

# 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**

### **Pyramid Stack**

- 12 plastic cups for every 12 kids
- Masking tape
- Small prizes; 1 for each kid

**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**

### **Musical Chairs with a Twist**

- Paper; 1 for each kid
- Masking tape
- Small prizes
- Music and music player

**10:15**

### **Memory Verse with an Attitude**

- Bibles

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

- Gratitude journal from last week
- Pen

## **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**

### **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 Truth today. Let’s see if we can figure out when it happens.**”

Lead your group to the Large Group area.

**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:** 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?
  - Have you ever felt like you deserved something more than someone else did?

**What You Say:**

“There’s a ‘that’s not fair’ moment in our Bible Truth today. Let’s see if we can figure out when it happens”

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, like praise and worship. Help me get the Power Praise team in here!!!”

*Power Praise team enters as Host joins the audience.*

### **Worship**

**SFX:** *“Happy Day”*

**SFX:** *“Unshakable”*

**SFX:** *“Your Love Never Fails”*

*Host retakes the stage as Power Praise exits.*

**HOST:** “Can anyone remind me 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.

“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.”

*Host enters as Historyteller exits.*

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

**Basic Truth:** I need to make the wise choice.

## **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**

### **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:** Paper, masking tape, music

### **What You Do:**

- Place the paper (secured with tape) on the floor in a large circle. You’ll need one less 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 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, 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!”

**10:15****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.”

**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:** Gratitude journal, pen**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 parable 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.