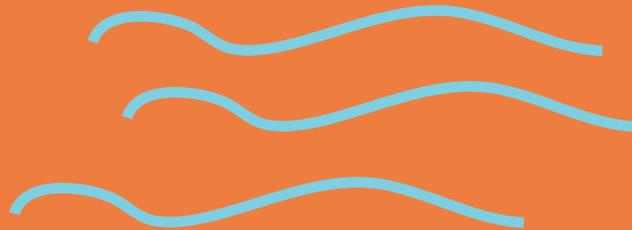


COTTONWOOD KIDS

ELEMENTARY LESSON & ACTIVITIES



NOVEMBER WEEK 4

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BIBLE STORY OVERVIEW

BIBLE STORY

New Attitude

The Story of the Workers in the Vineyard

Matthew 20:1-15

BOTTOM LINE:

Adjust your attitude.

MEMORY VERSE

Give thanks to the Lord, because he is good.

His faithful love continues forever.

Psalm 136:1, NIV

MONTHLY LIFE APP

Gratitude—

Letting others know you see how they've helped you

BASIC TRUTH

I need to make the wise choice.

This Month's Theme:

gratitude.

BIBLE STORY

Today's story is found Matthew's Gospel in the New Testament. Matthew was a follower of Jesus, and this is his account of the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus. This particular story is actually one of Jesus' parables. If you're not familiar with parables, a parable is a story that Jesus used to illustrate deeper truths, like who God is or what it means to be a follower of God.

Now a lot of times in these parables, Jesus would relate BIG ideas to real world things, like farming or fishing. And that is true in this parable today, where Jesus tells a parable about a vineyard, a place where grapes grow. Let's check it out:

(Read directly from Matthew 20:1-2, NlrV) 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man who owned land. He went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to give them the usual pay for a day's work. Then he sent them into his vineyard.'

So this vineyard owner needed some workers, so he went out early to find some. And when he found some, he agreed to pay them to work for the day. Seems pretty straight forward, right? Yeah, I think so. Let's keep reading

Read directly from Matthew 20:3-5a, NlrV) 'About nine o'clock in the morning he went out again. He saw others standing in the market doing nothing. He told them, "You also go and work in my vineyard. I'll pay you what is right." So they went.'

So the work was harder than expected I'm guessing, so the owner went out and gathered a few extra workers

Read directly from Matthew 20:5b, NlrV) 'He went out again about noon and at three o'clock and did the same thing.'

(Read directly from Matthew 20:6, NIV) 'About five o'clock. 'he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, "Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?" "Because no one has hired us," they answered. He said to them, "You also go and work in my vineyard."'

(Read directly from Matthew 20:8-9, NIV) 'When evening came, the owner of the vineyard spoke to the person who was in charge of the workers. He said, "Call the workers and give them their pay. Begin with the last ones I hired. Then go on to the first ones." The workers who were hired about five o'clock came. Each received the usual day's pay.

So the worker who came at the END of the day got paid a whole day's pay! Pretty good deal for that guy! And you know what? All the other workers saw it, and now they were pretty excited. Why?

Right! They thought they were about to get even MORE than they planned on! (Read directly from Matthew 20:10, NIV) 'So when those who were hired first came, they expected to receive more. But each of them also received the usual day's pay.

(Read directly from Matthew 20:11-12, NIV) 'When they received it, they began to complain about the owner. "These people who were hired last worked only one hour," they said. "You have paid them the same as us. We have done most of the work and have been in the hot sun all day.

You all were exactly right. Those first workers were upset. But why? Didn't they get paid what they were told? What was the problem?

Exactly. It was not what they got paid. It was what they got paid, compared to what others got paid. It completely changed their attitude when they saw someone else get something they believed they didn't deserve. And the owner had some words for them.

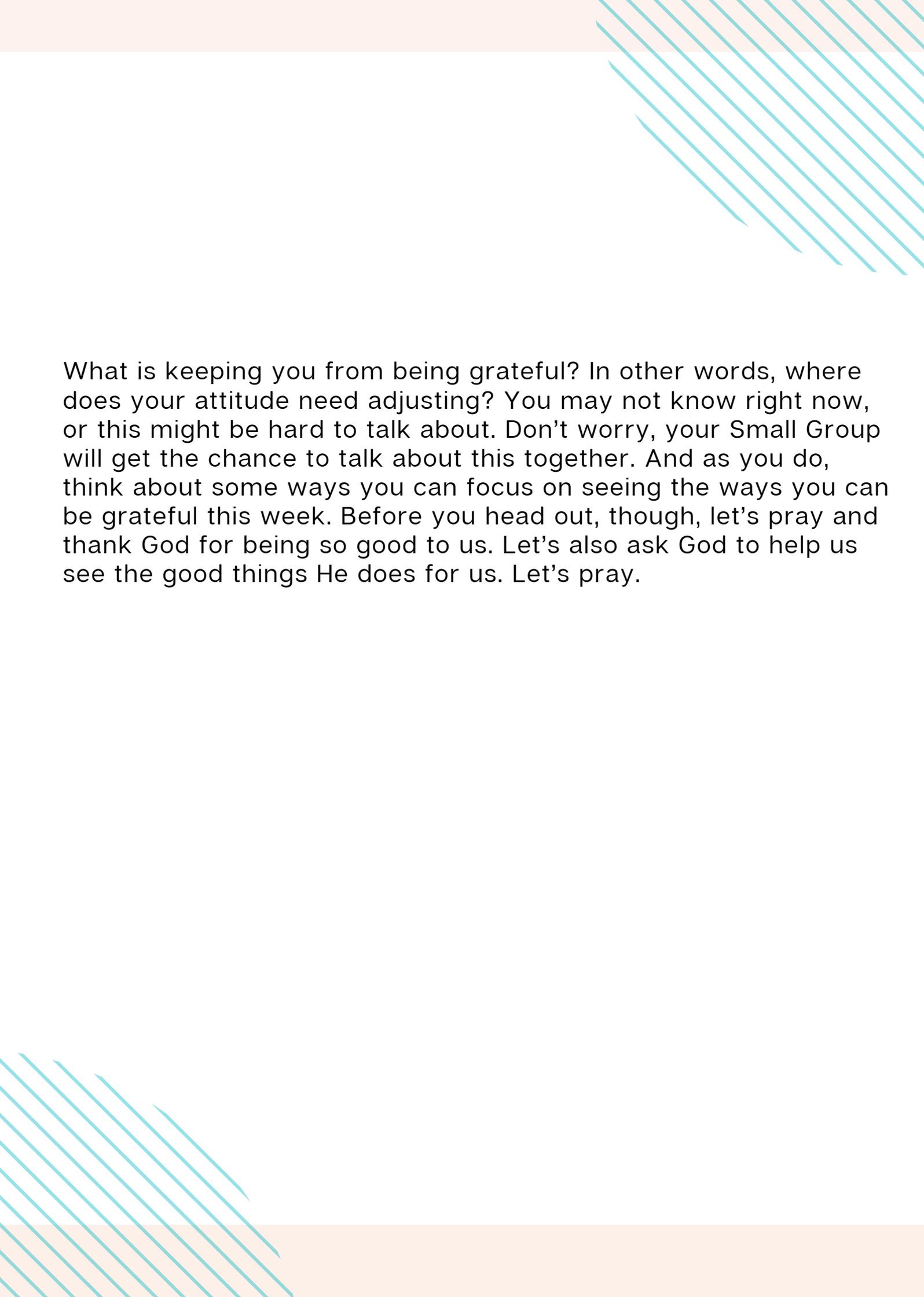
(Read directly from Matthew 20:13-15, NIV) 'The owner answered one of them. "Friend," he said, "I'm being fair to you. Didn't you agree to work for the usual day's pay? Take your money and go. I want to give the one I hired last the same pay I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Do you feel cheated because I gave so freely to the others?'

In this parable that Jesus told, it was clear that the workers who were hired first could not get over the fact that other people who worked less got paid the same as they did. These workers looked down at their hands and expected that when it was their turn to be paid, they would have received more. But what they missed was the fact that their hands were not empty! They were given much. It was just hard to be grateful because they believed they should have been given more

Have you ever felt this way? Maybe you faced a time when you missed the fact that you have already been given so much because you think you should have been given more. Or maybe you get so focused on what you don't have that you forget about what you do have.

Yeah, when we choose to see life from this point of view, it's really hard to be grateful. Maybe you got a really nice new device or gadget, only to find that your friend got an even better or more expensive device or gadget. Suddenly yours doesn't look all that nice anymore.

Or maybe you worked on a group project for school and you clearly did way more work than the other people in your group. You earned an A, but the other members of your group also got an A. You have trouble being excited for them because you know that they didn't really earn it." "These are hard moments, but it is times like this that we can learn to be more like God, who gives graciously to all without asking us to earn anything. In fact, if anything, Jesus is the One who got what He didn't deserve by taking our sins on Himself.



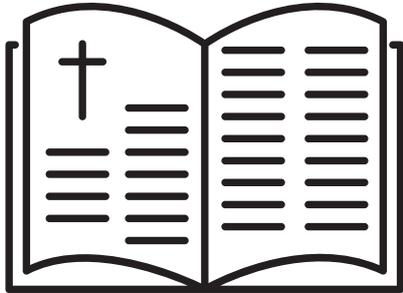
What is keeping you from being grateful? In other words, where does your attitude need adjusting? You may not know right now, or this might be hard to talk about. Don't worry, your Small Group will get the chance to talk about this together. And as you do, think about some ways you can focus on seeing the ways you can be grateful this week. Before you head out, though, let's pray and thank God for being so good to us. Let's also ask God to help us see the good things He does for us. Let's pray.

prayer

God, this is a hard thing to get—even for us adults. We compare ourselves to other people. We get caught up in what we think should be fair. Please help us adjust our attitude and see Your blessings for what they really are—blessings from You. You are generous to everyone. You are so good to us, God, and we love You.

In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

HOW YOUR ELEMENTARY KID CAN STAY CONNECTED



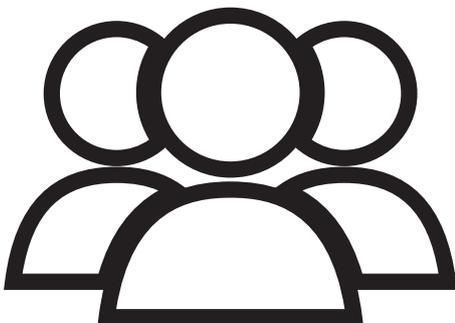
FAITH STARTER KIT

If it is your first time asking Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, we want to celebrate with you! You can go to cottonwood.org/kids and we would love to send you a bible and resources!



VIDEO LESSONS

Your child can learn bible stories and engage in worship



IN-PERSON SERVICE

Join us for Kids In-Person service every Sunday at 9am! Pre-registration and information can be found at cottonwood.org/kids

For more information, follow Cottonwood Kids on facebook and instagram ([cottonwood_kds](https://www.instagram.com/cottonwood_kds))