FAMILY WORSHIP GUIDE

The Generous Master

Matthew 20:1–16 | The Workers in the Vineyard | November 1, 2026

BIG IDEA • God is gracious, righteous, and generous. We can trust His goodness and rejoice when He is kind to others.

Gather & pray | 2 minutes

Open with a simple prayer: “Lord, help our family understand Your Word. Teach us to trust You and be thankful for Your goodness. Amen.”

Read God’s Word | 5 minutes

Read Matthew 20:1–16 aloud from the ESV. Before reading, explain that a denarius was a day’s wage in the story. Listen for how many times the master went to find workers and what each group received.

Retell the parable together | 3 minutes

- The master hired some workers early in the morning, and others later in the day.
- At the end of the day, he paid the last workers first. Everyone received a denarius.
- The first workers complained, although they received the wage the master had promised.
- The master had done what was right and chose to be generous to the others.

Three things we learn about God

GRACIOUS	The master went to find the workers. God shows undeserved kindness; no one can earn His invitation.
RIGHTEOUS	The master kept his promise. God always does what is right because He is perfectly good.
GENEROUS	The late workers received more than they could earn. God delights to give good gifts. We can rejoice for others.

Talk about it | 5–8 minutes

For younger children:

- Who went to find workers? Who decided what to pay them?
- Did the master break his promise? Why were the first workers upset?
- Can we be happy when someone else receives a good gift?

For older children and teens:

- How is receiving what was promised different from receiving more than you earned?
- Why is it dangerous to compare God’s goodness to us with His goodness to someone else?
- How does Jesus’ perfect obedience and sacrifice show us grace we could never earn?

Do it together | 5 minutes

Draw a vineyard with workers arriving early, in the middle of the day, and near the end. Draw one coin beside each worker. Talk about why the master was not unfair to the first workers and why his kindness to the last workers was so surprising.

Family challenge: Each person can name one kindness from God they are thankful for and one good thing they can celebrate in someone else's life. No comparisons needed!

Remember, pray & sing

Memory verse: Matthew 20:16 (ESV) — "So the last will be first, and the first last."

Prayer: "Lord, thank You for Your undeserved grace. Thank You that You always do what is right. When we are tempted to grumble or compare, remind us of Your generosity in Jesus. Help us celebrate Your goodness to others. Amen."

Optional song: Sing a familiar hymn about God's grace, such as "Amazing Grace."

For parents: The workers' wages illustrate the master's character; they do not teach that we can earn salvation. Keep pointing to Christ's grace, not to how much we work.

Draw & remember

Sketch the workers in the vineyard, then write one word that describes the master.