

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Do your best with the talents God gave you.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will identify gifts, talents, or abilities they have been given and state how they can use those for God.

KEY PASSAGE:

Matthew 25:14-30, The Parable of the Talents/Bags of Gold

INTRO:

How many of you guys would love to have the basketball talents of LeBron James? How many of you girls would like to have the singing talent of Taylor Swift? Who here would like to have the talent to be a Hollywood movie star? An Olympic athlete? Is there anyone who would like to have the talent to lead worship in church one day?

Perhaps one day someone out of this group here will become famous in sports, in movies, or in music. It's very rare to have a talent like that, but that doesn't mean our talents do not matter. God has blessed every one of us with special talents. Some of us have many talents. Some only a few. Some of them are big and some of them are small. All of them matter to God.

It's easy to compare ourselves to other people, and in doing so, to become jealous of people we think have better talents than us. But if we let ourselves become jealous of other people, we are focused on the wrong thing. The only thing that matters to God is not what our talent is, but how we use that talent for Jesus.

Today we're going to read another parable of Jesus. This parable is about three servants who worked for a wealthy man. Each of the servants were given a certain amount of money - or as the money was called in Jesus' time, talents. Listen to what happened to the three servants.

READ MATTHEW 25:14-30**MAIN POINT:**

Two of the servants took what their master gave them and invested the money.

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They were able to double their investments so that when their master returned, they could give him the money. Their master was so pleased, and he gave both men praise. The master knew he could trust these men so he gave them even more responsibility and opportunity.

The same cannot be said for the man who was given one talent. This man, instead of investing his talent, chose to be bitter and jealous. He was upset that other servants had more talents than he did, so he refused to do anything with his talent. He sat on it, and returned it to his master. He disappointed his master, and he lost what little he had.

God doesn't want us to focus on the things we don't have. He doesn't want us to wish for more or to be jealous of others. God wants us to discover the talents that make us special. He wants us to focus on using those talents to serve him so when he returns, he will say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

DRIVE IT HOME:

God has given every man, woman, and child on Earth unique talents. Some of us are skilled in math and science. Some of us are musical. Some are great speakers, and some are natural hard workers. Some can cook and bake. Some are great at acting. Some are mechanically inclined, and some have a gift for lifting up and encouraging others.

Each one of us has a special set of talents and a special place in God's family. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul describes us as being one body with many parts. We can't take the place of anyone else, there are no unimportant parts. We all have a role to play in God's church.

READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12:21; 26

God has given each of us talents and a role to play in the body of Christ. What a shame it would be if we never play our part because we're too focused on jealousy and bitterness!

God wants us to discover who he made us to be. He doesn't want us to worry about other people and their talents. He wants to find our place and do our part. Whether you have one talent or ten, whether you have big talents or small, your talent matters! You matter to God.

If you've already discovered your talents, ask God to show you how you can use them. If you haven't discovered your talents, ask God to show them to you. Then you can find your place in the body of Christ. Put your talents to work for God. No one can play your part but you.

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CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for the gifts you have given each of us.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*