

**St. James Episcopal Church**  
**A Moment for Kids—of All Ages!**  
**SEPTEMBER 24, 2017—THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (PROPER 20)**  
**IT'S NOT FAIR!**  
**BUT MAYBE IT'S BETTER TO BE LOVING RATHER THAN FAIR.**



Jesus told a story about God's love. "A farmer went out early in the morning to hire people to work hard all day and he promised to pay them fairly. So, they went and started working. Three times more that day, at about 9 , noon, 3 and 5 o'clock, the farmer found other workers and said to them, 'Go and work and I will pay you fairly.' And so, they went out and worked.

When evening came, the farmer paid the workers, beginning with the last (those who started work late in the day) and then going to the first (those who started in the early morning.) The people who started working at 5 o'clock received the usual daily wage, so did those who started working at 3, at noon and at 9 am. Then the farmer paid the people who had been working since dawn. They thought they would receive more because they had worked longer, but they also received the usual daily wage, the same as the others.

They said unhappily, 'What? Some people only worked an hour or half a day and they have received the same amount of money. That's not fair! We worked all day long in the scorching heat!' But the farmer said, 'Friend, you worked hard and I paid you fairly. Don't be jealous because I am generous to others.' Jesus ends the story by saying "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Based on Matthew 20:1-16

## THE GOSPEL AND REAL LIFE

### FAIR OR LOVING?

Jesus told a story about “fairness”. What is fair? Getting exactly what you deserve and no more, no less? How is that different from generosity? God is better than fair; God is LOVING and GENEROUS! So, if God is generous to you, don’t be jealous that God is loving and generous to someone else. Be glad that God is generous to everyone—to you, me, and everyone.

Think about these situations. Are they fair? Loving? Generous? Do they make you happy? Put them in the box below.

*You split a candy bar with your friend and give away the bigger piece.*

*You didn’t study for a test and you get to school and find out it is delayed for a day.*

*Your brother doesn’t clean his room, but your mom forgives him.*

*You say a mean thing to your friend, but she forgives you.*

*Can you think other situations?*

	FAIR	NOT FAIR
☺ Makes Me Happy		
☹ Makes Me Sad		

## BRINGING THE BIBLE HOME: THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

Fair, loving and lucky. We tend to think about events according to how they make us feel. Talk with your children about the difference. Fair is getting a ticket when you are speeding. Yuck. It’s fair, but probably doesn’t make you happy! Is it loving? That’s a tricky question, but think if made you slow down to protect yourself or others? How about passing a test that you didn’t prepare for. Fair or not, it probably made you happy. Talk with your children about how fairness doesn’t always make us happy, but it should always be based in love. God’s “fairness” is totally based in love, forgiveness, second chances and mercy. It is better than fair!

### **Dinner Table Conversations:**

*What is “FAIR”? When have you been fair? When have you been unfair? How did you feel?*

*What is “LOVING”? When is something fair but not loving? When is something not fair but is loving?*

This insert is prepared by Mother Bonnie. If you have any questions about it, please let me know.

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