

# Sour Grapes

**Bible :** Sour Grapes (Parable of the Vineyard Workers) • *Matthew 20:1-15*

**Key Question:** What do you do when you don't feel grateful?

**Bottom Line:** Adjust your attitude.

**Memory Verse:** "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you 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.

**Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)**

**Get Your Head in the Game**

- No supplies needed

**Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (9:10, 10:25, 11:40)**

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (9:40, 10:55, 12:10)**

**9:00 & 11:30**

**Discussion Questions**

- No supplies needed

**10:15**

**Verses to Take with You**

- "Ephesians 5:20 Activity Page" for every two kids
- Pens

**Prayer: Making it Personal (9:55, 11:10, 12:25)**

- Timer

**Dismiss (10:00, 11:15, 12:30)**

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## **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (Small Groups, 10 minutes)**

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

*Before kids arrive, take a few moments to pray for them. Pray that no matter what situations they found themselves in this week, whether positive or negative, that they will be able to understand how much God loves them and cares for them and that because of God's love they can still give Him thanks.*

### **Get Your Head in the Game**

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

**What You Need:** No supplies needed

### **What You Do:**

- **Start** with everyone sitting in a circle.
- **Explain** that you'll choose someone to start an hour-by-hour countdown beginning with 6:00.
  - As soon as that person speaks, someone else (not the kid sitting next to the first person) must say "5-o'clock."
  - Continue the countdown until the group is back to 6:00.
  - If two kids speak at the same time or if there is more than a 2-second pause in the countdown, call out, "Stop the Clock!"
  - Then start over at 6:00.
- **Challenge** everyone to count down as quickly as possible without pauses or repeats.

### **Wrap Up and Say:**

"It was super frustrating to lose all that time when 2 people talked at once or when there was too much of a pause! As we head to Large Group, think about other times when you've lost the time you've invested into something or when you put time into something and didn't get the result you wanted."

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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## Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)

### GETTING READY

#### 1. Opener/Closer

##### What You Need:

- Host
- Dry Erase Board for each small group
- Dry Erase Marker for each small group
- Index Card
- Pen

#### 2. Bible Truth

##### What You Need:

- Communicator
- 252 Movie

#### 3. Worship

##### What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

##### *Music and Sound Effects (SFX):*

- "At the Top of My Lungs"
- "Movin' Me"
- "Forever Reign"

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## **Bible: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 30 minutes)**

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible Truth, worship, and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**SFX:** Play high-energy music as kids enter.

**CG:** reFocus Theme Slide

*Host enters.*

### **Welcome**

*Host has lots of energy as he or she welcomes everyone to [Name of Environment]. Host is relatable and inviting. Host can talk about something that happened culturally throughout the week like a big sports game, movie opening (Justice League, Thor, Wonder, Coco, etc.), a viral video on YouTube, etc. (NOTE: As this is November, Thanksgiving break is November 23. Talk about anticipating the holiday break, what you can't wait to eat, what you're thankful for, etc.) Host tells them how excited he or she is that they're there and briefly runs through what they can expect. This is especially helpful for first-time guests to make them feel like they know what's happening.*

*Host transitions to Worship.*

### **WORSHIP**

#### **Worship**

**SFX:** "Happy Days"

**CG:** "Unshakable"

**SFX:** "Your Love Never Fails"

*Power Praise team exits as Host retakes the stage. Host transitions to the opening game.*

**Opener**

**HOST:** “Now, I have a feeling that some of you were not so eager to drag yourselves out of bed this morning. In the spirit of getting all those neurons firing, let’s play a brain game!”

*Volunteer hands out one dry erase board to each Small Group Leader.*

“Here’s how it’ll go down: I have one dry erase board for each of you. When we start the game, I’ll flash an unfocused, blurry picture up on the screen. Your job is to guess what the picture is supposed to be, but you’d better think fast, ‘cause you’ll have only fifteen seconds to write an answer on the board! After fifteen seconds, each small group will hold up their board. I’ll keep track of how many correct answers you receive. The team with the most correct answers at the end of five rounds is the winner! Any questions? *(Allow response)* Great! I’ll give you one hint before we get the ball rolling: all images are somehow related to Thanksgiving. All right, let’s get this show on the road.”

*As the images come up on screen and small groups guess each image, the Host can improv humorous dialogue with off-the-wall guesses. Host builds suspense if the groups have similar scores. If necessary, make the last image worth more points to get a winner.*

**SFX:** *Upbeat Game Music*

**HOST:** “Let’s see the first image.”

**CG:** *Blurry Turkey Image*

**HOST:** “What do you think? It’s a little out of focus, but take your best guess. You’ve got 15 seconds! GO!”

*Host allows 15 seconds to pass. Groups take turns holding up their signs.*

**HOST:** “Great job guessing, everybody. We had guesses all over the place! The blurry image is a turkey not a *[Name of most outlandish guess]*. Although it’s a little more rare than I’d prefer.”

**CG:** *Turkey Image*

*Host continues game in similar fashion with the following images.*

**CG:** *Blurry Cranberry Sauce*

**CG:** *Cranberry Sauce*

**CG:** *Blurry Cornucopia*

**CG:** *Cornucopia*

**CG:** *Blurry Giblet Gravy*

**CG: Giblet Gravy**

**CG: Blurry Great Aunt Ethel**  
**CG: Great Aunt Ethel**

**HOST:** “Threw you for a loop with that last one, huh? Great Aunt Ethel is as much a part of Thanksgiving as touch football or giblet gravy!”

*Host gives credit on the last photo to any guess that implies older lady.*

**HOST:** “Great job to all our small groups! However, there can only be one winner and one prize. Let’s have our winning small group stand up.”

“How’s about a big round of applause for our winning team and a consolation round of applause for the rest of the teams!? We’ve got a fun video for you today. Check it out.”

**CG: 252 Movie**

*Communicator Enters.*

### **APPLICATION**

“Now, when you first hear this parable, it can be hard to wrap your head around it! The mistake the vineyard workers made and the mistake all of us are guilty of is this problem: we try to be the judge of what we deserve and what we don’t deserve, like I thought I deserved to start those basketball games. But this goes beyond ourselves, doesn’t it? We tend to become the judge of what other people deserve and don’t deserve. *We think we know what’s fair.* And instead of refocusing and looking at the all the amazing good things that God has done for us, we tend to look at what other people have.

“Part of what Jesus is saying is we need to be grateful for what we’ve been given, whether it’s a gift, a position on a team, or money for a job. And no matter what we receive, we can always trust in God to provide us with exactly what we need when we need it.”

### **LANDING**

**COMMUNICATOR:** “We’ll talk a little more about this today in your small groups. As you head to your groups, ask yourself this question . . .”

**CG: What do you do when you don’t feel grateful?**

“What do you do when you don’t feel grateful? How can you respond when you face a situation like the ones we talked about today? I bet you’ll come up with some great ideas! Let’s pray.”

*Communicator leads group in a prayer related to what they just heard than dismisses them to small group.*

**SFX: Play high-energy music as the kids exit.**

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## Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 15 minutes)

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

**9:00 & 11:30**

### Discussion Questions

[Talk about God | Bible Review]

*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:

#### Ask:

- Name three things you can be grateful for every day no matter what.
- Explain what it means to "adjust your attitude" when you feel like complaining.
- Finish these sentences:
  - "It's easy for me to complain when \_\_\_\_\_."
  - "I can adjust a wrong attitude by \_\_\_\_\_."
- We usually base our feelings of gratitude on how great things are going or how much we have. Why is that not the best reason for being grateful?
- What's your best definition of gratitude?

In the parable Jesus told, when the owner of the vineyard paid a full day's wage to those who worked only an hour, he was being extremely generous. In what ways is God generous to you?

**10:15****Verses to Take with You****[Hear from God | Memory Verse Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** “Ephesians 5:20” Activity Page, pens**What You Do:**

- **Hand out** pens and the “Ephesians 5:20” Activity Page.
- **Sit in a circle** then have the group **read** the verse together from the Activity Page, each student reading one word then letting the person to the left read the next and so forth.
  - If they think their word is an important one, instruct them to emphasize it by saying it in a loud voice.
- **Invite** students to **underline** the one word they think is the single, most important word in the entire verse.
  - **Pro Tip:** *Let them know that there is no right or wrong answer. It’s okay if everyone has a different word or if everyone has the same word.*
- Tell everyone you’ll **count to three** and then you’d like them to say the word they circled all at the same time. You’ll most likely hear several different words.
  - **Discuss:**
    - Why do you think the word you underlined is the most important?
    - What’s another word that could be used instead of the one you chose but still preserve the meaning of the verse?
- **Invite** students to **circle** the words “always” and “everything.”
  - **Discuss:**
    - Name some situations when it’d be really hard to give thanks.
    - Does *always* mean ALWAYS and *everything* mean EVERYTHING, even sad and difficult stuff? Explain.
- **Invite** students to draw an **arrow** from the two circled words (*always / everything*) to the word “God.”
  - **Discuss:**
    - Why should our gratitude be directed to God?
    - How do we show God we’re grateful?



**All Service Times****Pray and Dismiss (5 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]**

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

**What You Need:** Timer

**What You Do:**

- **Challenge** the group to take turns seeing how many times they can say “thank you” in 10 seconds. Keep a tally to see who wins.
- **Ask** them why saying thank you or having a grateful attitude matters.
  - How would things be different if we never said *thank you* to God or to others?
- **Remind** them that a lack of gratitude is a signal that we’re focused on the wrong thing.
  - Like the vineyard guys who felt they deserved more than they got, it’s easy to complain that others have it better.
  - Maybe they do, but that’s not the point.
  - God wants to help us be grateful—all the time, for everything.
- **Challenge** them to see how many times they can thank God each day this week.
- **Tell** them that if they feel like griping or complaining, the best fix is to start thanking God for all that He is and all that He’s done.
- **Close by inviting** everyone to get their gratitude on by praying sentence prayers that thank God for one or two things.
- **Send** kids off with the following prayer:

*Dear God, we know that You want us to give thanks no matter what. That’s not easy. Sometimes we even forget to be thankful when things are going great. Please forgive us for complaining and comparing and forgetting to give You thanks. Help us to trust and even thank You when life is crazy or frustrating or we just don’t understand why stuff happens the way it does. Thank You for loving us and always being with us, and thank You for the undeserved gifts You give us—not because WE are good but because YOU are. This week, when something seems unfair, help us adjust our attitudes and be grateful that You are always in control. In your name we pray, Amen.*

Pass out Parent CUE cards as adults arrive for pick-up.