

**FAITH QUEST - St. Mary's Anglican Church – Regina**  
**“Use It or Lose It” PARABLE OF THE TALENTS**

**What's My Talent? - DIVINE DIVERSIONS**

Scripture: Matthew 25: 14-30, 34-40

Memory Verse “Each one should use whatever gifts they have received to serve others...  
1 Peter 4:10

Objectives: To teach the children that God gives each person talents/abilities that should never be wasted.

Lesson Prep: 1) Read Background Information  
2) Read and familiarize yourself with the lesson and the scripture.  
3) NOTE: Volunteer guests are needed for the game.

Materials: White board or flip chart  
Markers  
Candy prizes (or alternative option for prizes)

**The Lesson**

Opening: Welcome children. Take attendance. Collect offering. Open with prayer.

Presentation: Distribute “treats” to those who brought their own Bible.  
Explain that Jesus told stories, called parables, to his followers because he wouldn't always be living here on earth and he wanted them, and us, to learn to be loyal to him and use every opportunity to serve him, even when he was no longer here.

Read the scripture verses, Matthew 25:14-30 and 34-40. Discuss what happened in this parable – use the background notes to help you. Review memory verse.

The characters in the parables represent God and us and our relationship with each other, how God wants us to act, things God does or doesn't want us to do, etc.

Have everyone name off different talents that people can have, and list them on the whiteboard. If they do not include them, be sure all 7 spiritual gifts are included. Along with a brief explanation, they are:

Mercy — caring for others' health and well-being

Service — being a worker for the King

Teaching — think of a favorite, special teacher you've had and how kind they were

Evangelism — sharing your faith, helping someone find “the way”

Encouragement — cheering someone on, a cheerleader

Giving — being generous with everything you have: your time, gifts, patience, etc.

Leadership — being a leader, standing up for what's right

The list of talents they name might include things like: drawing, singing, sports, etc. Mention that our talents can be used as spiritual gifts, eg. A good storyteller can use this for teaching about God/evangelism.

You can also list the various Spiritual Gifts. The Spiritual Gifts can be found in the following verses: 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, Ephesians 4:11,12, 1 Peter 4:10,11 and Romans 12:4-8.

Now play “What’s my talent” as mentioned here:

### **The Game:**

Optional suggestions: Teams can choose a name for themselves, Teams can opt for a “uniform” (same hats, crepe paper neckties/bowties, goofy eyeglasses); Teams start with 1000 points.

Players on each team take turns asking a question — make sure no one person monopolizes questioning, they should take turns; Give out two candy pieces (or other suitable prize)for each person on the winning team and one piece each for the other team. Your whiteboard list may look something like this:

#### **Talents**

Drawing  
Singing  
Athletics  
Teaching  
Writing  
Acting  
Musician  
Artist  
Story Telling  
Construction  
Flying

#### **Spiritual Gifts**

Having Knowledge & Wisdom  
Having Faith  
Healing  
Performing Miracles  
Preaching  
Showing Discernment  
Evangelism  
Pastor  
Teaching  
Serving Others  
Encouraging Others

Make sure there are plenty of options to choose from to make the game more interesting. Have a volunteer, or two (or three?), agree to be a special guest. Choose a talent or Spiritual Gift for the volunteer and tell them to pretend (or use real talents or gifts) they have that special talent or Spiritual Gift when answering the questions from the class. Form two teams.

Tell the kids in the teams they will start with 1000 points. The object of the game is to guess what talent or Spiritual Gift the special guest has, but they can only ask questions that can be answered with “yes” or “no”.

Each time an answer is “no”, 100 points is deducted from the total and the other team asks the next question. As long as the answers are “yes”, no points are deducted, and the same team continues to ask the questions.

Kids in each team take turns asking a question. The team that guesses the talent or Spiritual Gift correctly wins the game. If time permits choose another talent or Spiritual Gift for the guest. Teams alternate starting each game. The Shepherd should keep track of the score.

After the game, summarize:

We each have the ability to use the talents God has given us for the purpose of expanding the kingdom of God. One of the most important things to remember about the Spiritual Gifts and talents God has given us is that we need to acknowledge God having given us the talent, not take the credit for ourselves.

Sometimes sports players, musicians, or actors do this when they receive an award or are congratulated on an accomplishment. They first thank God for their talent. In this way, the glory goes off us and onto God so that God is the one who receives the praise! It puts God in the spotlight and that shows other people how good God is and how He wants to be part of our lives.

Close with prayer.