

Gospel for November 15, 2020 - lesson for 4th-6th grade

Read the below Gospel slowly. What word or phrase jumps out at you? Read it again then think about the answers to the first couple questions. Read it again, slowly, and think about the answers to the next couple questions. Continue to re-read the Gospel and think about possible answers. Do you think you get a deeper understanding by re-reading the story multiple times? Do you find yourself focusing on different parts?

Matthew 25:14-15, 19-29 - The Parable of the Talents

¹⁴ "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away.

- ◆ How do you think the first two servants may have made their money?
- ◆ What did the third servant do with his money? Why do you think he did this?
- ◆ Why was the master angry with the servant who hid his money?
- ◆ Our English word *talent* came from this story. In Jesus' day, it meant a kind of coin. Over the years, it's come to mean an ability or skill.
- ◆ Jesus tells this story to help us understand what to do with the gifts that God gives us. What is does that mean to you?
- ◆ What do you think of when you hear *talent*?
- ◆ Why might it be important to God that we use our talents?

Activity: Think about your talents. What are you good at? Draw a picture about YOU and your talents. You are special and unique because of these talents. Now think about a friend or family member. What are they good at?

You are good at so many things, big and small. AND there are many things you are not so good at, big and small. Isn't that WONDERFUL? God wants you to use your talents and celebrate them AND celebrate the talents of others around you. You will find you are better at some things than other people AND that there are other people who are better at some things than you. God gave us these gifts that make us each who we are. Like in our lesson God wants us to take risks and spread our talents and grow them. How can you grow your talents? You are GLORIOUS in the eyes of GOD!!