



**Bible Story:** New Attitude (The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard) • **Matthew 20:1-15**

**Today's Key Question:** What is keeping you from being grateful?

**Bottom Line:** Adjust your attitude.

**Memory Verse:** Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136:1 (NIV)

**Life App:** Gratitude—Letting others know you see how they've helped you

## 1. Bible Story

**What You Need:** Bible

**What You Do:** Read **Matthew 20:1-15**

## 2. Bible Story Review

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Instruct kids to stand up.
- Tell them you're going to read some statements about today's Bible story.
  - If the statement is true, they should jump to (their) left.
  - If the statement is false, they should jump to the right.
- Read a True/False statement, and direct the kids to jump to show their answer.
- For the "False" statements, review the correct answer.
- After each statement is read and kids give their answers, award a point to each kid who gets the answer correct.
  - Ask kids to keep track of their own points, and tell them they're on the honor system!
- Once all questions have been read, let kids reveal how many points they have.
  - Declare the kid with the most points the winner.
  - However, like in the Bible story today, everyone will receive "equal pay."
  - Make a big deal of giving each kid extra points so they all end up with the same amount of points as the winner.
- True/False Statements
  - Our story today is from the book of Matthew. True or False? (*True*)
  - The landowner in our story needed workers for his vineyard. True or False? (*True*)
  - He hired all the workers he needed at one time. True or False? (*False: He went to out to get workers 5 times, early morning, at 9, at 12, at 3, at 5.*)
  - The landowner told all of the workers that they would earn the same pay at the end of the day. True or False? (*False: He only told the first workers he hired how much they would get paid*)
  - The landowner was a generous man. True or False? (*True*)

- All of the workers received the payment they were promised. True or False? (*True*)
- Everyone was happy with the payment they received for a day's work. True or False? (*False: The workers hired first thought they should make the most money even though they received what they were promised.*)
- Some of the workers, when they were paid, needed to stop and adjust their attitude. True or False? (*True. Follow up with: What workers needed an "attitude adjustment?"*)

### What You Say:

"Sometimes, it's hard to focus on what you have and be grateful. In our game today, I chose to give everyone the same number of points. Just like the workers in our Bible story who were hired in the morning, the kids who answered the most questions correctly have two options: they can be thankful for what they have, or they can complain because everyone got the same number of points.

"When you start focusing on what others have, stop, **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude**, and remember to be thankful for the things you have. It's important to thank God for the gifts He has given you and to not compare what God has given you with others." **[Make it Personal] (Share a time when you had to adjust your attitude to be thankful for what you have. Maybe your friend got a new bike, and it was nicer than your bike.)**

### 3. Discussion Questions [For Older Kids]

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

**What You Do:**

**Ask:**

- Why is it dangerous to compare what you have with what others have? How does that feed an attitude of ingratitude?
- How might taking time to adjust your attitude actually make your life better?
- What are some things you can be grateful for every day no matter what?
- If someone told you to "adjust your attitude" when you were complaining, what choices would you need to make in order for that to happen?

### 4. Make it Personal with Prayer

**What You Need:** Prayer journal, paper, something to write with

**What You Do:**

- As a family, **add to your prayer journal** or make a prayer journal if you have not already done so.
  - The Bible teaches us that the "the prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective" (**James 5:16b**). We are encouraging you to make a family prayer journal. It can be as fancy or as simple as you want. An example is provided on our Kids at The Heights Facebook Page! A prayer journal can be a tool to record your prayer requests and thanksgivings. It can also help you grow your faith as you keep a record of how the Lord answer your prayers.
- Encourage the kids to write a "SHOUT-OUT" to God on a piece of paper to say thank you for something they have.
- Prompt kids to write the sentence, "God, thank You for . . ." and to fill it in with something they have that they are thankful for.
- When the kids are done, encourage them to share their "SHOUT-OUTS" with the rest of the group.
- Tell kids to tape their "SHOUT-OUTS" somewhere in your house they can look back at during the week."
- Challenge the kids this week to notice things they have, and to thank God for the good things they have.
- Close in prayer.