generous and give us so much.

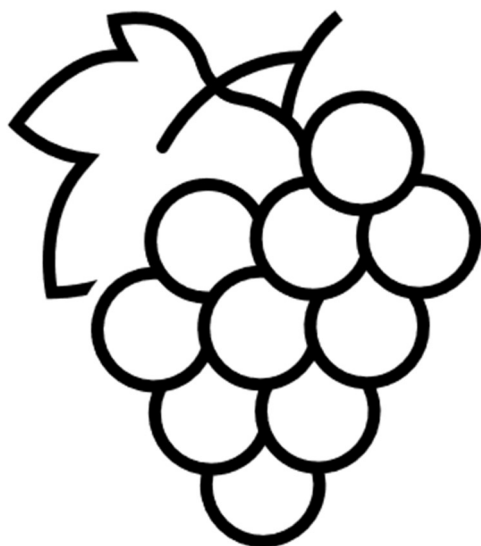
Thank you for your love.

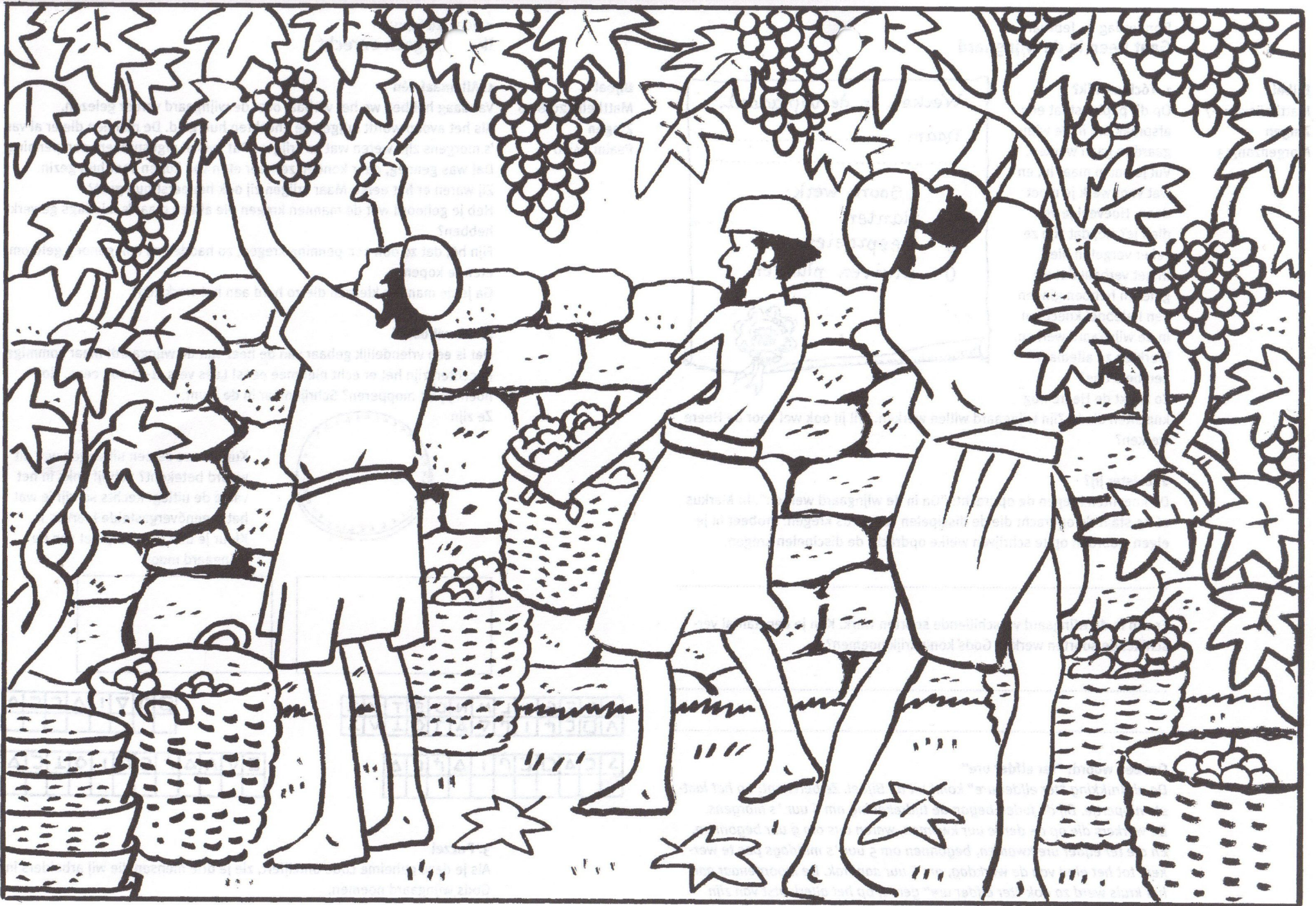
Thank you that through Jesus we are forgiven.

Thank you that you make the last first.

Help us to be generous and loving like you.

Amen





The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L
 R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P
 E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H
 C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O
 E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U
 I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R
 V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V
 E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C
 D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A
 E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W
 H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A
 O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L
 N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K
 U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G
 G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

MONEY
 LANDOWNER
 WAGES

HOUR
 HEAVEN
 HIRED

EQUAL
 GRUMBLE
 UNFAIR

WORKERS
 KINGDOM
 RIGHT

VINEYARD
 GENEROUS
 RECEIVED