

Lesson #1-27*The Laborers in the Vineyard*

Matthew 20:1-16

**Key Verse:**

The last will be first, and the first will be last.
Matthew 20:16

The Point:

God wants us to live generously.

Unit Theme (March 6—April 7)

The Ways of the Kingdom

Last Will Be First

Play a variation of musical chairs to experience the key verse.

You will need:

- † Activity Sheet
- † Music player
- † Basket
- † Chairs

Preparation:

1. Cut up the times on the activity sheet and place them in a basket. Only enough so that there is one fewer than one time per participant. Make copies as necessary.
2. Write out the times in the basket on paper, at least a quarter-sheet.

Instructions:

1. Set up chairs in a circle facing outward with one fewer chair than there are participants.

2. Place one paper with a time on each chair face down.
3. Explain that you are going to be playing a version of musical chairs.
4. Start the music and invite people to begin moving around the circle and stop it after a short time. Participants must try to find a seat, but must walk and not run. One person will not have a chair.
5. **Generally, in musical chairs, the last person is out, but this time we are doing it a little differently.**
6. Draw a time from the basket. Have participants check the piece of paper on the seat they chose. If it is the time that was drawn, then they are out and the person who did not have a chair takes their spot.
7. Remove a chair (with its corresponding time) and repeat steps 4-6.

Last Will Be First

Play a variation of musical chairs to experience the key verse.

8. Continue until there is a winner. If more than one person has the time that was drawn on their chair, it is the one closest to the leader's right who is out.
9. If members of your group have mobility difficulties, you can assign pairs with at least one mobile person per pair., preferably one adult and one younger participant in each group. If there are two individuals who wish to play, they can alternate turns until they are out.
10. **This was a twist on the way we usually play musical chairs. The one who did not get a seat quick enough was not out after all.**
11. **God's kingdom often takes us by surprise. It is different than we might expect. We are not expecting it to go against "the rules" we know, but Jesus explains it often does. We learned in today's lesson that in God's kingdom, the last will be first and the first will be last.**
12. **What do you think that means? How does it relate to the story? How does it relate our life of faith?**

8:00 am	2:00 am	8:00 pm	2:00 pm
9:00 am	3:00 am	9:00 pm	3:00 pm
10:00 am	4:00 am	10:00 pm	4:00 pm
11:00 am	5:00 am	11:00 pm	5:00 pm
12:00 am	6:00 am	12:00 pm	6:00 pm
1:00 am	7:00 am	1:00 pm	7:00 pm