

The Stories of Jesus
March 30, 2025

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up:

- If Pixar made a movie about your life, what would the central theme be?
- What's a movie or book that has stuck with you? Why do you think it was so memorable?

Read Together:

Matthew 13:31-32.

³¹ He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

Matthew 13:44-46

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it."

Matthew 20:3-7

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay them a denarius^[a] for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went."

"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'"

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'"

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

Matthew 20:13-16

But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 Corinthians 2:2

For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified.

Discuss Together:

- The parable of the mustard seed describes something small growing into something significant. Can you think of a moment in your life where something seemingly insignificant led to a big change?
- The landowner's generosity in Matthew 20 doesn't fit the world's definition of fairness. Have you ever experienced unexpected grace that challenged your perspective? How did it shape you?
- If your life were a story God is writing, what kind of character is He shaping you into?

Action Item:

- Using Pixar's storytelling formula (Once upon a time... Every day... One day... Because of that...), try summarizing your own faith journey in a few sentences. How has your understanding of God's kingdom changed over time?