The Workers in the Vineyard
(Lower Elementary)

September 20, 2020 – Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview
In this week’s Gospel passage, Jesus explains that “the last will be first, and the first will be last.” In this lesson, students will reflect on the vice of envy and the importance of putting others before themselves.

Directions
A. Read the Gospel passage aloud to your students as they follow along. Then discuss the focus and reflection questions with them as a class.
B. Explain to your students that sometimes the things that make us feel happy make us feel less happy when we compare them to the things other people have. When we make that comparison, we are feeling envious. Help your students reflect on and discuss the scenarios in The Last Shall Be First activity.
C. When you have finished discussing the scenarios, have your students answer the reflection question. Then have them complete the Drawing Activity.

Answer Key

Focus Questions
1. To hire laborers for his vineyard.
2. He says he will give them what is just.
3. They saw that all the laborers were paid the same amount. They thought they should be paid more since they had worked all day and the last laborers had only worked for one hour.
4. He says that he is free to do what he wills with his own money, and that they had agreed to work for the daily wage. He asks them if they are jealous because he is generous.
5. Jesus says that the last will be first and the first will be last.