

Sour Grapes

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

Bottom Line: Adjust your attitude.

Memory Verse: “Give thanks in all circumstance; 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: Setting the Tone for the Experience (9:00, 10:15, 11:30)

9:00 & 11:30

Not Always Fair

- Large bag of candy for winning team
- Whiteboard
- Dry erase marker
- Bell

10:15

Early Arriver

- No supplies needed

Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (9:15, 10:30, 11:45)

- Bible Presentation in Large Group

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

9:00 & 11:30

Diary of a Grateful Kid

- “Diary of a Grateful Kid” Activity Pages; 1 diary for each kid
- Stapler
- Markers

10:15

Give Thanks Even When

- Paper
- Pen

Prayer (9:50, 11:05, 12:20)

- No supplies needed

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

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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 Bible Truth.

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.

9:00 & 11:30

Not Always Fair

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

What You Need: Candy, whiteboard (or paper), dry erase marker or pen, bell

What You Do:

- Create two teams.
- Mark a starting line and instruct teams to stand behind it.
- Stand 10-15 feet away, as your space allows.
- Explain that you will be asking a series of questions that they will have the opportunity to answer for a prize: a big bag of candy to share.
- Before each question, teams will choose one representative who will race to you and ring the bell and then answer the question. (If a team’s representative doesn’t know the answer to the question immediately, he/she can confer with his/her team.)
- Once the questions are completed, instead of giving the entire bag of candy to the winning team, hand out a piece of candy to everyone in the group.
- Questions:
 1. What is the top/first color in a rainbow? (red)
 2. Who fought alongside Batman? (Robin)
 3. What sweet substance do bees make from flowers and other plants? (honey)
 4. What kind of dog is normally white with black spots? (Dalmatian)
 5. If you mix red and yellow together, what color do you get? (orange)
 6. What is 5+5? (10)
 7. What is the name of the cowboy in *Toy Story*? (Woody)
 8. What color are the Smurfs? (blue)
 9. What color can grapes be? (green, black, or red)
 10. What is paper made out of? (trees)

What You Say:

“Well! It is very clear who the winner is today! Awesome job, teams. But I’m going to throw you a little curveball. What if I told you that even though I know who won, I’ve decided that I want to split up the candy evenly between everyone? Winners, do you think that’s fair? **[Transition]** **Today in Large Group, we’re going to learn about another group of people who also didn’t think they were treated very fairly!**”

10:15**Early Arriver Idea**

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

What You Need: Offering container

What You Do:

- Collect offerings as kids arrive.
- Ask kids if they have ever seen something happen that wasn’t fair. What did they do about it?
- Ask the group if they feel like fairness is important to them. What kinds of things do they say, “That’s not fair,” about?

What You Say:

“Today in Large Group, we’re going to learn about another group of people who also didn’t think they were treated very fairly!”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 minutes)

GETTING READY

1. Opener/Closer

What You Need:

- Host
- Volunteers
- Zip-top baggies; 1 for each small group
- Basket or other container for baggies

2. Bible Truth

What You Need:

- Historyteller
- 252 Story

3. Worship

What You Need:

- Power Praise Team

Music and Sound Effects (SFX):

- “Happy Day”
- “Unshakable”
- “Your Love Never Fails”

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Bible: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways (Large Group, 35 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.*

Host is on stage welcoming kids as they enter. Worship Leaders are at the door handing out baggies full of puzzle pieces to Small Group Leaders.

HOST: “Hellllloooo! How is everybody doing out there? My name is [Host’s name] and I want to say welcome to [your environment’s name]! We’re so excited that you’re here.

“If YOU’RE excited to be here, give me two thumbs up! (*Give two thumbs up.*) And if you’re not excited to be here, well, you should be! Because you guys are the coolest. And we have some cool stuff planned today, so let’s get started by reminding ourselves what we’re talking about this month. It’s gratitude. Who remembers what that big word means? (*Pause for response.*) Yeah, it means being thankful! And this month, this is how we’re talking about gratitude. Take a look.

CG: *Gratitude Slide*

“Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you. What is gratitude?”

HOST and KIDS: “Gratitude is letting others know you see how they’ve helped you!”

HOST: “That’s right! Gratitude is simple. It’s simply saying or showing thanks for all the things that people do, like baking cookies to take to the fire station to show gratitude to all the firefighters who help others. Or maybe it’s writing your teacher a thank you note to show gratitude for all the things he or she has taught you.

SFX: *Upbeat game music*

“Ohhhh, and THAT is our game music! You know what time it is! It’s time for another round of (*snap fingers*) ‘OH, SNAP!’ And in today’s version of (*snap*) ‘OH, SNAP!’ we’re all getting a chance to play!

“When you walked in, we gave your Small Group Leader a bag with a picture in it. Only the picture is in pieces—like a puzzle! Now, I know you’ve put together puzzles before, but there’s a little bit of an ‘OH, SNAP!’ catch to this one. Your puzzle is a zoomed-in photo of something we’ll hear more about later during the Bible Truth. So once you put the puzzle together, you’re only halfway there. The next step of this game is to identify what’s in the photo. Be the first small group to put together their puzzle AND raise your hand to tell me what it is, and you’ll be today’s winner of (*snap*) ‘OH, SNAP!’

“Everyone understand? Are you ready? On your marks, get set, go!

SFX: Upbeat game music

Cheer on and encourage the small groups as they work to put the pieces together. When the first small group completes the puzzle and raises their hand . . .

“All right! [SGL’s name]’s group, you think you know what it is?

Small group guesses. If they’re right, continue with the remainder of the Opener. If they are incorrect, call on another small group until they get the correct answer.

(*Snap.*) “OH, SNAP! You’re right. It’s a . . .

CG: Puzzle Reveal Slide

“. . . bunch of grapes! Huh! I wonder what that has to do with today’s Bible Truth. Well, I guess we’ll just have to wait and find out. Congrats, [SGL’s name]’s small group, you’re today’s ‘OH, SNAP!’ winner! You get to dismiss first today! Everyone give them a hand.

“Listen, I’ve had a blast hanging out with you guys, and I’ll be back later. But we’ve got more fun in store for you. Please put your hands together for [Historyteller’s Name].”

Historyteller enters as Host exits.

SETTING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Hey, everybody! My name is [Historyteller’s name]. On three, I want you to yell out YOUR name to me. Ready? One, two, three! (*Hold hand to ear while kids yell names.*) Uh-huh. Yup. Now we’re all friends! I’m so glad you’re here!

“This month we’ve been talking about gratitude. Most of the time, we can find all sorts of ways to put gratitude into practice. It can be as simple as a high-five or as NOT simple as big huge party with balloons and a rocking playlist.

Take the bowl and the grapes out of the prop box. Put the grapes on the table next to the bowl.

“But what happens during those times when it’s not so easy to be grateful? Maybe you didn’t get the toy you wanted for your birthday, your mom cooked your least favorite meal, or something happened that feels totally unfair. What then? How can we find a way to have gratitude? That’s a tough question, huh? But it’s also a good question! And when you have questions like this, the first place we should look is the Bible.

“The Bible is full of wisdom that God wanted us to know in order to make wise choices about how we should follow Him. And when we dig into what the Bible says about gratitude, we come across a, or parable, that Jesus told that’s recorded for us in the book of Matthew, chapter 20. And this parable Jesus told has to do with grapes! Let’s have a look. On three, we’re going to ask [Tech Volunteer] to “Roll Film please!”

“Ready? One. Two. Three.”

CHILDREN AND HISTORYTELLER: “Roll Film Please.”

CG: 252 Story

WRAPPING UP THE BIBLE TRUTH

HISTORYTELLER: “Let’s be honest for a second. If you think that what happened to the workers that did more doesn’t sound fair, you’re right. It’s not fair. But that’s what the vineyard owner chose to do. He paid the people who only worked one hour the same amount as he paid the people who worked all day long.

“What the workers could have done instead is adjust their attitude. They could have been thankful they were chosen first, had a job, and got paid for their work. They could have been thankful that the owner of the vineyard kept his promise and paid them. They could have refocused their attention on what they thought wasn’t fair to what was good about the situation. And sometimes all of us need to do just that—adjust our attitudes. In fact, that’s our Bottom Line for today.

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Adjust your attitude. Say it with me.”

KIDS and HISTORYTELLER: **[Bottom Line]** “Adjust your attitude.”

HISTORYTELLER: “Instead of worrying about what other people have, Jesus wants us to show gratitude for what we’ve been given. But that isn’t easy is it? I think we need God’s help. How about we pray right now and talk to Him about it? Let’s pray.”

Pray

HISTORYTELLER: “God, help us to adjust our attitudes. When things don’t feel fair, when someone gets something that we don’t, when we don’t get what we think we deserve, help us remember all the things You’ve already given us and done for us. Help us to show gratitude even when it’s super hard. We love You. We pray this in Jesus’ name, amen.”

“Now, if you have an offering, bring that on up to the offering bucket.”

“Now, up on your feet and give some mad respect to our Power Praise team!”

Power Praise team enters as Historyteller exits.

Worship

SFX: “Happy Day”

SFX: “Unshakable”

SFX: “Your Love Never Fails”

Power Praise team exits as Host enters.

Closer

Closer

HOST: [Bottom Line] “Adjust your attitude. Let’s think about this for a minute. If Jesus’ parable had been something that happened to us, and we were all the FIRST set of workers, we might be really angry, huh? But if we were in the last group of workers—the ones who had only been working one hour—and we got paid as much as everyone else, we’d be super grateful, wouldn’t we?

“And that’s part of why Jesus told this parable in the first place. God wants us to change how we see what’s happening in our life. Let’s look at our Memory Verse.

CG: Memory Verse Slide

“Give thanks in all circumstance; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.” *1 Thessalonians 5:18, NIV*

That can be easier said than done. Sometimes it takes us adjusting our attitude. I want to look at our Bottom line again real quick.”

CG: Bottom Line Slide

[Bottom Line] “Adjust your attitude. We may wonder why other people get to do things that we feel like we should be able to do, like when our older brother or sister gets to stay up later. We get jealous of people who get things we feel like we should be able to have too. But instead of getting angry, we should adjust our attitude. When we refocus and flip how we’re looking at what’s happening, we may discover that God is up to something even better for our lives. We might just have to wait a bit longer to find out.

“In the meantime, we can be thankful for what God has given us. And I have a feeling that if you started listing all of those things, that list would be a mile long! You might just need to adjust your attitude to see them. It’s time for Small Group, where you’ll talk more about how you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.** Have a great time together, and we’ll see you next time!”

Dismiss children to their Small Groups.

CG: Small Group Slide

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Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (10 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

Diary of a Grateful Kid

[Live for God | Application Activity]

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

What You Need: “Diary of a Grateful Kid” Activity Pages, markers

What You Do:

- Ask kids what kinds of things typically make them mad or upset. For example: when they don’t get what they want for lunch, when a friend doesn’t want to play what they want to play at recess, when they miss a goal in soccer, or when they mess up what they’re playing on an instrument.
- Tell kids that when those kinds of things happen, they have an opportunity to adjust their attitudes and find something to be grateful for. These journals can help them do just that.
- Give each kid a journal and set out the markers in the middle of the group.
- Ask kids to pick one of the situations that was mentioned earlier and fill out the first page of the journal accordingly.
- Help give ideas to those who might be stuck thinking of something to be grateful for in a given situation.

What You Say:

“You know, there are times when life isn’t fair and we end up having a bad attitude. This happens to everyone! The difference we can make is what we do once we realize we have a bad attitude. What I’ve learned is that gratitude and attitude totally work together! When I keep track of all of the things I have to be grateful for, it really adjusts my attitude. This week, when you feel a bad attitude coming on, use your journal to focus on what you are grateful for so you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**”

10:15**Give Thanks Even When****What You Need:** Paper, pen**What You Do:**

- Ask your few to think of bad things that could happen—big or small. For example: You are stuck in traffic and are late to your baseball game. Your dog gets out and runs down the street.
- Write down as many of the things they share as possible.
- After you have written down five to eight things, read the first sentence of the memory verse, but replace “no matter what” with each scenario. For example: Give thanks even when the dog gets out and runs down the street. Give thanks even when you’re stuck in traffic and late to your game.

What You Say:

“It doesn’t matter what happens or what situation we find ourselves in, God’s Word tells us that we can give thanks no matter what. Next time you are wanting to get frustrated or bummed out, remember that you can **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude** because there is nothing that can happen that should stop your gratitude!”

All Service Times**Pray and Dismiss (10 minutes)****[Pray to God | Prayer Activity]***Made to Reflect: an activity that creates space for personal understanding and application***What You Need:** No supplies needed**What You Do:**

- Ask your small group to give a few examples of things they don’t think are fair.
- Explain that God is our helper and we can ask Him to help us with our attitudes when we don’t think things are fair.

What You Say:

“God, thanks for loving us even when we don’t have great attitudes! Your love is not determined by what we do or how we act. You love us anyway! We do know that You desire for us to have a grateful heart. This week, would You help us adjust our attitudes? We want to show everyone how awesome of a God You are and how grateful we are to belong to You! We love You! In Jesus name, amen. Friends, you can always ask God to help you **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**”

Remind each kid that gratitude and attitude go together, so this week they can remember to **[Bottom Line] adjust your attitude.**