

## Out of This World

### Week 5: Generous Grace

**Objective:** To challenge us to accept God's grace and to share it with others.

**Read together:**

*For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.*

*3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went.*

*"He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 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?'*

*7 "Because no one has hired us,' they answered.*

*"He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'*

*8 "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.'*

*9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These 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.'*

*13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?'*

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

**Matthew 20:1-16**

- Have you ever been treated unfairly? What is your natural/immediate response when someone is unfair to you? Have you ever been unfair to someone else?
- Why do you think most of us insist on keeping score (Making sure things are fair, even, etc.)? What is it about not keeping score that is so difficult for us?
- In Jesus' parable of the vineyard workers were the workers who were hired first justified in how they felt? Was the landowner fair or not? Why do you think that?
- Why do you think most Christians fall into the trap of working for God's approval? Have you ever fallen into that trap/habit? If so, what type of things have you done in order to try and win God's favor?
- How do you think God feels when we try to earn His favor?
- How would you define 'grace'? What is it about God's generous grace that is so hard for us to accept?
- Do you want God to keep score for you the way most of us keep score for others?
- If you truly accepted the grace of God, how might it change your day-to-day life? How would it impact the way you treat others?

**Final Thoughts:** Do you really want God to keep score or are you willing to accept his generous grace?

**This Week:** What can you do to walk in God's grace? How can you offer that grace to someone else?

