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**At Home Program**

**Week # 1 September 17, 2023**

*“Prayer for me is an outburst from the heart.” – Saint Therese of Lisieux*

**Gospel…The Workers in the Vineyard… Matthew 20:1 – 16**

Jesus told his disciples this parable:  
"The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner  
who went out at dawn to hire laborers for his vineyard.  
After agreeing with them for the usual daily wage,  
he sent them into his vineyard.  
Going out about nine o'clock,  
the landowner saw others standing idle in the marketplace,  
and he said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard,  
and I will give you what is just.'  
So they went off.  
And he went out again around noon,  
and around three o'clock, and did likewise.  
Going out about five o'clock,  
the landowner found others standing around, and said to them,  
'Why do you stand here idle all day?'  
They answered, 'Because no one has hired us.'  
He said to them, 'You too go into my vineyard.'  
When it was evening the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,  
'Summon the laborers and give them their pay,  
beginning with the last and ending with the first.'  
When those who had started about five o'clock came,  
each received the usual daily wage.  
So when the first came, they thought that they would receive more,  
but each of them also got the usual wage.  
And on receiving it they grumbled against the landowner, saying,  
'These last ones worked only one hour,  
and you have made them equal to us,  
who bore the day's burden and the heat.'  
He said to one of them in reply,  
'My friend, I am not cheating you.  
Did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage?  
Take what is yours and go.  
What if I wish to give this last one the same as you?  
Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money?  
Are you envious because I am generous?'  
Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Gospel Reflection Questions (not required, but could help with discussion…just a summary is fine)**

1. What story does Jesus tell?
2. What does the landowner do?
3. Why do some of the workers feel that they have been treated unfairly?
4. How is the landowner like God?

**Together in Jesus…First Reconciliation Lesson 1…”I Belong to a Loving Community”**

1. Make sure children have written their names on their paper.
2. Complete “The Trouble with Three Friend.” Have them write answers on the packet and be sure they place their heart sticker on the front page.
3. Read “How Does Jesus Treat People?” and have them answer the questions on that page.
4. Read “Jesus Teaches Us to Love God and Others”
   1. What is Original Sin?
   2. What Does Baptism do for us?
   3. Are we free to make choices?
   4. Do we always make good choices? When we make bad choices, what can we do?
5. Read “ I Prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation”
   1. What is reconciliation?
   2. What are its other names?
   3. What do we call this gift from God?
6. Be sure they place their Lesson 1 sticker on the page…encourage them to share and talk with their parents about this lesson.