



Helping Kids Choose Grace God's Way

When "That's Not Fair" Feels Too Big

Lesson Aim

Students will understand that God's grace is not about fairness but about His generous love, and they will learn to celebrate when God blesses others.

Scripture Focus

- "So the last will be first, and the first last." (Matthew 20:16, *ESV*)
- "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God." (Ephesians 2:8, *ESV*)

Connect

- **Connection Point:** Ask: "Have you ever said, *That's not fair!*? Maybe when someone got a bigger snack, or a longer turn, or a reward you wanted. How did it feel?"
- **Lead into:** Sometimes things don't seem fair, but God's Kingdom runs on grace, not fairness.

Teach

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell The Parable of Laborers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20:1–16).

Jesus told a story to show what God's Kingdom is like. A landowner went out early one morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He promised the first group one silver coin for the day's work, and they agreed.

At 9 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. he hired more workers. Even at 5 p.m.—just an hour before quitting time—he brought in more, telling them he would pay what was fair.



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When evening came, he paid the last workers first. Each received one silver coin. They were thrilled! But when the first workers got the same pay, they grumbled, “That’s not fair! We worked all day in the hot sun, but they got the same as us.”

The landowner replied, “Friend, I haven’t cheated you. Didn’t you agree to work for one silver coin? Take your pay and go. I choose to give the last workers the same as you. Don’t I have the right to be generous? Or are you envious because I am kind?”

Jesus ended, “So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. Why were the first workers upset?
2. Was the landowner unfair, or was he generous?
3. How is God’s grace different from what we think of as “fair”?
4. Why is it good that God’s Kingdom runs on grace instead of fairness?

- **Explain:**

- God’s grace is like the landowner’s gift — it’s generous, not based on how much we do, but on His love.
- Grace means getting something good we don’t deserve. In God’s Kingdom, being part of His family and receiving His blessings isn’t about how much we do or how hard we work. They are gifts. Grace shows us that God’s love can never be earned — it can only be received.

Model

- Share a time when someone else got something you wanted (like a prize, recognition, or reward). How did you feel? How did you learn to be happy for them? Tell students: “God wants us to trust His generosity and celebrate His blessings for others, too.”

Pray

- “Dear God, thank You for being generous and giving us Your grace as a free gift. Help us to be thankful for what we have and joyful when You bless others. Teach us to see life from Your Kingdom perspective. Amen.”

Craft/Activity

Game: “Unfair but Good”

- Choose a simple game (relay race, quiz, or even tossing a ball).
- At the end, give everyone the *same prize* no matter how well they played.
- Some kids may think, “That’s not fair!” Use that reaction to explain the parable: God gives salvation and love as a free gift to all, no matter what.

Key Takeaway

- God’s grace is a gift, not a reward.