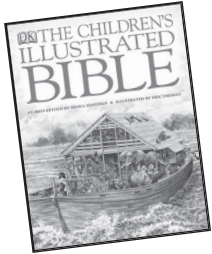


Ordinary Time, Proper 20



The Children's Illustrated Bible page 250

Jesus told a parable of a generous landowner. He hired workers for his vineyard, some in the morning, some later in the day. At the end of the day, he paid everyone the same, even if they only worked a short time. Jesus said this is how God is: God is generous with everyone, whenever they come to God.

—Matthew 20:1–16 adapted

Jesus Says to Give Generously

Read the parable Jesus taught about the landowner and his workers on page 250 of *The Children's Illustrated Bible*. Ask a child to read Matthew 20:1-16.

This parable helps us think differently about God, ourselves, and others. The landowner was like God who cared more for his workers than the crop. The landowner hired more laborers than were needed, hiring those who no one else would hire, and showed charity toward the last ones hired—as much as those who were hired earlier. At the end of the day, the landowner paid all the workers the same, yet the first-hour workers complained that the landowner's generosity was unfair. The landowner asked, "Are you jealous because I am generous?" God is generous to all even when we don't understand how much we are worth to God and others.

1. Have you ever been jealous when someone else received a gift? What did you do?
2. How do you feel knowing God loves you very much and also loves others as much as you?
3. Tell about a time when you have received a wonderful gift and love from God or others. Did you need to do something to earn it?

Joseph Smith Jr., the founder of our church, received a generous gift from God when he was given instructions to start this church. Today is Heritage Day, a day when our church celebrates its beginnings and the good people who worked hard and faithfully to establish our church. Read the story of Joseph Smith Jr., and celebrate with activities below.

Birthday Cake

The church is more than 175 years old, founded in 1830. Make a birthday cake to celebrate. How many candles should be on the cake? Using 175 is too many. What if each candle represented twenty-five years? Put candles on the cake, light them, and blow them out with a fan. Enjoy the cake!



Stick Pulling

Joseph Smith played this game as a kid and an adult. Two kids sit on the floor with feet pressed together and knees flexed. Both take hold of a strong stick (dowel rod, broom handle) alternating hands. Both kids start pulling until one lifts the other off the floor. The winners of two out of three plays will play the winner of the next match.

Taken from "A Sesquicentennial Celebration Packet for Children," *Sesquicentennial Resource Book*, © RLDS History Commission, 1979, 22.

Old-Time Fans

Make fans like those worshipers used to keep cool in church. Give each kid a 10-inch square cardboard to decorate with markers, glitter glue, or decoupage photos. Staple a large tongue depressor to one corner.





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—Matthew 20:1–16 adapted



Art from *Church History Coloring Book, Vol. 1* (Independence, MO: Herald Publishing House, 1981), page 5.

Joseph Smith Jr., the founder of our church, was born in 1805, more than 200 years ago. When he was twelve years old, he wondered which church to join. He read James 1:5, then went to a grove of trees in New York to pray. God told him to join no church and later directed him to find the Book of Mormon, which he translated. Joseph started our church and it grew to be the worldwide church we have today.