



Nosh @ Home

Proper 20, Year A
20.9.20

West Dartmoor Mission Community

Welcome to ROOTS@HOME

Dear friends,
Welcome to ***Nosh@Home*** for Sunday 20th September. Another month has gone by and it seems such a long time since we were together for [Nosh@9.30](#). So, we were wondering if anyone would be interested in a **Nosh Zoom** get together? If yes, then please send your details to corinneshutt@hotmail.com and give suggestions of dates and times that would suit you. I will get back to you when I have received some response.

Thank you to *rootsontheweb* for this material.

Introduction: A-maze-ing!

A quiet way to begin your session.

Print out some [mazes](#) for children to find the right paths through.



Today's story: Matthew 20.1-16

- Jesus tells a parable about the owner of a vineyard.
- The owner is concerned to hire as many workers as possible, all through the day.
- The owner pays all his workers the same, irrespective of when they started work.

This week's resources explore:

the unfairness of generosity; God's justice; changing your perspective.

Gathering prayer

God, you have called us to come together;
you have called us to turn from our sin;
you have called us to worship you.

In your name we gather;
to your name we offer our praise.

Amen



***For those who have a
birthday in September...***

*♪ Happy birthday to you,
♪ To Jesus be true,
♪ May God's richest blessings
♪ Pour down upon you.*



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vNCDAvLxy_Y

Time to say we are sorry:

**When all we can do is
mutter, mutter, mutter
at life's unfairness,
forgive us, Lord,
and help us to remember that
we all matter, matter, matter to you.**

Amen.



Read: Open the Bible at Matthew 20: 1-16

Peter asks whether the sacrifice the disciples have made to follow Jesus will be rewarded. Jesus tells him that the first will be last, and the last will be first. He explains this with a parable about workers all receiving the same pay.

Listen: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S1Y8Naj3RFk>

(Apologies if there are adverts)



Early in the morning, workers were waiting in the marketplace,’ Jesus said. ‘A vineyard owner came and asked some of them to work for him.

‘How much are you paying?’ the workers asked.

‘The usual wage for a day’s work,’ the vineyard owner replied.

The workers agreed and went with him.

At nine o’clock, there were still men waiting in the marketplace, hoping for work. The vineyard owner came back and said, ‘I need some more men. I’ll pay you what’s right.’ Some more of them went to the vineyard.

At midday, the vineyard owner returned and offered more men work.

And then again at three o’clock. Finally, he came back at five o’clock.

‘Why are you still here?’ he asked the men in the marketplace.

‘Nobody has offered us work,’ the remaining men replied.

‘Come to the vineyard,’ the owner said. ‘There is still work to do.’

When evening came, the vineyard owner sent for the men who had arrived last and he paid them. He paid them what was usual for a day’s work. The men who had been working all day thought they’d get more, but when it was their turn to get paid, they were given what had been agreed.

‘That’s not fair!’ said the men who’d been working all day. ‘We’ve been out in the sun, picking grapes all day, and we got paid the same as men who only did an hour’s work!’

The vineyard owner heard the complaining and he said, ‘I’ve paid you what we agreed. If I choose to be generous and give everyone the same, why should you be jealous? Can’t I do what I want with my own money?’

‘This is what the kingdom of heaven is like,’ said Jesus. ‘The last shall be first and the first shall be last.’

Glossary

vineyard a place where grapes grow on a vine.

A time for quiet reflection

Talk together

- When did you last say, 'It's not fair!'?
- Why do you think the vineyard owner treated all the workers the same?
- What is the difference between being fair and being generous?

Picture pointers: 'What is the most recent act of generosity you have witnessed?'

Reflection questions on this week's picture:



- What is the most recent act of generosity you have witnessed?
- Did it make you feel guilty or pleased?
- Does this apply to God's generosity to others too?

A few Active Worship Ideas (visit www.rootsontheweb.com for more ideas)

A global perspective Understand God's sense of justice

You will need: *slips of paper, pens, a globe/world map.*

Hand out the paper and pens and invite the children to write down or draw things that make them angry or sad. Share them with the group.

Look at the globe/map and explain that God sees the world from a different perspective. On another slip of paper, invite them to write or draw what makes God angry or sad. Share these too. Does God get angry about the same things as us?

You could pass the globe round for each child to say a prayer.

Generosity clock Appreciate that we can be generous at any time

You will need: *plain paper plates, pencils, card clock hands, split pins, small red paper hearts, 12 per child, fine marker pens, glue sticks, positive words ([template](#)).*

Show the children how to write the numbers in pencil in the correct places on the clock face. Attach the hands to the centre, using the split pins. Ask the children to put their clock hands at one o'clock. Is God generous at one o'clock? 'YES!' Give everyone a heart on which to write a number 1 in marker pen, then stick it over the pencilled '1'. Repeat for a few numbers.

Then vary the question, using different hours of the day, and ask if God wants us to be generous to other people, e.g. mother, father, brother, sister, friend, teacher, stranger. Give out hearts until the children all reach 12.

Then say, 'God is generous all the time and he wants us to be generous too', and give out the words to stick on the clocks.

God's generosity An active thanksgiving prayer

Talk together about all the good things we have in life that we want to thank God for.

Invite the children to stand in a line, one behind the other. The child at the front calls out one thing that they want to thank God for: 'Thank you, God, for...', then runs to the back of the line and the next child shouts out their thanks.

Repeat until everyone has had a turn or the ideas run out. Finish with a loud shout of: **Thank you, generous God!**

Reflection - Bible notes

Today's readings stress God's generosity towards everyone, both Jews and Gentiles. God is portrayed as:

- Equally concerned for outsiders and insiders.
- More than fair, rewarding both the long faithful and latecomers.
- Wanting to speak with non-believers.
- Understanding of, but impatient with, human desire to protect dignity even at others' expense.

In this story, the vineyard symbolises Israel, and wine symbolises prosperity. The big vineyards relied on casual labour. The labourers relied on the work to feed their families. The complaint is not about the work, but that all are paid the same.

The parable shows that the reign of God upturns everything. The last are treated fairly — no one gets less than his due. The first are treated fairly — they get the full day's wage needed to feed their families. God behaves generously, but not unfairly.

Parables distinctive to Matthew are, like sermon illustrations, often offered to interpret sayings of Jesus. Just as last week's parable of the unforgiving servants was a commentary on Jesus' sayings about forgiveness, so this week the parable of the workers in the vineyard is a commentary on Matthew 19.30. Matthew, like all the Gospels, was written to be read out in public. Such stories drive home key pieces of teaching to the listeners.

Reflection continued:

The sequence of events in the story is designed to highlight the jealousy of the workers: the ones with whom we can expect listeners to identify. Who might the listeners be? It could be that Matthew is addressing more than one group in choosing to link this story with this teaching. For some time he has been addressing the Church, where Jewish Christians must sometimes have felt jealous of Gentile Christians who have been grafted into God's people without the burden of having to become Jews. But he is probably also dealing with critics from the broader Jewish community. Jewish opposition to Christians, no longer tolerated as an internal Jewish sect, has been growing. The message about the first being last and the last being first seems directed more towards them. God can choose a new people if God wants to; Jews remain chosen people, so what grounds have they for complaint?

But there's an odd mismatch between this message and the story itself, which suggests they did not originally belong together. The story does not contain the radical reversal found elsewhere. The first are last only in the order in which they receive their reward; all are rewarded equally. The story in itself seems, then, to be more about a more-than-generous employer – and a more-than-generous God – than about reversal. God's grace, which none of us deserve, is at its heart.

*Lord, help me to stand firm in your Spirit,
to live in a manner worthy of the gospel,
and single-mindedly to strive for the faith of the gospel. Amen.*

24-30 September 2017

ROOTS
Children's Sheet

Matthew 20.1-16

Jesus tells a story about a vineyard owner, who pays all his workers the same amount of money even though some of them work for less time. It teaches that God is generous to everyone.

How do you feel when someone is generous?



PRAYER

We thank you, generous God,
that you hold us all in your heart
and bless us with what we need.
Help us to be as generous as you.
Amen.

Activity 1

Spot four differences between these workers.



Which one started work at 9am? _____
Which one started work at 5pm? _____
How much will they both get paid? _____

Activity 2

Fill in the first letter of each word below to complete the sentence.

_iving _eceiving
_verybody _verflowing
_ever stopping _nfair
_very day _ame

God is _____ to everyone.

Live in faith

Find times when you can be generous
this week, e.g. sharing your snack.

Check it out

YouTube video 'Generous Godfather'

Link to the children's sheet:

<https://www.rootsontheweb.com/lectionary/2017/91-september-october-2017-a/proper-20/childrens-sheet>

Time to pray

Loving God,
sometimes we feel that things are not fair.
Some have plenty;
others have nothing.

Some can do what they want;
others have to do as they are told.

Some people find everything easy;
others find that life is a struggle.

May we always work and pray for justice,
but also be contented,
and celebrate your generous love to us.
Amen.



***Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen***



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0JahFRDrSCs>

A sending out prayer

May the generosity of God inspire us,
the justice of God encourage us,
and may the way God does things
enable us to see the bigger picture
and not get too angry too soon.

Lord, send us to work in your vineyard.
May we be willing,
may we be contented,
and may we be productive for you.
Amen.