

# The Gospel at Home

## This Sunday's Gospel: Matthew 20:1-16a

Jesus' parable about the workers in the vineyard unsettles today's audience just as it unsettled the priests and elders who first heard it. It is just not fair! Some get paid a full day's wages for one hour of work while others who worked all day long receive the exact same pay. This story, after all, is not about fair wages. It is about God's love, which abounds for all. The parable is a way to talk to young people who are ever troubled by unfairness about God's generous love.

## Exploring the Gospel Message

**Seeds (Preschool):** Take time to go through *Seeds* with your child. Urge your child to tell you the story of "Grandpa's Chair" using the pictures. Let your child use page 1 of the lesson booklet to teach you about the workers in the vineyard. Have your child show you how he or she colored Jesus. Consider displaying the picture in a place where the family or child says prayers.

**Promise (Grades K-1):** Ask your child to share with your family the rebus story on the third page of the lesson. Talk about all the good things he or she will learn this year. Then ask your child to share the story of the Gospel with your family. Let your child teach you the prayer the class learned as well as the gestures that go with the prayer.

**Good News (Grades 2-3):** Your child learned how Matthew's images of the vineyard and the workers send the message of God's great love. Talk about your child's notions of fairness. Talk, too, about the ways of being generous with the

gifts that God has given. Ask your child to tell you in his or her own words the story titled, "Who Helped the Most?" Test your young one about the difference between Church with a capital C and church with a small c.

**Venture (Grades 4-6):** Your child learned about how important parables were in the teaching of Jesus. Talk about the parable in this Sunday's Gospel. Discuss ways your family can show that you are working for God's kingdom. This week also provides an opportunity for your family to talk about fairness and generosity, perhaps using the example of your own family's rules and expectations. Ask your young person to tell you something about Saint Francis Xavier's life.

**Visions (Grades 7-9):** In this week's lesson, your child explored what fairness means to God in order to understand God's great generosity. The class also learned how the Liturgy builds up the Christian community and the important role parables played in Jesus' teaching. Make up some parables of your own to show how important the Church is to you and your family. Start each of your parables with the words, "The Kingdom of God is like . . .".

## Pray Together

When you complete your conversation about the Sunday's Gospel lesson, pray together in your own words that God will help your family grow in faith throughout this year.

