

Sunday School Lesson

Sunday, July 18, 2021

Eighth Sunday After Pentecost



“So those who are last will be first, and those who are first will be last.”

While labeled Sunday School, please feel free to use these ideas in a way that blesses your family. You do not have to do all the activities, nor do you need to do them on Sunday morning. You can use whatever translation of the Bible or Children’s Bible you have in your home.

Read: Matthew 20: 1-16

Activities and Background:

Usually when reading this parable, the attention is given to the disgruntled workers who felt things were unfair and the summary of “the last shall be first and the first shall be last”. While that is key, the character and actions of the Landowner are important as well. He is not an absent landowner but a very involved landowner, not only involved in tending to his properties needs but also seeing the need for people to earn a living. Our God is not an absent God but a very present and active God constantly reaching out to us calling us to come to God and responding to needs.

1. Read the scripture and wonder about the story with your child. I wonder how many people came each time. I wonder were there some in the marketplace who refused to come. What surprised you in the story?
2. Discuss how God calls us to work for God. How have we responded? Count how many time the landowner went to the marketplace. I wonder how many times God calls us.
3. Who are the people in our community who need work/money? Is it simply a need for money or is it also a need for dignity? Might there be people in the community who do not need the money but need something to do to provide self-worth? Is this parable really saying everyone’s self-worth is equal in God’s eyes?
4. Can you think of other Bible stories or situations where the last was first and the first made last? Were you ever the first and made last or last and made first? How did you feel?
5. What can you and your family do to help people?
6. Read the story one more time and then draw a picture to help you remember the story.
7. End with a prayer.

*Lord,
Help me to respond to your call.
Help me to see the worth in other’s lives as well as my own.
Thank you for being a generous landowner.
Thank you for being a God of mercy and grace.
Amen.*