

SABBATH SCHOOL

Preteen Sabbath Instruction Program — Teacher's Outline

Level 3 • Unit 5 • Week 3

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

OBJECTIVE:

To prepare for God's Kingdom, we must develop the talents given to us by God.

ATTENTION GETTER:

Supplies: Play money dollar bills
 Envelopes (put different numbers of dollars in each envelope)

As students come into the classroom, hand them each an envelope and tell them they can only open it upon your instruction.

Say: You may open your envelope.

Ask: Did everyone receive the same amount of money? [Allow responses.]

Say: Sometimes in life, we don't all get the same thing. Some get more and some get less.

Ask: If this were real money, what would you do with it? [Allow responses.]

Say: Hopefully, everyone would use the money that they have been given wisely.

BIBLE LESSON:

Say: Sometimes Jesus Christ taught his disciples in parables.

Ask: What is a parable?

Say: A parable is a simple story illustrating a moral or religious lesson. The parables of the

Bible usually help us understand about the Kingdom of God.

Say: In one parable in the Bible, Christ talked about people being given talents in the parable of the talents. We will examine that parable by putting on a play.

Ask: But first, what does the word "talent" mean?

Say: To us "talent" means something we do well, such as singing or drawing. "Talent" also has another meaning. In the parable and in the play the word "talent" is referring to money. We are going to use coins as talents in our play.

Ask: When we hear the word "lord" what do we think of? A "lord" would be someone who is in charge, like a landlord. He might be a ruler of a city or state or he might be the owner of property or a business. Servants would address the owner as "lord."

Do: Assign parts in the play. Read through it once while sitting, then perform.

Say: This is a parable of how we must prepare for the Kingdom of God. Each of us has talents and abilities. As we get older, it is our responsibility to put our talents and abilities to work.

Ask: Which servant had less ability and talent? Do you think that was why he was given only one talent by the lord?

Ask: Why was the lord upset with him?

Say: He didn't even make an effort to increase the money he had been given. The lesson for us is that we can't fail to produce anything and still hope to be in God's Kingdom. We must develop the spiritual talents and abilities God has given us and become responsible people. We must live the way God wants us to live.

Ask: What talents and abilities do you have?

Say: Like the servants in the parable we all have been given a different number of talents and abilities.

Say: In the parable, the lord gave his servants a reward for making the most of the talents he gave them. In the same way, Jesus Christ will reward us in His Kingdom according to our faithfulness in developing our spiritual talents, becoming like Jesus Christ.

Remember to develop your talents and obey God's commandments.

If you are unsure of your talents, ask you mom and dad. Most importantly, pray to God and ask Him to show you your talents and abilities.

LESSON APPLICATION:

Supplies: Door hangers (like the "do not disturb" signs you hang on motel doors)
They come in packages at Wal-Mart or you can make your own using tag board.
Crayons, markers, stamps.

Do: Give each student a door hanger. Have each student, very neatly, write on their door hanger:

"Well done, good and faithful servant" Matthew 25:21

Decorate the rest of the hanger.

MUSIC:

Teacher's choice from the United Church of God hymnal.

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."

Say: Christ is preparing a place for us in His Kingdom. When Christ returns, those who have been faithful to Him, will be given responsibilities in the Kingdom based upon the talents and abilities they have developed. Think how pleased you would be to hear Jesus Christ say to you, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Do: Go over the memory verse with the students.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

- Characters: Narrator
Landlord
First servant
Second servant
Third servant
- Props: 15 coins (used as talents)
Change purse (optional)
Bowl with coins
- Narrator: The title of our play is "The Parable of the Talents."
- Narrator: There was a man who was the landlord over a large section of property and goods. He also had several servants. The landlord had to go on a long journey. In his hand are eight talents or coins. He is waiting for his servants to enter. *(Three servants enter.)*
- Landlord: *(Handing the first servant five talents)* I'm giving you five talents to invest for me while I'm gone.
- Landlord: *(Talking to the second servant)* Here, I give you two talents to invest for me while I'm away.
- Landlord: *(Talking to the third servant)* And to you I give one talent to invest for me.
- Landlord: I have given each of you some talents. You are to watch over and take care of what I own. Invest the talents I have given to you wisely. I will expect you to do the best you can to increase the talents I have given to you.
- Servants: We will, my lord. Have a safe journey. *(The servants bow and the landlord leaves.)*
- First Servant: While the lord is away, I'll buy goods with my five talents and sell them so that I can make more money for my lord. I told him I would do my very best. I want him to be pleased with me by seeing that I am a responsible with his money. *(He leaves the stage and gets five more coins from a bowl someplace off stage.)*
- Second Servant: I want the lord to think of me as a good servant. He expects me to do the best job I can to wisely use the talents that he has given me. I will buy more seed so I can plant more and increase what I have. This way I can make more talents for my lord. *(He leaves the stage and gets two more coins from a bowl off stage.)*
- Third Servant: *(Looking at the talent in his hand)* I have only one talent. I sure don't want to lose it.

If I do my lord might beat me or sell me into slavery. I think I'll just dig a hole in the ground and hide it until he returns. Then when he returns, I can give it back to him. *(He pretends to dig a hole and put the coin in it and then exits the stage.)*

Narrator: After a long time, the landlord returned home.

Landlord: I'm so very happy to be home. I really missed this place. My servants, come here. *(Enter servants, they bow.)*

Landlord: *(Speaking to the first servant)* What did you do with the talents I gave you while I was away?

First Servant: My lord, you gave me five talents. Look, I have gained you five more talents. *(He gives the landlord 10 coins.)*

Landlord: Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I'll give you more responsibilities. Be joyous in what I give you to do. *(The servant bows and the landlord goes to the second servant.)*

Landlord: My servant, what did you do with your talents?

Second Servant: Lord, you gave me two talents. I wanted to please you and do as you asked. So I have doubled the talents you gave me. *(He gives the landlord four coins.)*

Landlord: Good work! You are a good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over this small amount, so now I will give you more responsibilities. Be joyous in what I give you to do. *(The servant bows. The landlord walks over to the third servant.)*

Landlord: My servant, what did you do with your talent?

Third Servant: Lord, I knew you were a hard man and would be angry with me if I lost the talent you gave me, so I hid it in the ground. Here it is. *(He holds the coin out to the landlord.)*

Landlord: Wicked man! You lazy servant! Since you knew I would expect more than one talent in return, you should have at least put it in the bank to earn interest. *(The landlord takes the one talent from the servant.)*

Landlord: *(Handing the first servant the one coin)* Here good and faithful servant.

Narrator: For those that do well more will be given to them and they shall have a lot. But from the man who is unfaithful, all shall be taken away from him. God expects each of us to be doers of His word. He also expect us to do the very best we can in anything we do. We are to live God's way of life. *(All bow.)*

family activity

THE POINT:

God wants us to develop the talents and abilities that He has given us. The parable of the talents in Matthew 25 helps us to understand that.

ASK ME...

Why was the lord in the parable happy with the first two servants who doubled the talents that he had given them?

Why was the lord unhappy with the last servant who hid the money in the ground?

How can we be faithful servants?

FAMILY TOGETHER TIME:

Discuss the talents each member of the family has. Which talent would you most like to develop?

Discuss as a family the areas each member would like to improve in.

Discuss earning and receiving an allowance and how it should be spent as an example of using talents.

MEMORY VERSE:

Luke 16:10 "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much."