

**Home Groups | Week of November 15, 2015**  
**Matthew 20:1-16 | The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard**

**Ice breaker question:**

What was your first paid job? If you can remember, how much money did you make?

**Discuss:**

1. If you were the worker who had worked all day, what would have been your reaction? If you were the worker who worked one hour and was paid the same, what would have been your reaction?
2. Everyone receiving the same pay in the story seems unfair. How does this make you think about God's grace? Is God's grace fair? Why or why not?
3. This parable is more about grace than rewards. The workers received grace –all receiving the same pay regardless of hours worked. Which do you tend to fall back on, grace or law?
4. Do you struggle with comparing yourself to others like the grumbling workers in the story? Do you struggle with envy or others getting what you feel like you deserve?
5. The landowner himself goes and finds the workers who need work. He is the one who decides to offer them equal pay (equal grace) for different hours worked. What does this tell you about the landowner, or about Jesus?
6. How would you describe your attitude toward work right now? What might help you find meaning in your work, or meaning in how you spend your time? How might you show the grace of Jesus this week at your workplace?
7. Share a time when you have received grace from someone or where you have given grace to someone. Which was easier?

**Telling Our Stories:**

Share more about your stories this week with your group by answering the question: "What have you been grateful for?"

**Prayer:**

Keep the following prayer requests from our church family in mind as you close:

- > Prayers of comfort for Ralph and Cheryl Dixon in the death of Ralph's father and for Stan Johnson in the death of his father.
- > We celebrate with Cheryl and Ralph Dixon in the birth of their grandson.
- > Pray for all of the families who have lost loved ones this year to violence.

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**Things to discuss with your group and pass along to Sally and Scott [[sallyb@zpc.org](mailto:sallyb@zpc.org); [scotts@zpc.org](mailto:scotts@zpc.org)]**

- > Will members continue for the next round [January 17-March 20]?
- > Is anyone feeling called to lead a Home Group?
- > Are group members aware of ZPCers who they could invite to join a Home Group...either yours or another group if yours is full?

**Background for home group leaders:**

**[Question 1]** The workers in the story grumble and say this is not fair. Sometimes life is unfair. Instead of grumbling, how can we react to a situation that seems unfair? That may be a time to witness to others.

**[Question 2]** God's grace is not fair. It is overflowing, bountiful, incredible, more than we deserve, amazing grace! Of course it's not fair! God is just, but God is also loving and full of grace.

**[Question 3]** Some of us may err on the side of grace. Others of us may err on the side of law. We need both grace and truth, healthy boundaries and loving grace, in our relationships throughout our lives.

**[Question 4]** It's easy to play the comparison game, if only in our heads. We may compare our lives to our co-workers or especially to our immediate family members. We can think, "That person gets more than I get." Or, "I work harder than they do, and I get less credit for it!" God wants us to remember to be grateful. God wants us to put others first – one good reminder is in Philippians 2:3-4.

**[Question 5]** Bible scholar Ken Bailey says that typically the landowner would send the manager to find new workers. Yet in this parable, the landowner himself goes back again and again to invite more workers to come and receive his grace – even to the end of the day. Isn't that like God? God continually invites us into his grace, though we are undeserving of it, and sometimes it takes a while for us to accept it.

**[Question 6]** This might be a place for the group leader to share first your attitude about work. God sees work as meaningful and necessary –see Proverbs 14:23 for example. Work can be a vehicle to show honor to God – by doing the best work we can, and being aware of being an example to others for Christ in our work.

**[Question 7]** This is a good place for people to share openly and be vulnerable. It's ok to share a time when you have given grace, if you share that in a way that is humble, and does not bring glory to you, but to God. Share about God's grace!