



Friends of Jesus and Mary

Cycle A – XXV Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55, 6-9; Psalm 144; Philippians 20-24.7; Mathew 20, 1-16

The Last Will Be First

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard.

Going out about nine o’clock, the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.’ So, they went off. And he went out again around noon, and around three o’clock, and did likewise. Going out about five o’clock, the landowner found others standing around, and said to them, ‘Why do you stand here idle all day?’ They answered, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You too go into my vineyard.’ When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.’ When those who had started about five o’clock came, each received the usual daily wage. So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more, but each of them also got the usual wage. And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last ones worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us, who bore the day’s burden and the heat.’ He said to one of them in reply, ‘My friend, I am not cheating you. Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what is yours and go. What if I wish to give this last one the same as you? Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?’ Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Reflection

Jesus teaches with a parable about the Kingdom of Heaven, the community that loves and follows Jesus. Jesus wants that His followers want the best for their brothers and sisters always, putting their happiness before their own. **Who does the landowner represent?** God. **Who do the laborers represent?** The followers of Jesus. **Why do some laborers get upset?** Those that started working at the end of the day received the same payment as those who had worked a full day. **How does Jesus respond?** They had received the agreed upon payment so no injustice was done. He is free to spend his money at will. **What does the payment represent in the Kingdom of God?** God rewards with peace and eternal life those who follow Him and help build His Kingdom. To follow Jesus, we must love our neighbor and desire their salvation. We should be happy when a sinner repents and follows Jesus and not judge them for taking so long. **What does it mean “the last will be first, and the first will be last”?** Those who love and serve Jesus and their neighbor will be great in the Kingdom of Heaven. **How can we serve Jesus and our neighbor?** Share.



Activity

On the following pages, select an activity to help explain the meaning of the Gospel to the children.

Prayer

Jesus, help me to love as You love and to serve as You serve to help build the Kingdom of Heaven. Amen.

Song: Denarius Rap Song, Kyle Jones, <https://youtu.be/cLouA3KytUQ>

PPT: https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1MnkYtHK6Wwji192IoIRr2IDkg83Rj_v/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=115268475267556305384&rtpof=true&sd=true



BIBLE CRAFT

THE LAST WILL BE THE FIRST

Matthew 20:1-6

A simple activity to teach the message of Jesus in a visual and meaningful way.

MATERIALS

- 1 white sheet of paper (letter size)
- Pencil or marker
- Colors (optional)
- Scissors
- Glue (optional)

STEP BY STEP

1. Take a white sheet of paper in landscape direction.
2. Fold in half at the top only to mark the middle of the page.
3. Fold each side to meet in the middle.
4. Draw or glue a picture of Jesus in the middle top.
5. Glue two rows of the back of children: the first row with 3 children, the second row with 2 and decorate the background.
6. On the inside draw or glue the same picture with the two rows reversed: the first with 2 children, the second with 3.
7. Add the text in the shapes explaining the Gospel's meaning to the inside of the open doors (left and right of the picture).
8. Share examples of how we can be first in the eyes of God, but last in the eyes of men.

CLOSED DOORS (FRONT VIEW)



OPEN DOORS (INSIDE VIEW)



HOW DOES IT WORK?

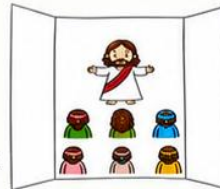
CLOSED (DOORS TOGETHER):

Jesus in front with 3 children in the front and 2 children in the back.



OPEN (DOORS OPENED):

The 2 children who were in the back (pink and blue) move to the front, and the 3 who were in the front move to the back.



→ This shows us that the last will be the first. ←

★ This message reminds us that in the Kingdom of God, God changes the order of the world: the last will be the first!

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

"THE LAST WILL BE THE FIRST, AND THE FIRST WILL BE THE LAST."

Those who humble themselves will be first, and those who think they are the greatest will be last.



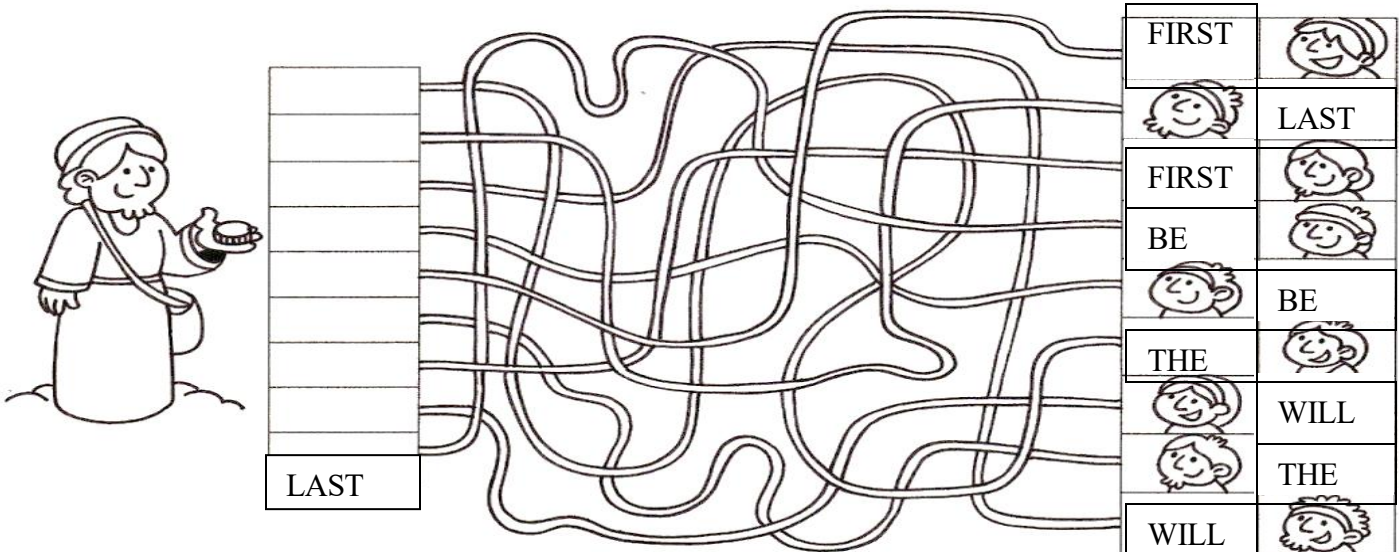


Mathew 20, 1-16

Summon the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and ending with the first.



The laborers will seek their pay. Follow the path from the laborer to the foreman. Fill the corresponding blank with the word next to the worker.





Friends of Jesus and Mary

Amigos de Jesús y María



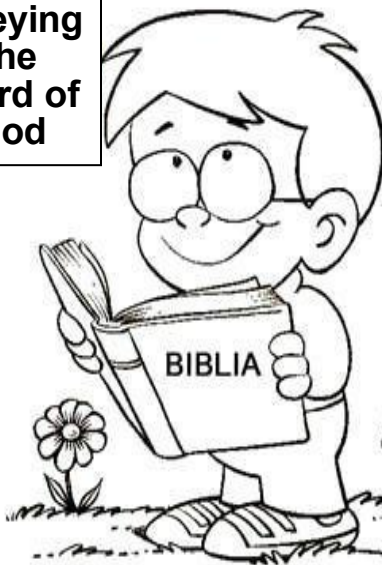
Florida Center for Peace

WE CAN GIVE LOVE

Giving a present



Obeing
the
Word of
God



Evangelizing



Helping a Friend



Helping those in Need



Giving a Hug or Kiss



Jesus, help me to love as You love. This week I want to love and help more my neighbor by: