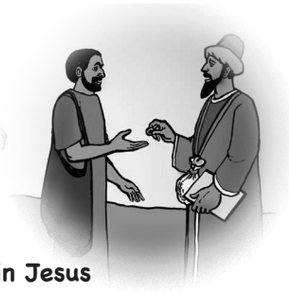
LESSON 10

The Workers in the Vineyard



Aim: **To teach the children that God gives eternal life to all who believe in Jesus Christ, not only to "good people". No-one can "earn" the gift of salvation.**

Scripture Reading: **Matthew 20:1-16**

Memory Verse: **1 John 5:11**
God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

What happens at home when it is time to eat? Often, not everyone eats at the same time. Some may be out at that moment; they will eat later. However, in the end, everyone is fed.

If this example isn't suitable, use the example of a tea party: Guests are given refreshments when they arrive.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Jesus told a story about a man who owned a vineyard. When the grapes were ready to be harvested, he needed extra workers to help him. In the morning he went to the market-place and hired some workers. They agreed on the wage beforehand: a silver coin for the day's labour. The men started working (20:1-2).
2. Still, the work was too much for the number of workers. So the owner hired some more workers. He did this three more times during the day: at 9 o'clock, at 12 o'clock (midday) and at 5 o'clock (when the workday was almost over). They were hired at a fair wage. **Describe what happened in (20:3-7).**
3. At the end of the day all the workers were called to receive their pay. They were all paid the same amount! The men who had worked since early that morning complained. They said they should receive more because they worked longer and harder (20:8-12).
   Show Picture 10.
4. The owner replied that he had paid them what they had agreed upon when he had hired them, which was a fair wage for a full day's work (20:13-15).
5. God is like the owner in this story. He gives us all eternal life because Jesus died for all of mankind. Before God all people are equal. Nobody "deserves" to be saved any more than someone else; God's mercy is a gift.

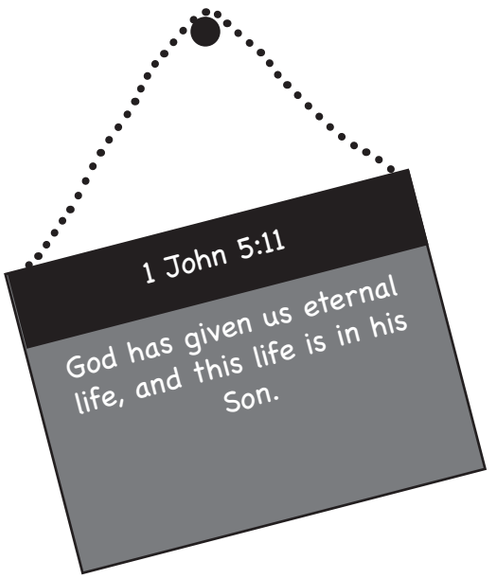
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Our Response to the Story

God says it does not matter when we come to follow him – when we have grown old or while we are still young. All who accept his invitation to come to him will receive eternal life. The only difference is: if we take this gift when we are young we have all of our lives to follow and honour Jesus Christ.

Instil the Memory Verse



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