



# GRACE

# BB00

Related values

Justice | Goodness

## Intro Object

A wrapped gift



## Game

Appendix B

Weight Holding

## Story

Appendix A

The Vineyard workers  
Matt 20:1-16

## Reflection

Appendix B

Is the story fair?  
Grace is a gift - it is not fair.  
Grace can not be earned or  
demanded  
How can we be graceful?

## Song suggestion

Grace is a Gift  
by 'Jesus loves the little children'

## Image prompts

- I wonder...
- Why did the child make that mess?
  - What do you think he deserves?

## Follow-up activity

Create some gifts that will make others happy: give pictures, or write notes, or speak encouragements to everyone you meet, as a free gift to them.

## Other Equipment

"I love you" Card | Weights or boxes |  
Shiny Coins

## Suggested Entry Music

Amazing Grace  
by Forrest Frank

## Prayer

**God, thank you for fairness and justice, and rules that help us to live together.**

**Thank you even more for unfair goodness, and undeserved kindness, and your outrageous promise of forgiveness.**

**Thank you for Grace - help us to live with joy and awareness of your grace, so that we might be similar gift-givers to others.**

## Notes:



## Story

Ref: Matthew 20:1-16

The vines were full of fat plump grapes ripe for picking. But as the vineyard owner looked over at all the wonderful looking produce, they realised...he was going to need help!

So very early in the morning, the owner set off to the hiring market and found himself some workers.

**[identify 1 or 2 volunteers and invite them to come to work]**

"Come and work for me until the end of the day," he said, "and I will pay you 1 shiny coin!"

The workers were very happy to get the job and started picking grapes from the vines to place in baskets.

**[volunteers mime picking grapes and DO NOT STOP]**

Around midday the vines were getting emptier, and the baskets were getting fuller but there was still so much to be done, so the vineyard owner went back to market to look for more workers.

**[identify 1 or 2 volunteers and invite them to come to work]**

"Come and work for me until the end of the day," he said, "and I will pay you 1 shiny coin!"

The workers were very happy to get the job and started carrying baskets of grapes from the field to the press.

**[volunteers mime carrying baskets and DO NOT STOP]**

Towards the middle of the day, the vines were getting emptier, and the baskets were getting emptier, but the press was getting fuller and there was still much to be done, so the owner went back to market to look for more workers.

**[identify 1 or 2 volunteers and invite them to come to work]**

"Come and work for me until the end of the day," he said, "and I will pay you 1 shiny coin!"

The workers were very happy to get the job and started pressing the grapes, crushing them with their feet.

**[volunteers mime pressing grapes and DO NOT STOP]**

At nearly the end of the day, the vines were getting emptier, and the baskets were getting emptier, and the press was getting emptier, but the barrels for wine were getting fuller and there was still a bit more to be done.

So the owner went back to market to look for more workers to come and taste the wine - to make sure it was good.

**[identify 1 or 2 volunteers and invite them to come to work]**

"Come and work for me until the end of the day," he said, "and I will pay you 1 shiny coin!"

The workers were very happy to get the job and stood by the barrels, sniffing and drinking the wine.

**[volunteers mime drinking and DO NOT STOP]**

At the end of the day the vines were empty, the baskets were empty, the press was empty and the barrels... were full (they can't drink that much!) **[volunteers may stop miming]**

The owner thanked their workers and paid them one shiny coin each.

"Hang on," complained the vine-pickers, who had been working hard all day from the very beginning. "That's not fair - We've worked hard for hours, and all they've done is spend a few minutes drinking!"

"Did I pay what I said I would?" asked the owner. "Yes" they replied, "One shiny coin."

"Then I have kept my promise to you", said the owner, "Why be jealous that I chose to be generous to another...?"





## Introduction / Object Lesson

Show the gift box. Tell the children you were given this present for no reason - no birthday, no anniversary - just got it 'because'. Ask the children if they think you deserve it [show of hands].

Tell the children that you have a confession to make, and choose one of the following 'crimes':

|                                                                         |                                                       |                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Had a sit down on grass that said "Keep off the grass"                  | Ate the last biscuit without offering to others       | Muttered about someone behind their back                                     |
| Didn't tidy up when i said i would                                      | Found money on the street and kept it                 | Dropped a box on my foot and said a swear word                               |
| took a piece of chocolate then re-wrapped to make it look like i hadn't | Dropped litter in the gutter instead of finding a bin | Accidentally but actually deliberately wore trainers instead of smart shoes. |

Ask the children, if they still think you deserve it.

Repeat this process increasing the amount and severity of the 'crimes'. When it seems like the children are turning against your 'deservability', open the gift to reveal a card saying "I love you".

Tell the children that it is an appropriate gift - everyone deserves love.

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## Game Weights

Have 2-3 volunteers hold weights. Tell them that whoever is holding the weight when the alarm goes off, wins the game. Imply an expectation of holding the weight for the entire length of the game but do NOT actually state so.

Towards the end of the time, invite another volunteer up and give them a weight to hold so that they are holding it when the alarm sounds - they also win the game!

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## Reflection

Do you think that Jesus' parable about the vineyard is fair or unfair? Why?

If you're thinking about how hard they worked (or didn't), and about what they earned in return, then yes it's really unfair. But if you're thinking about promises, and presents, then it's not about fairness at all, it's about joy and generosity - And who gets upset about that?!

And this IS a story about promises and presents - that's what Grace is. Something that unites Christians across the world is the idea that we all receive grace because of God's promise to give us the gift of forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

Have you ever won a competition? (Did you get a prize?)

Grace is a GIFT, not a prize. It isn't given for winning, or for participating. It is a goodness given because of love.

Has anyone been paid to do a job around the house? Grace is a GIFT, not payment. It isn't given for working, it is a goodness given because of love.

Has anyone ever done anything naughty?! (did you get punished?).

Grace is a GIFT, not an escape. Forgiveness and fresh starts given in love.

Grace is one of the hardest and bestest things to understand in life - it can not be earned, it can not be demanded - it's not fair. I wonder if we are better off that life isn't fair? Imagine the trouble we would be in without forgiveness, without love, without grace. Grace is getting good things we do not deserve. It is a gift given because of God's promise, made in love for each of us.

I wonder how you can be graceful to others? What kinds of gifts of kindness, and goodness, and forgiveness can you give? Not because they deserve it, but because the gift of grace brings light and joy into our lives.



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