



Helping Kids Choose Grace God's Way

When "That's Not Fair" Feels Too Big

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain the difference between fairness and grace in God's Kingdom.
2. Retell the parable of the vineyard workers in their own words.
3. Apply the lesson by celebrating when others are blessed, even if it feels unfair.

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*)

Lesson Flow (25 min)

1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "Have you ever said, '*That's not fair!*'? What happened, and how did it make you feel?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

2. Teach (7 min)

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

Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. Early in the morning, he hired workers and promised to pay them one silver coin. Later, at 9 a.m., noon, 3 p.m., and even 5 p.m., he hired more workers to help.

At the end of the day, the owner paid everyone the same — one silver coin. The workers who started last were excited, but those who worked all day were angry. “That’s not fair!” they complained.

The owner replied, “I kept my promise. Don’t I have the right to be generous? Are you upset because I am kind?”

Jesus ended by saying, “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?

- **Explain:**

- God’s grace is like the landowner’s gift — not earned by how much we do but given freely out of 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.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through student answers.

3. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** A time you felt something wasn’t fair but later saw God’s goodness in it.
- **Student activity:** In pairs, act out short skits (charades or role-play) showing “That’s not fair!” moments (like turn-taking, prizes, or games). After each skit, pause and ask: “How could we choose grace instead?”
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes engagement and ability to apply the idea of grace to examples.

4. Pray (2-3 min)

- “Dear God, thank You for giving us Your grace. Help us to be thankful for what You give us and happy when others are blessed too.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** God’s grace is a gift, not a reward.
- **Student Reflection:** Invite students to finish the sentence: “I can show grace when...”
- **Teacher closes:** Remind students: “God’s Kingdom doesn’t run on fairness — it runs on His love and grace.”
- **Assessment:** Teacher evaluates whether students can restate the main point.

Optional Extension: Independent Practice

Write or Draw: One way I can celebrate when someone else is blessed.