Lesson 8
Parables – The Talents

Objective
Study Matthew 25: The parable of the different talents. The wise are prepared and willing to use what God has blessed them with.

Supplies
Teachers and/or Coordinators ensure supplies are ready prior to each class.

Print From the Site:
- The Talents Visual Aid – one for class
- The Talents Activities – one per student

- Bibles – enough for everyone to have one
- Pens/Pencils/Crayons/Pencil Crayons
- Stickers (for attendance)
- Attendance Chart – one for class
- Songs about Parables Sheets – one per every 2-3 students and for teacher

Optional Supplies
Talent Toss Game
- 5 Small Soft Beanbags, Balls, or Crumpled Papers – representing "talents"
- 3 Baskets or Boxes labeled – 1 Talent, 2 Talents, 5 Talents
- Timer – one for teacher either clock or timer from smartphone
- Snack: Trail Mix or Fruit Salad – enough for each student
- Scoop – for teacher
- Paper cups and spoons – one per student
- Napkins – one per student

Teacher Tips
★ See Lesson One to Review

1) Introduction to Lesson

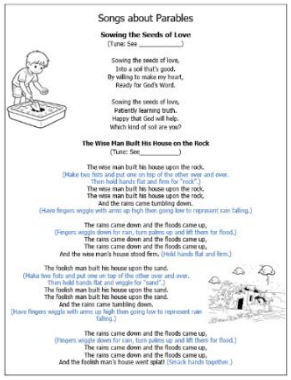
As students enter, welcome them and thank them for coming. Take attendance.

We are studying parables that were taught by Jesus. Parables are a simple story with a spiritual meaning. Jesus used these simple stories to help teach people about the Kingdom of God and other spiritually important topics.

Can anyone remember the main point of the parable of the late and early workers that we studied last time? Let students answer.

We noticed that the wise welcome those who come to the Kingdom regardless of when. God is happy that we are willing to come and work in the Kingdom. God has been kind and gracious to us, He wants everyone to be saved and so we need to be happy when others come to the Kingdom too.

Today we will see that the wise are prepared and willing to use what God has blessed them with.


Songs about Parables

Sowing the Seeds of Love
(Tune: See _____)

Sowing the seeds of love,
Into a soil that's good.
By willing to make my heart,
Ready for God's Word.

Sowing the seeds of love,
Patiently learning truth,
Happy that God will help.
Which kind of soil are you?

The Wise Man Built His House on the Rock
(Tune: See_____)

The wise man built his house upon the rock,
(Make two fists and put one on top of the other over and over.
Then hold hands flat and firm for "rock".)
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
The wise man built his house upon the rock,
And the rains came tumbling down.
(Have fingers wiggle with arms up high then going low to represent rain falling.)

The rains came down and the floods came up.
(Fingers wiggle down for rain, form palms up and lift them for flood.)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the wise man's house stood firm. (Hold hands flat and firm.)

The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
(Make two fists and put one on top of the other over and over.
Then hold hands flat and wiggle for "sand".)
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
The foolish man built his house upon the sand.
And the rains came tumbling down.
(Have fingers wiggle with arms up high then going low to represent rain falling.)

The rains came down and the floods came up.
(Fingers wiggle down for rain, form palms up and lift them for flood.)
The rains came down and the floods came up,
The rains came down and the floods came up,
And the foolish man's house went splat! (Smack hands together.)

Let's sing a song to get us started! Let's sing: God's Given You Talents.
Hand out one Songs about Parables to every 2 students so they can follow along. Sing songs once or twice.

2) Class Time – The Talents 15-20 minutes

<u>Prep</u>
Gather Bibles and Visual Aid. Hand out Bibles as needed.

<u>Class</u>
Ask students to turn to **Matthew 25**.
Show visual as you or volunteers read:
Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus continues discussing what the Kingdom of Heaven will be like.
The parable is talking about talents/money, but Jesus was talking about abilities or special things people can do for the Kingdom of God.
The Master is God, the servants are those who work in God's Kingdom – Christians, the talents are the gifts and abilities God has given to each person.

Questions:
How many talents did the first two workers receive? 5 and 2.
What was it based on? The master's favoritism or the workers abilities? Their abilities.
How did the master respond to the 5-talent worker when he returned? He was happy that he had put his talents and abilities to work and because of it he earned more.
How did the master respond to the 2-talent worker when he returned? The same. He was equally happy with him.

Notice God gave to each what they could handle.
Both workers earned the same amount with what they were given – double what they started with.

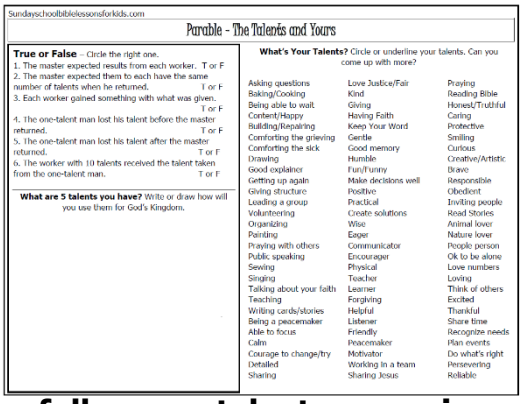
Was the master as happy with the 2-talent worker as the 5-talent worker? Yes!
What did the master say to them both, see verses 21 and 23? Well done, good and faithful servant.
Would you like God to say that about you? Let students answer.

I know I would love to hear God say well done to me! Jesus says we can know if God is happy with us by whether we are obeying and following Jesus and using the gifts and talents God has given us for His Kingdom. We can all know we are good and faithful servants of God when we use our gifts to serve God, others in the church, our family and friends, and those in our community and around the world.

How did the master feel about the 1 talent man? Angry because he was lazy and didn't use the talent given.
What should we do with the resources and abilities God gives us? Use them!
What will happen if we don't use our talents for God's Kingdom? God will be angry and we will be afraid and useless like the worker who didn't use his talent. In fact Jesus says what we do have will be taken away because we didn't use it.
Why was the 1-talent worker punished? Because he didn't use what God had given him, he was lazy and afraid to use what he had been given.

Allow for questions. You can contact Sundayschoolbiblelessonsforkids@protonmail.com if you need help with any questions.

3) Talents Discovery – Activity Sheet 10-20 minutes



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Parable - The Talents and Yours

True or False – Circle the right one.

1. The master expected results from each worker. T or F
2. The master expected them to each have the same number of talents when he returned. T or F
3. Each worker gained something with what was given. T or F
4. The one-talent man lost his talent before the master returned. T or F
5. The one-talent man lost his talent after the master returned. T or F
6. The worker with 10 talents received the talent taken from the one-talent man. T or F

What are 5 talents you have? Write or draw how will you use them for God's Kingdom.

What's Your Talents? Circle or underline your talents. Can you come up with more?

Asking questions	Love Justice/Fair	Praying
Baking/Cooking	Kind	Reading Bible
Being able to wait	Giving	Honest/Truthful
Content/Happy	Having Faith	Caring
Building/Repairing	Keep Your Word	Protective
Comforting the grieving	Gentle	Smiling
Comforting the sick	Good memory	Curious
Drawing	Humble	Creative/Artistic
Good explainer	Fun/Funny	Brave
Getting up again	Make decisions well	Responsible
Giving structure	Positive	Obedient
Leading a group	Practical	Inviting people
Volunteering	Create solutions	Read Stories
Organizing	Wise	Animal lover
Painting	Eager	Nature lover
Praying with others	Communicator	People person
Public speaking	Encourager	Ok to be alone
Sewing	Physical	Love numbers
Singing	Teacher	Loving
Talking about your faith	Learner	Think of others
Teaching	Forgiving	Excited
Writing cards/stories	Helpful	Thankful
Being a peacemaker	Listener	Share time
Able to focus	Friendly	Recognize needs
Calm	Peacemaker	Plan events
Courage to change/try	Motivator	Do what's right
Detailed	Working in a team	Persevering
Sharing	Sharing Jesus	Reliable

Hand out one sheet to each student that lists various gifts, abilities, and talents along with pencils. As a class read them aloud and have students circle the ones they believe they have. Tell students they can ask if they don't know what a word means and be ready as the teacher to explain it.

Say: **We all have talents. Our talents might be a full-grown talent, a growing talent, or a just starting talent. But as we use them, they will continue to grow and grow!**

Once they have circled their talents and maybe come up with more that are specific to them personally, have them on the bottom of the page take 5 of them and write out different ways they can use those talents for God's Kingdom.
For this section give an example:

What if I am good at:
Baking – Then I can bake cookies for visitors or those who are sick. Invite people by handing out cookies with an invitation card, teach others in the church how to bake, etc. I can study the Bible on examples of people who served and learn what makes a good servant!

Technology – I can help run the church website or start a website for the church. I can tape sermons, lessons, or create content with others that are put online. I can help those in the church who might need to learn how to use technology for their school or work. I can study the Bible on examples of people who shared the gospel and learn ways to share the gospel using technology!

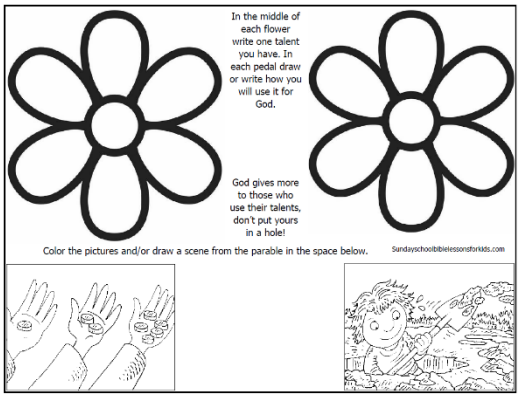
Leading – I can get a group together and come up with ways to make visitors feel welcome when they come to class or the church. I can come up with event ideas and help organize them. I can find people who can help and find church members willing to host the events and help get them all working towards a common goal. I can study the Bible on examples of different leaders and learn what makes a good leader!

Let students come up with their own 5 talents and 3 ways they can use each talent. Then as a class, share two of their talents with the class and how they would like to use them in the coming weeks or months. **Name 2 resources or talents God has given you. How could you use them to help God's Kingdom?**
*As the teacher, keep track of what they wanted to do and help them find an adult in the church willing to work with them on achieving their goal if possible. Make sure at least one of their talents is allowed to be used with the help of the church in the coming weeks.

Answers: True or False
1. T
2. F – He expected them to grow their talents but they did not need to have the same results.
3. F – The third servant hid his talent and did not use it, therefore gained nothing from it.
4. F – He hid it, he did not lose it.
5. T – Yes, the master took it from him and gave it to the 5-talent servant. If we don't use what God blesses us with, we may lose it!
6. T

4) Talents Activity Sheet 2 10-20 minutes

Flip the page and giving crayons or pencil crayons, have them do the following activities after you read the instructions aloud. Help as needed since some students will recognize they have a talent: cooking, for example, but not sure how to use it for God's Kingdom. Ex: cooking for church events, making food for those who are sick or for moms who just had babies, inviting people to church by giving away some muffins or treats, etc.



While they color/draw ask students:
Which would you rather hear from God? Well done good and faithful servant? Or you wicked and slothful servant? Well done!
Then read **Matthew 25:29**

For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

What is a talent *you* have that you might be hiding?
This week, pick one or more talents and use them to grow better with it, and to help someone. Pray that God will help you find ways to use your talents and that you continue to recognize the ones you have and the new ones that will come as you grow. Pray that you will be a good and faithful servant.

5) Optional: Talent Toss Game 10-15 minutes

Prep
This game helps students recognize the need to use and take risks to develop their talents, not hide them. Gather balls/crumpled paper, baskets that are labeled, and a timer.

Game
Have students stay behind a certain "line" in a row one behind the other. Then put the three baskets in a row starting about 1.5 meters/5 feet away from where the students stand one behind the other. Put the 1 talent bucket first, then the 5 talent, and then 10 talent. So students are in a long line and the baskets are facing opposite to them in a line with the 1 talent bucket closest to them.

Give each student one "talent" and let them chose if they are going to throw it into the 1, 5, or 10 talent bucket. If they miss, they can try to get it into one of the three buckets as many times as needed within 30 seconds. But only 1 toss in total for this round that goes into a bucket. (For those at the 25 second mark who still haven't gotten one in, let them take a step or two forward and tell them their talent must be just starting so they need more help to make it grow. 😊

Have them remember their "points". If it goes into the 1 talent, they get 1 point, 5 for 5 and 10 for 10. Once all students have had a turn throwing a talent in the bucket to make more talents, have them line up again. This time give them 2 balls/crumpled paper at a time. They get to decide how they will use their 2 talents and they have 30 seconds to get their two talents in the buckets. Tell them to keep track of the points they made for themselves on this round. Next play again, this time a student gets 5 talents to try and toss into the buckets. Again, keeping track of how many points they get and only having 30 seconds. Make sure they always stay back enough that it is not

very easy to get it into the baskets but easy enough that they can get most or all into the 1st bucket.
Allow students to sit back down at the table.

Discuss:
What was easier, tossing into the 1, 2, or 5 talent bucket? The 1 talent because it was closest.
When you had more talents, how did that change how you decided to throw the balls? Let students answer.
Did you get excited with having more talents than when you started only with 1? Let students answer.
Did most of you notice that with every new talent you received (a ball), the points got higher as you were able to use more talents for more things and you might have gotten braver in trying to reach for the back for more points? Let students answer.

God is willing to build and grow our talents if we are willing to build and grow the ones He has already given us. We need to use our talents for God's Kingdom and when we do, over time, God will help us develop more talents.

We might start off using a talent for only one thing, but then as we get more confident, we try different ways. What might start off with the ability to organize could turn into planning events for the church, helping your mom organize the kitchen cupboards, teaching others how to organize, offer to organize the church supply room or offices, etc. Our talent can grow and grow if we are willing to use it. And even if we "miss" and our talent doesn't work the way we hoped it would, like when we tossed the ball and missed, God gives us another chance and we can try something different or in a different way to use our gift and talent better the next time. But if we keep trying, no matter how many we start with, the talents will grow.

Take a risk, use your gifts for God today and see them grow. God wants us to use our gifts boldly, not hide them out of fear. You know how to hear "Well done!" from God – be wise and prepared by doing God's will and using your talents in His Kingdom.

6) Optional: Memory Verse 5 minutes

Today is the last day to practice these verses: **Ephesians 4:32 and Matthew 25:21.** Praise those who remembered them, hand out a treat if you choose to reward memorizing.

7) Closing Prayer

**Before the prayer, make sure the activities have been cleaned up. Ask if there are any prayers the students want to share and if so write them down.

Thank You God that You invite everyone to come to Your Kingdom. May we come early and be willing to work. Help us to remember we are blessed and privileged when we become Your children. Thank You for our talents. May we be wise and prepared recognizing and using the talents You have given us. We pray that You will help us find ways to use our talents. And, that we continue to recognize the ones we have and the new ones that will come as we grow. We pray that we will be good and faithful servants.

Thank You for Your Son who teaches us the right way through Your Word the Bible. Be with those who were not able to attend today. Be with our families, friends, and those in the church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

8) Optional Snack: Many Talents Mix 5 minutes

Prep

*Check for allergies. Gather either a pre-made trail mix or make your own with raisins, nuts, chocolate chips, mini-marshmallows, cereal pieces, etc. **OR** buy or make a fruit salad with small pieces of various fruit such as strawberries, pineapple, apples, grapes, etc. Have cups and spoons with napkins for students and a spoon to scoop the "talents" into their cups.

You've all done a great job this morning learning that God's Kingdom is full of those who are wise and prepared by recognizing the talents they have been given and using them to work for the Lord.

What is this? Show mix.

This is what our talents are like, a big mix of various things. It takes time to look and figure out each one. It's in the mix, but we have to search to find it. And then when we do, we can savor it and enjoy it. When our talent is used, it grows in various ways. And when combined with our other gifts from God, it all works together beautifully. May you be thankful to God for your talents and whatever they are, know they are useful to God's Kingdom. As you enjoy your snack, think of the different talents you looked at today and how each one is different yet useful and enjoyable in its own special way.

Hand out snacks.
Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss and review questions while snacking.

What was the parable about today? Let students answer.
What should we do with our gifts and talents God has given us? Thank Him and use them in the Kingdom.
Any questions about today's parable?
What was the favorite thing you learned or did today? Why?

9) Optional Songs 5 minutes

Practice singing the Old or New Testament Books of the Bible.
Sing songs from the Song Sheet.

10) Things to Remember

Thank students for coming.
Remind them to take their activity sheets home.
Make sure students leave with a responsible person.

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!