

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

The Good Servants - KING'S THEATRE

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) Decide how you want to “direct” the actors. (There are several choices.)

Materials: Bibles
Costumes, puppets, props, 15 bags of gold
Cassette recorder, with microphone and blank cassette
Scripts
Worksheets

The Lesson

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

Presentation: Distribute “treats” to those who brought their own Bible.
Read, tell, take turns telling the parable of the good stewards, Matthew 25:14-30
Recite the memory verse together 1 Peter 4:10.

The Drama:

Tell the children that they are going to get the opportunity to act out the Bible story today. They can choose to act it out themselves or use puppets. They may choose to act out the skit one time and use puppets for a second time. Of course, using puppets will require puppeteers as well as script readers.

Hand out the first scripts (if the class is large, divide the children into 2 or more groups – each doing one of the plays). Assign parts. If you don't have enough parts, some children could be guards or the investors.

If the children like, they can read their parts into the tape recorder and mime the play as well as the puppet show. Younger children may have trouble reading some of the words. You and another adult may want to record the script ahead of time.

Make sure to have the children use lots of expression in their voices and big exaggerated movements with the acting and with the puppets. It adds to the fun.
Perform the play. If there are two groups, let each group perform for the other.

The Good Servants

Cast (4 people)

The Master

Servant #1

Servant #2

Servant #3

See attached script at the end of the lesson.

Discussion:

After they are done, ask the children to explain why it is bad to waste the talents and gifts that God has given them.

Ask them why someone might waste a talent.

Do they know someone with a special talent?

Does that person use their talent?

How do they feel when they get to experience that person's talent? (jealous, happy, joyful, etc.)

If you have a talent (like teaching or singing) that you use for the kingdom of God, share with the children how you feel when you use your talent.

Closing Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father: Thank you for the wonderful gifts and talents that you have given each of us. Thank you for the opportunities you give us to use them. Help us to use our talents wisely and for your glory. Amen

Clean Up: Have the children put away the costumes and other props.

SCRIPT – THE GOOD SERVANTS

MASTER: I think I'll take a trip. (loudly) SERVANTS!

#1, 2 & 3 (Running in): Yes Master?

MASTER: I'm going to take a trip. I may be gone for a long time so I want you to take care of some things for me while I am gone. Servant number 1, please come here.

#1 (Stepping forward): Yes Master?

MASTER: Take these 5 bags of gold. You are responsible enough to handle all this gold for me. Now I will want you to tell me what you did with this money when I come home.

#1 (Excitedly): Yes sir! I think I know just what to do!

MASTER: Servant number 2, please come here.

#2 (Stepping forward): Yes Master?

MASTER: Take these 2 bags of gold. I think you are responsible enough to handle 2 bags of gold for me. Now I will want you to tell me what you did with this money when I come home.

#2: Oh boy! I mean yes Sir!

MASTER: Servant number 3, please come here.

#3: What?

MASTER: I asked you to please come here.

#3: Oh. Ok (steps forward)

MASTER: Servant #3, hmmm. Servant #3, I think you can definitely handle one bag of gold. You're smart enough, you just need to think about what you are doing. I will, of course, want to hear about what you did with my gold when I come home.

#3 (looking down): Oh ok, I'll try.

MASTER: Good, see that you do try. Now I am on my way. Be prepared for my return!
(The Master leaves)

#1: Oh boy! What a great opportunity to serve my Master! I'm going to double this money while he's gone. Then he will be really proud of me and reward me!

#2: I want to do that too! Will you help me? I'm not sure I can manage so much money.

#1: Of course you can! Our Master always knows exactly what we can do. Haven't you noticed how he always knows how much work each of us can do in a day? He knows what we can and what we can't do. If you couldn't manage that money, he wouldn't have given it to you.

#2: You're right! I know I can do this! How about you, #3?

#3: What?

#2: What are you going to do with your bag of gold #3?

#3: Oh. I'm not sure yet.

#2: Well, remember that the Master knows that you can handle this money.

#3: What? Oh, right.

(#1 & #2 leave shaking their heads.)

#3: They don't think I pay attention but I do. I don't know why they're so excited about doing more work for our Master. I'm going to protect this gold but that's all! (#3 leaves)

(The Master Returns)

MASTER: I am home! How I missed being here. (Loudly) SERVANTS!

#1, 2 & 3 (hurry in together): Master! You're home!

MASTER (laughing): Yes, and it is good to be here and to see my servants again! Are you ready for me?

#1: Yes master. Give us a minute to go get the money.

(The Three servants run off.)

MASTER: Ahh. Who could have better servants?

(The three servants run back in carrying their bags of gold.)

MASTER: #1, What did you do with my money while I was gone?

#1: Oh, Master. I invested it wisely and look! I have 10 bags of gold to give you!

MASTER (Smiling): That is excellent, excellent! I shall reward you! You have been faithful and now you shall be even more important in my house. You will have more responsibility and honor!

#1: Thank you Master!

MASTER: #2, what did you do with my money while I was gone?

#2: Oh Master! I invested your money wisely too! Look, I have 4 bags of gold to give you!

MASTER (Smiling): That is wonderful! I shall reward you too! You have been faithful and now you shall be even more important in my house. You will be given more responsibility and honor!

#2: Thank you Master!

MASTER: #3, what did you do with my money while I was gone?

#3: What?

MASTER: I said, what did you do with my money while I was gone?

#3: Oh. Well I was so busy and I had so much work to do that I just decided to keep the money safe. So I buried it.

MASTER (Frowning): You buried it!

#3: Well, I knew you would be angry if I lost it. I didn't want you to be angry so I buried it. Here is your one bag of gold!

MASTER (angry): Did you think that this would make me happy? I gave you that gold so you could do something worthwhile with it. If I had wanted to keep it safe I could have buried it myself! Lazy! That's what you are! Well I will never give you my gold to work with again!
Servants #1 & 2!

#1 & 2: Yes Master?

MASTER: Throw that lazy servant out!

#1 & 2: Yes Master!