

CATECHESIS@HOME #23

"THE LAST WILL BE FIRST, AND THE FIRST, LAST"

(25th Sunday of Ordinary Time)

Prepared by Archdiocesan Catechetical Centre,
Archdiocese of Kuala Lumpur



INTRODUCTION

This material has been prepared to provide families an opportunity to gather, and spend time reflecting and discussing about the gospel reading of the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time. *On 21st September (Monday), we also celebrate the Feast of Saint Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist.*

HOW TO USE THE MATERIAL

This document contains activities that members of the family may complete individually (just the children), in pairs (with parental assistance), or as an entire family. It would be helpful to print a hard-copy, so that members of your family may carry out different activities at the same time.

WHEN TO USE THE MATERIAL

During the week after the family has celebrated the Mass of the 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we have gathered here in the name of Jesus. Help us to learn that the way You love is very different from the way of human beings. Teach us to love like You. May Your Holy Spirit guide us as we prepare for this lesson. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.



SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Invite someone to read from Matthew 20: 1-16.

COMMENTARY:

For many of us, the parable in today's gospel is a difficult one to understand or even accept. Should the landowner have given the 'late' workers the same wages as the 'early' workers? Was he being unfair to the 'early' workers' since they worked longer? If we were the 'early' workers, is it right that we also feel angry or upset with him?

The lesson from the parable is that God gives his love, all of his love, to every person without exception if they open themselves to this love. It does not matter whether that happens early or late in life as this love can never be earned, only accepted. The fact that the latecomers were only employed at the last hour does not make their needs any less than those who came earlier.

This coming week, let us reflect and think about the generosity of God the Father and ask that our heart may be opened to the fact that God's love is greater than ours. May we be generous with our love for others as God is generous with his love for us.

<https://www.sacredspace.ie/scripture/matthew-201-16>

FAMILY REFLECTION & SHARING

(Let us reflect on these questions together as a family, and share our responses with one another. If necessary, parents are encouraged to rephrase the questions according to their children's level of understanding).

1. Have you felt envious or upset when someone was generous to another person, especially when you thought that the person did not deserve it? Looking back, how do you feel about it now?
2. Just as God is generous with His love for us, so too are we called to be generous with our love for others. Think of 1 way you can be generous with your love for those in your immediate family.
3. Jesus values everyone the same – after all, His love cannot be earned, but can only be accepted. Have you ever felt that others needed to prove their value/worth to you before you could love/respect them? Have your thoughts changed after reflecting on today's Gospel?

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Below you will find some activities for younger children, revolving around the Sunday Gospel. Select the activities you would like to complete with your children, or try to complete them all if you can!

GUIDE FOR PARENTS & GUARDIANS

Dear Parents and Guardians, we have included some tips for you as you facilitate these activities with your children. Each tip corresponds with the same numbered activity. Our hope is that these tips would help you in your endeavour to create a good learning experience for your children.

Activities #1, #2, #4, #5, and #7 - #9

- Word-Find, crossword and coded activities help children to learn about, and associate certain words with key events in the Gospel.
- After your child has completed this activity, you may invite them to explore how these words are related to the readings of this week.
- When discussing definitions of key terms, you are encouraged to associate these terms not only with Gospel events, but with their own life experiences as well. This not only works to develop their vocabulary, but to also enable them to identify their feelings and emotions in specific ways.

Activity #3 & #6

- Many lessons could be taken from this activity. For example, this activity could spark a conversation about how we must put in the effort in order to receive our just wages. This is a great conversation starter to encourage our children to value living a life of virtue (kindness, generosity, etc.), in light of the reward of entering the Kingdom of God.
- You are encouraged to look beyond the activity, and to identify potential messages and meanings that could be turned into key learning moments for your child.

Activity #10

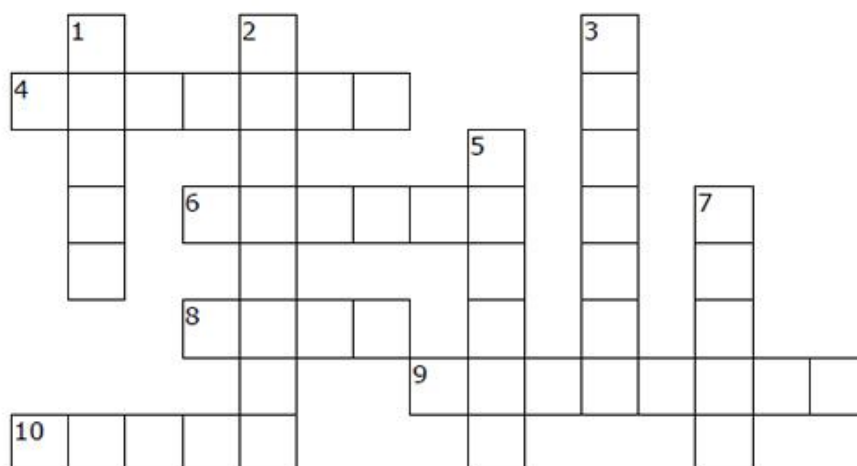
- Colouring activities help children reinforce knowledge by giving content a *visual identity*. Children are encouraged through these activities to associate what they have learned with key scenes, and the emotions and feelings that spring from it. In this way, children take ownership of their knowledge.
- This week's colouring page involves Jesus calling Matthew, the tax collector. This activity is a great opportunity for our children to understand how Jesus calls everyone, especially sinners, to live a life that is inherently good, for Him.
- Parents and guardians are encouraged to look beyond the activity, and to identify potential messages and meanings that could be turned into key learning moments for your child.

Activity #1: Solve the puzzle

The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



ACROSS

4. People who labor, usually for wages or a salary
6. The place where God lives
8. A period of time equal to sixty minutes
9. A place where grapes are grown
10. Pay received for working

DOWN

1. Coins or bills used to pay for something
2. To give or share freely with others
3. To gripe or complain
5. Not playing by the rules
7. Two things that are of the same value

HEAVEN	GRUMBLE	MONEY	WORKERS	VINEYARD
GENEROUS	HOUR	WAGES	UNFAIR	EQUAL

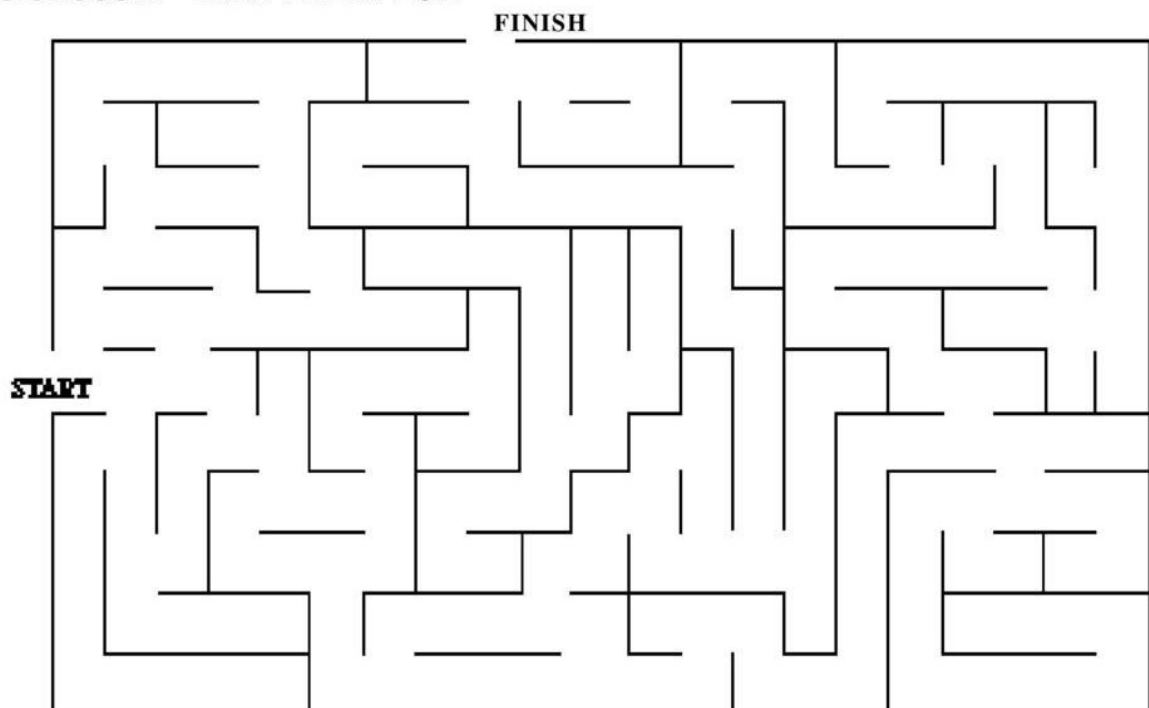
Activity #2: Find the words

R	H	T	N	E	V	E	L	E	L	LANDOWNER	DAYBREAK	VINEYARD
I	E	U	M	R	G	E	V	T	E	WORKERS	MARKET	FAIR
A	D	N	B	A	N	E	E	S	G	WAGE	SIXTH	IDLE
F	R	J	W	O	R	K	E	R	S	GRUMBLED	UNJUST	FIRST
E	A	U	A	O	R	R	U	I	I			
D	Y	S	Y	A	D	M	U	F	X			
R	E	T	M	A	B	N	E	O	T			
I	N	H	E	L	D	I	A	A	H			
H	I	R	E	D	T	S	A	L	E			
T	V	D	A	Y	B	R	E	A	K			



Activity #3: Jesus is calling, find your way to him

"So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called but few are chosen." MATTHEW 20:1



Activity #4: Find the words

The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 20:1-16



D V O M O N E Y Q K J F E Q L
R Y H Q P G Y Y V V D B S K P
E U G V H E H E A V E N U I H
C S S Z Q N M J N R U N N N O
E A V I N E Y A R D R S F G U
I M I D T R I Z V E B M A D R
V W R S X O U F N P D T I O V
E O S P M U Q W M E E B R M C
D R D G B S O K R R T Q E R A
E K R Y P D M I T H V L U S W
H E Y V N P H E G E B Q E A A
O R C A V S Y I C M W G P K L
N S L H N Q R G U B A R W J K
U H G S Z L W R U W H I F E G
G B Z Y G D G T X R E V Q B N

MONEY
LANDOWNER
WAGES

HOURLY
HEAVEN
HIRED

EQUAL
GRUMBLE
UNFAIR

WORKERS
KINGDOM
RIGHT

VINEYARD
GENEROUS
RECEIVED

Activity #5: Break the code

The Workers in the Vineyard

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' Matthew 20:12

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

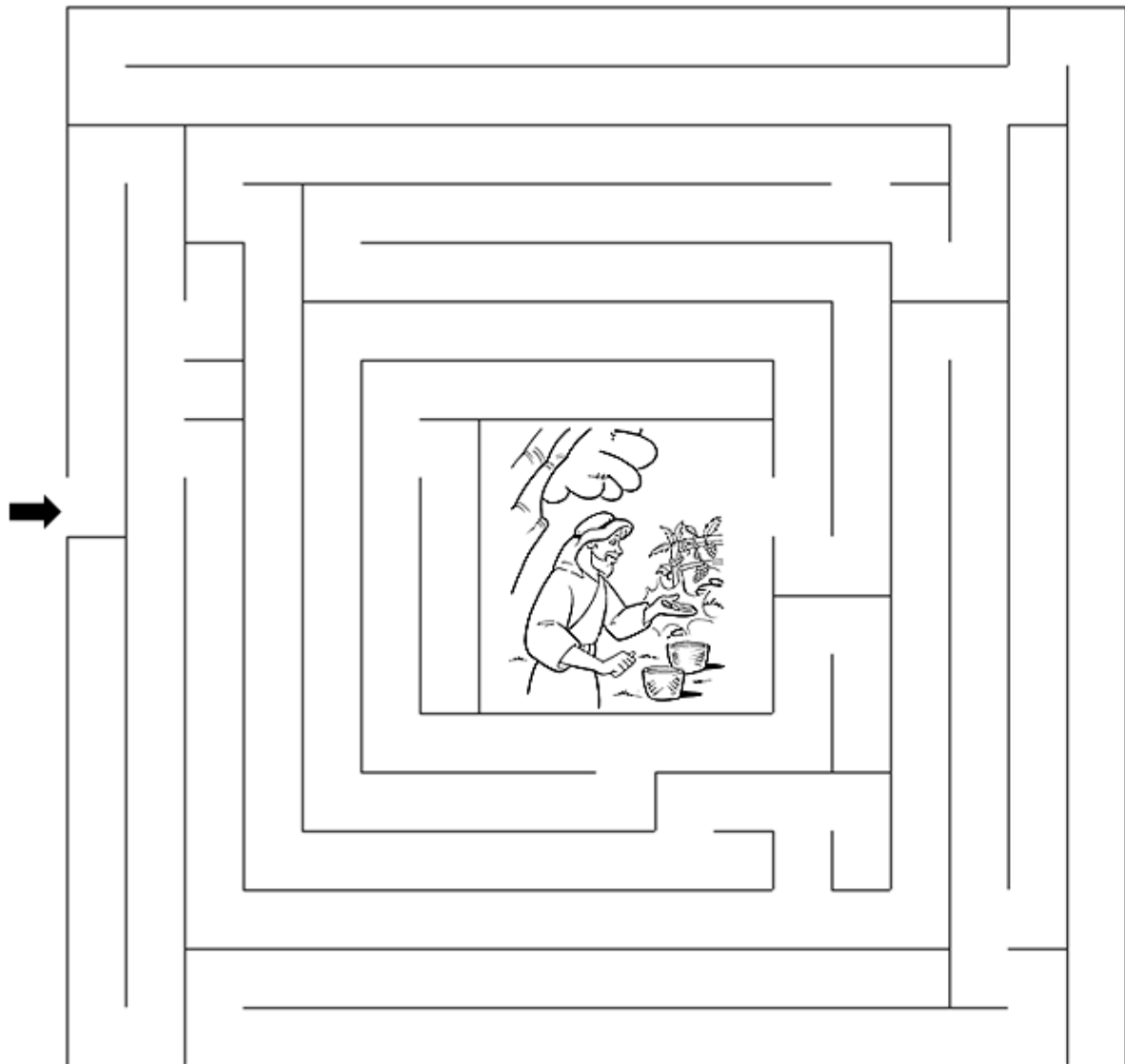


1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
T	O	J	Z	H	F	A	D	S	U	E	I	N	X	Y	V	L	W	Q	B	R	P	K	C	G	M

1. 25-11-13-11-21-2-10-9 _____
2. 18-2-21-23-11-21-9 _____
3. 6-12-21-9-1 _____
4. 10-13-6-7-12-21 _____
5. 16-12-13-11-15-7-21-8 _____
6. 26-2-13-11-15 _____
7. 5-2-10-21 _____
8. 25-21-10-26-20-17-11 _____
9. 5-12-21-11-8 _____
10. 17-7-9-1 _____

VINEYARD	UNFAIR	WORKERS	GRUMBLE	HIRED
LAST	GENEROUS	FIRST	MONEY	HOUR

Activity #6: Find the way to the landowner to receive your wages



Activity #7: Find the right answer

The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13

Choose the word that best matches the definition.



- ___ 1. The first book of the New Testament
A. Mark B. Luke C. Matthew D. John
- ___ 2. The opposite of standing
A. flying B. walking C. climbing D. sitting
- ___ 3. Strong and free from illness and disease
A. healthy B. tired C. sick D. fat
- ___ 4. One of the twelve chosen to follow Jesus
A. healthy B. disciple C. follow D. doctor
- ___ 5. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
A. prophet B. sinner C. doctor D. tax collector
- ___ 6. To walk behind someone
A. lead B. sitting C. follow D. sinner
- ___ 7. The main meal of the day
A. snack B. healthy C. disciple D. dinner
- ___ 8. One who refuses to obey God's laws
A. disciple B. sinner C. tax collector D. doctor
- ___ 9. To be affected with disease or ill health
A. sick B. hungry C. righteous D. healthy
- ___ 10. An amount of money paid to the government
A. tax B. wages C. dues D. salary

Activity #8: Find the words

The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13

Based on Matthew 9:9-13



Z G U C Q R R B H Z V X S C R
F J U S E C G I S X T K U N E
N Q B N A N O E G U H O T O N
R I N I I C L L D H K S P J U
C I T T Q P R F L P T W I D P
D M T E I Y S I A E R E U C D
D I A C A Q E H F K C L O M K
S H S T S C V B E I G T W U Y
U I O Q T R H Z O A C O O T S
D Q K U O H T E G O L E V R W
Q E X T S P E W R L T T L K S
H N C S C E A W O H S H H H A
P O B T N W G F K W C B U Y W
D V T H Q A S I N N E R S G A
M E R C Y D M U R T O K R G R

DISCIPLES
SACRIFICE
MERCY
RIGHTEOUS

MATTHEW
DINNER
SITTING
FOLLOW

DOCTOR
HEALTHY
BOOTH
HOUSE

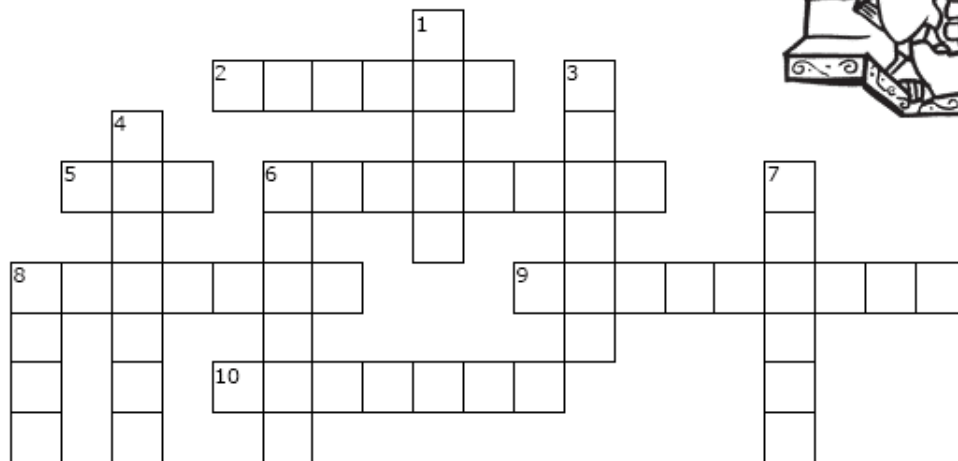
COLLECTORS
TEACHER
SINNERS
SICK

Activity #9: Solve the puzzle

The Calling of Matthew

"For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."
Matthew 9:13b

Based on Genesis Matthew 9:9-13



ACROSS

2. One who refuses to obey God's laws
5. An amount of money paid to the government
6. One of the twelve chosen to follow Jesus
8. The opposite of standing
9. A person who accumulates items (stamps, for example)
10. Strong and free from illness and disease

DOWN

1. Kindness and forgiveness shown toward someone
3. To walk behind someone
4. The first book of the New Testament
6. The main meal of the day
7. A person who treats people who are sick or injured
8. To be affected with disease or ill health

DISCIPLE	DINNER	DOCTOR	COLLECTOR
SICK	MERCY	SINNER	FOLLOW
SITTING	MATTHEW	HEALTHY	TAX

Activity #10: Colour the picture – Jesus calls Matthew, the tax collector

