



## GROW. PRAY. SERVE.

Series: GROW AGAIN IN 2010!

Message: "Stop Trippin'"



**PRAYER:** Gracious God, we thank you for your grace and your mercy. We are recipients of your goodness and we are grateful. Give us the power now to rejoice in your goodness shown to others. Enable us to celebrate your mercy in the lives of our neighbors. Thank you for your grace. Empower us now to show grace to one another. Guide us as we strive to do all things in self-giving love. In the powerful name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

**ICEBREAKER:** Describe a time when you got more than you felt you deserved, or a time when you did not get what you thought you deserved.

### GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Read Matthew 20:1-6 as a group. The landowner represents the Lord, and the vineyard represents God's kingdom. After the day ended in the story, the landowner called his manager to pay the workers, but to everyone's surprise, he first paid the workers who came last, and who probably worked an hour or two. They received the pay for a full day's work and this led the other workers to think that they would get more, because they had been there all day, but they were wrong—they all received the same thing, a full day's wages. *Do you think this was fair? Why or why not?*
2. Quite understandably, the workers who had been there all day complained to the landowner. They thought it was unfair that the men who worked only a little should get as much as they did: most workers would think the same thing. *Share with your group a time in your life when you felt you were paid unfairly? How did you feel? What did you do?*
3. The landowner reminded the workers: a) He paid those that were employed first exactly what He had promised, so they had no reason to complain, b) Since He was the landowner, he was free to offer the other workers what He thought was fair if they would come and work as well. *Do you think the first group of workers had a right to complain? Do you think the latter group of workers should have been compensated less? At this point, how are you feeling about the landowner?*
4. The final point of the story says that the last will be first and the first will be last. The principle with which we have to wrestle is that God cannot be held to social convention in the way that God rewards people. *Take a moment and talk about what that means.* The story also points out that the owner's pact with each group is generous because without it, they would have nothing. In other words, it was all an act of grace. *Talk about how we are happy to receive grace, but challenged when others do. What should be our approach to this subject?*

**CHALLENGE:** Rejoice when you see others receive a blessing that they have not earned.

**SERVE:** As a group, plan to do something this week for someone that cannot reciprocate it.

**CHAMPION TIP:** It is easy to overlook persons in our group that need support; take a moment and pray for your group. Ask God to give you one way that you can encourage and support one person in your group now.