

Sunday 20th September 2020
Workers in the vineyard



Gather Together...

Take time together as a family, find a quiet space, perhaps play some music, light a candle and sit comfortably.

Make the Sign of the Cross

Listen Together...

Listen to this week's scripture, from the Gospel according to Matthew...

Jesus said to his disciples, 'Early one morning the owner of a vineyard went to hire some men to work for him. He agreed to pay each of them one pound per day.'

Later in the afternoon he saw some other men who had not worked all day because no-one had hired them. He sent them to work in his vineyard too.

At the end of the day, he paid each of the workers one pound as he had promised. Some of them began to complain.

'Why have you paid these men the same as us when we have worked all day in the hot sun but they have only worked for an hour?' they complained.

The owner of the vineyard answered them, 'We agreed that each of you who work for me would be paid one pound per day and I have been fair. I can choose how I spend my money. Don't complain because I have been generous.'



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Respond Together...

- Do you know what a vineyard is? A vineyard is a place where grapes grow on vines. Jesus used to tell lots of stories about vineyards so that he could explain to us how he wanted us to live. The vineyard is like the world and the people working in the vineyard are like us.
- What sort of work needed to be done in the vineyard? For the grapes to grow the vines would need cutting and weeding and watering. When they were ripe, people would need to pick them and turn them into wine or leave them to dry in the sun so they could become raisins. There was always lots to do in a vineyard.
- At the end of the day, why did some of the workers grumble? They didn't feel it was fair that they got paid a pound for a full days work while the others got paid a pound for only an hours work.
- What message is Jesus trying to tell us in this story? Jesus is like the owner of the vineyard and we are the workers. Jesus goes out to look for us and gives us the chance to join him. Even if we arrived 'late' and it takes a long time for us to get to know him, we all receive the same reward of everlasting life with him in Heaven.

Pray Together... Jesus, you are always so generous and kind. Help me to be more like you each day. Amen.

