



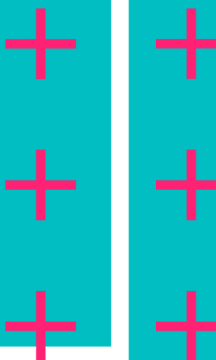
THROW BACK



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

Jesus is always

fair.





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Matthew 20:1-16; John 10:11-18

Yo, pals! What's crackalackin'? Welcome back to Throwback! Each week, we'll go back in time and see that the things Jesus taught are always trending because Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever! This week, we're going back to the 1980's! Isn't that gnarly? Let's motor!

Sometimes our idea of "fair" changes with how we're feeling at the time. Let's take a look at the Bible story to learn about God's idea of fairness.

Matthew 20:1-16 (The Workers in the Vineyard)

I feel like I could understand what the vineyard workers are feeling, especially the ones who got there super early. It doesn't seem fair that someone who only worked one hour should get the same pay as someone who worked all day.

Jesus told this parable to get people to think differently about fairness. The early arrivals were getting fair pay. If they didn't know what everyone else was getting paid, they wouldn't have complained. The vineyard owner was already being generous. It just seems even more generous when someone didn't work as hard for it. God doesn't give according to what we think is fair and not fair. God is generous enough to give us what we need and even more generous that someone else may get more than we do.

But this parable isn't really about God giving us stuff . . . it's about how God welcomes everyone to know God. God's idea of fairness is that everyone should have the same amount of chances to experience God's love. Now that's fair!

In this week's Bible story, it might not have seemed fair on the surface that everyone got paid the same even though some worked hard and some hardly worked at all, but it wasn't a story about what people earn and deserve. It's a story about how generous God is. We know this because God gave Jesus to everyone even though none of us earned or deserved him. Everybody has a chance to connect with God and nobody is left out. Jesus is always fair.

Jesus understands what "not fair" feels like. After all, Jesus was unfairly arrested and sentenced to death . . . he had done nothing wrong! But even though people had treated Jesus terribly while he was on earth, he wanted to show the way God loves, anyway.

In this passage (John 10:11-18), Jesus talks about himself as a good shepherd who would give his own life for the sheep (that's us, by the way). Not just for the sheep that are in his sheep pen — that is, people who love and follow Jesus. He says in verse sixteen that he wants to bring sheep who are not part of his pen . . . people who don't know God.

When Jesus died and rose again, it wasn't only for some people. It was for everyone. No one is excluded — not even the people who returned videos without rewinding them, even though that was so not cool. Jesus was and is always fair.



SCRIPTURE/APPLICATION

- How much did the landowner agree to pay each worker?
- How much did the workers who worked all day and the ones who worked only one hour get paid?
- Do you think the landowner was being fair to the workers?
 - Why or why not?
- Read John 10:14–16
 - How is this an example of Jesus being fair?
- How is Jesus' idea of fairness different than ours?
- What is the gift Jesus wants to give us, and why can't we earn it?
- What is one way we can be fair the way Jesus is?



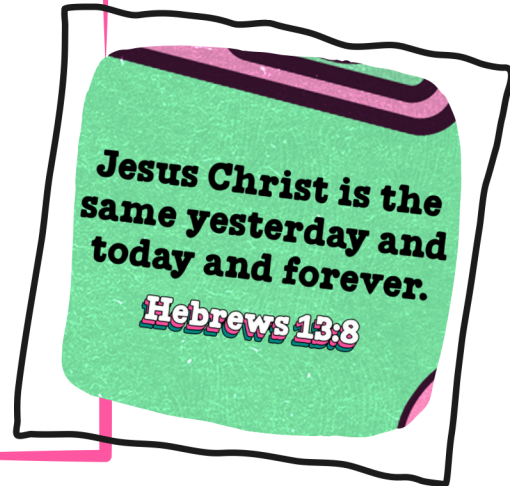
WORSHIP

"I've Got Good News"

Bryan and Katie Torwalt

"Jesus is Alive"

Singin' Praise Tots



ELEMENTARY

PRESCHOOL



This was a really popular toy in the 80's, but even now, it's more of a puzzle challenge than a toy.

Now you could go online and find solutions and learn how to solve a cube. This little riddle now became fair game for everybody!

Using the printable color the cubes however they want. Fold the cube into a box.

After you assemble and decorate your Rubik's Cube box, write down a few words or draw a few images on separate pieces of paper that will remind you of everything we talked about today.

Don't forget to include the Big Idea: Jesus is always fair.



