

Sour Grapes

Kids Small Groups: Kindergarten-1st Grade

November 12, 2017

Bible Story: Sour Grapes (Parable of the vineyard workers) • *Matthew 20:1-15*

Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks no matter what happens. God wants you to thank him because you believe in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV*

Life App: Gratitude—letting others know you see how they’ve helped you.

Basic Truth: I need to make the wise choice.

GET READY

The following supplies will be prepared ahead of time for Elementary Kids Small Groups this week and can be picked up from the Upper Resource Room on Sunday Morning:

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Group, 15 minutes)

(Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

1. Early Arriver

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

- No supplies needed

2. Wows & Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

- No supplies needed

3. Pyramid Stack

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

- 12 plastic cups *(Note: If you have more than 12 kids, add 6 cups.)*
- Masking tape
- Small prizes; 1 for each kid

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 15 minutes)

Large Group Video: Movie @ 11:10 a.m. in the Children’s Worship Center

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Group, 35 minutes)

(Choose as many of these activities as you would like.)

** If you don't have time to do all these activities, be sure to do activity #1.*

***1. Act It Out**

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

- Paper; 3 pieces for each small group
- Scissors
- Markers
- Masking tape
- Fun-sized packs of Skittles® OR gold chocolate coins OR a small prize; 1 for each child

2. Musical Chairs with a Twist

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

- Chairs OR paper; 1 chair or piece of paper for each kid
- Masking tape
- Small prizes
- Music and music player

3. Memory Verse with an Attitude

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- Bibles

Prayer

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

- Gratitude journal from last week
- Pen
- Make copies of this week's GodTime cards; 1 per kid

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction **(Small Groups, 15 minutes)**

Welcome kids and spend time engaging in conversation and catching up. Get ready to experience today's story.

Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray especially for the kids who struggle with negative attitudes. Ask God to show them their chances to turn their attitudes around and find something to be grateful for. Pray that all kids would leave today knowing that they can always adjust their attitudes.

1. Early Arriver Idea

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build on their understanding

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Welcome the kids as they arrive.
 - Ask the following questions:
 - What made you smile this week?
 - What do you love about your family?
 - What do you like to do with your friends?
-

2. Wows and Pows

Made to Connect: an activity that invites kids to share with others and build relationships

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Do:

- Before heading to large group, ask each kid about a good thing (a Wow) that happened during the week and a bad thing (a Pow) that happened during the week. Encourage each child to share at least one *Wow*.
-

3. Pyramid Stack

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Plastic cups, masking tape, small prizes

What You Do:

- Divide the group into two teams. *(Note: If you have more than 12 kids, divide them into three teams.)*

- Mark a starting line for each team with tape.
- Place a stack of 6 cups for each team about 10 feet from the starting lines.
- Teams will race, one kid at a time, to the cups. Each kid will place one cup on the floor, eventually creating a pyramid.
- The pyramid will be three rows high. To help the kids get started, make sure that they know they need three cups on the bottom row, followed by two cups, and one on top.
- The first team to stack their cups in a pyramid wins!
- Declare a winner and make a BIG deal about it. Then show the prizes.
- Give EVERY kid the same prize—even kids on the losing team.

What You Say:

“You are great pyramid builders! One team won, but what happened? *(Pause.)* Yes! Everyone received a prize. Winning team, did that seem fair to you? ***[Transition]*** There’s a ‘that’s not fair’ moment in our Bible story today. Let’s see if we can figure out when it happens.”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

Story: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways
(Large Group, 15 minutes)

Lead your group to the ***Ms. Teresa Children’s Worship Center at 11:10 a.m.*** for the Large Group Movie Video. Please sit with your Small Group in the Worship Center and enjoy the movie.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect
(Small Groups, 35 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

*** 1. Act It Out**

[Talk about God | Bible Story Review | Application Activity]

Made to Imagine: an activity that promotes empathy and facilitates biblical application through role-play and reenactment

What You Need: Paper, scissors, markers, masking tape, candy or prizes

What You Do:

- Cut the sheets of paper in half. You’ll need five half sheets.
- Write the following times on the half sheets of paper (one time per half sheet): 6:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

- Place the half sheets (in order of times) on the floor in your small group area, about two feet apart. Secure them to the floor with tape.
- Select two kids and say, “You’ve been hired to pick grapes in my field.” Guide them to stand behind the 6:00 a.m. sign.
 - Point out the time on the sign and make a comment like “Oh, it’s 6:00 am, that’s super early. You’ll have all day to pick grapes for me!”
 - Encourage the kids to mime picking grapes.
- Purposely wait at least 30 seconds, watching the first crew “pick” grapes.
- Select two more kids and place them behind the 9:00 am sign. Repeat the steps above, commenting on the time, encouraging them to pretend to pick grapes. If the kids stop, encourage them to keep going, reminding them they’ll be rewarded for their work at the end.
- Repeat the steps above with the 12:00, 3:00, and 5:00 signs. Make sure to pause at least 30 seconds before you choose each new crew and encourage EVERYONE to keep miming the action of picking grapes.
- After you “hire” the 5:00 crew and give them about 30 seconds to pretend to pick grapes, tell the kids to stop their work. Say, “It’s starting to get dark. We’ve reached the end of the day.”
- Starting with the 5:00 crew, hand out a packet of Skittles, 1 gold chocolate coin, or a small prize. Continue down the line, working backwards through the times on the papers.
- Gather the kids to sit on the floor with their prizes/candy.

What You Say:

“Raise your hand if you were part of the 6:00 a.m. crew. Are you tired after all of that grape picking? How did it feel to receive just one piece of candy? (*Pause.*) Do you think you should have received more than the kids who were hired last, since you worked so much longer? (*Pause.*) Maybe you were thinking, ‘That’s not fair!’ when I passed out the candy/prizes. Sometimes we need to adjust our attitude instead of focusing on what we think isn’t fair!

“Jesus told this story to teach an important lesson. In the story, the man who paid everyone the same was like God. God gives freely to EVERYONE! He doesn’t give less love to you because you worked less (*point to a kid from the 5:00 crew*) than this friend (*point to a kid from an earlier crew*). The workers in our story were frustrated and upset that they were paid the same amount as the other workers. They had a BAD attitude! We might not be able to control what happens, but we can always control how we respond. We can always choose to focus on what we DO have instead of what we don’t. Sometimes we just need to remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust our attitude.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you didn’t get something you wanted and you had an attitude—good or bad—about it. What happened? How did your attitude make things better or worse?)

2. Musical Chairs with a Twist

[Live for God | Application Activity]

Made to Move: an activity that increases the oxygen in the brain and taps into the energy in the body

What You Need: Chairs or paper, masking tape, small prizes, music

What You Do:

- Place the chairs or paper (secured with tape) on the floor in a large circle. You'll need one less chair or piece of paper than the number of kids you have.
- Play music as the kids move around the circle.
- When you stop the music, kids must scramble to find a chair or paper.
- Explain that when a kid gets out, the rest of the group should say, "That's not fair!"
- Give the kid who's out a small prize and let him return to the game.
- Repeat, allowing other kids to get out, receive a prize, and rejoin the game.

What You Say:

"I think you learned pretty quickly that getting out in this game wasn't so bad! But life doesn't work that way, does it? There will be times when we don't get what we think we deserve or when we feel left out. BUT even when that happens, we can still focus on what we do have and choose gratitude. It's all about learning to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude**. Instead of thinking, 'Hey, that's not fair,' we can **[Bottom Line] adjust our attitude** and choose gratitude. We can be thankful that we get to play a fun game with our friends and that we get to come to church and learn about God. There is always something to be grateful for!"

3. Verses with an Attitude

[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Bibles

What You Do:

- Look up 1 Thessalonians 5:18 and read it aloud for review.
- Kids will repeat the verse, saying it with one of the attitudes below.
- Below are some suggestions for body language and tone that you could suggest to the kids for each iteration of the verse:
 - Angry: balled up fists, crossed arms
 - Happy: smiling, raised eyebrows, giving high fives to friends
 - Frustrated: furrowed brow, growly voice
 - Sad: droopy shoulders, pouty lips
 - Scared: cowering, covered face, quiet voice
- After the group has repeated the verse a few times with different "attitudes," ask kids:
 - If I say thank you with a voice that doesn't sound very happy, does that make you think I'm thankful or not thankful?

- What about if I say thank you and then I kind of (*demonstrate*) stomp my feet and then walk quickly out of the room?
- Let kids answer your questions and then talk for a moment about how your body and voice can either help or hurt what you're saying when you say it. Encourage kids to think about what their body is saying when their mouth is saying thank you.

What You Say:

“Great job learning our verse this month. And those were some great voices and attitudes you showed. When you remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude**, you can ‘give thanks no matter what happens.’ God has given us Jesus, and that’s HUGE! We can be grateful for all He’s done for us no matter what happens.”

Pray and Dismiss

[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]

Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application

What You Need: Gratitude journal, pen, GodTime cards

What You Do:

- Open the notebook and show the kids the index cards from last week.
- Remind them that last week, we chose to celebrate what God has done.
- Open to the next clean page in your notebook.
- Encourage the kids to call out some things they’re thankful for while you quickly list them on the page.

What You Say:

“We really do have SO many things to be thankful for. This week, I want you to remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude** when you feel the ‘it’s not fair!’ message coming on. Think about some of these things we’ve listed—even things like ice cream or your pet hamster (*or something else they’ve listed*). Focusing on those things can help us show gratitude even when it’s hard! Let’s pray and ask God to help us do that this week.

“Dear God, thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus. Thank You for this story about the workers that reminds us that You treat all of us the same. When we catch ourselves thinking, ‘That’s not fair,’ this week, help us to adjust our attitude to gratitude! In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Encourage kids to explain to their parents/families that instead of thinking, “That’s not fair,” they’re going to think about how they can adjust their attitudes. Give each child a GodTime card. Pass out Parent Cue cards as adults arrive to pick up.

Give kids this week’s GodTime card to take home.