



Home Group study: week beginning 12th March 2023

TITLE: Parables – stories to live by: The Workers in the Vineyard

PASSAGE: Matthew 20: 1-16

Leaders Notes:

- *Please use these questions as conversation starters to aid discussions. Please don't feel obligated to go through all the questions.*
- *After the reading I always like to consider asking 'what immediately stands out in the passage?'*

Introduction

A parable is a fictitious story told by Jesus to help people understand important messages regarding aspects of faith. The parable that we are going to study is called 'Workers in the Vineyard'.

Read scripture Matthew 20:1-16

Discussion starters

1. In the parable there is the landowner and the workers, who do they represent?
2. Jesus describes the workers in the marketplace as 'doing nothing' what might Jesus be implying by this?
3. The landowner kept going back to the marketplace several times throughout the day, what does that tell us about God and his wish for his children?
4. Put yourself in the shoes of the workers hired first. Would you have felt the same sense of injustice at the landowner's decision to pay those hired at the end of the day the same as you? And how do you respond to the landowners reply in verses 13-15.
5. We probably can all think of times in our life when we have been envious of another, think about the negative emotions that come with being envious or jealous, *e.g. angry, anxious, threatened, oversensitive and possessive*. What can we do in these situations? (Please discuss)
6. Can you think of times in your life when you have experienced Gods generosity first hand? (Please share)
7. Read **Luke 23: 40-43** How does the thief on the cross relate to this parable?

8. Do you think that people who have yet to come to faith have an easier life than those who have been saved a long time?

9. How might we all take comfort as believers in verse 16?

Pray:

Lord we have all been like the workers standing in the Marketplace doing nothing, thank you for putting us to work

Lord thank you, you are a generous and merciful God

Lord help us to not be envious of others

Lord we pray for those who are not yet saved in our families and community