

RESPOND 10

Pass out leaflets, crayons, and play clay.

Let's tear and do the square!

1. Some of these photos show talents or abilities we can use to bring joy to others. And some show things that are gifts we might give at birthdays or holidays.
2. Invite kids to draw a talent they can share in the center circle.
3. Talk about each photo. **Is this a talent or ability that can bring joy to others? Or is it a thing we might give someone for a birthday?**
4. If a picture shows a gift that may be given at a birthday party, have kids cross it out.
5. After talking about each photo and sharing the picture they drew, have kids "bury" talents on the leaflet with play clay. Then uncover those talents! Repeat for as many talents as they want.
6. As kids are burying and uncovering their talents, ask more questions. **Which talents do you have? When do you show that talent to others? What talents do you wish you had?**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Jesus told a story about a man who hid the talent that was given to him. It didn't do any good while it was buried. God believes in us and wants us to share our talents with others. What do you wonder about your talents? Take time to hear kids' responses.

Pass out leaflet panels and aluminum foil flames.

Let's make candles to remind us that we should let our talents shine. Show kids how to roll the panel into a tube and tape it closed. Have kids tape their foil flame to the top to create a candle.

Send kids out.

Invite kids to stand in circle and touch the leaflet candles around the circle, saying together to each kid: **God believes in (Name) and his/her gift of (Talent).**

Pray together: **Dear God, thank you for giving us gifts and for believing in us! Help us to not hide our talents but to share them with others. Amen.**

Thank each kid for sharing a specific gift in class today. Remind kids of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.

Parable of the Talents

PreK-K

TALENTS • LECTIONARY 33
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST • YEAR A

MATTHEW 25:14-30



33

What is happening in this story?

Matthew's Gospel offers several stories to help people understand what the kingdom of God is like. These stories reveal perspective about both the character of God and how it is that we are called to follow. In our Western society we look at the profit margin and figure this is why the servants receive praise. In their context what makes them good and loyal is that they trust in their ability to invest because the master believed in them. When we invest our gifts for God, we will never come up empty. The rewards will always be great.

Why does this story matter for kids?

It's easy to encourage kids who have already developed many talents, such as reading, music, or sports. But there are other kids whose skills are yet undiscovered. God gives each of us special gifts we can share with each other. We need to be willing to take a risk to find out what they are, believe in them, and use them.

What is the lectionary connection?

The readings at the end of the church year speak of end times and Jesus' second coming. We gather around signs of hope at the end of the Season of Pentecost, eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts God has provided.

AGE LEVEL TIP

Young kids will need help understanding the difference between *talents* in this story (a kind of money), and *talents* in our day, referring to skills and abilities.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Crayons
- Clear tape

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Aluminum foil "flames"
- Gift-wrapped box
- Play clay

WHIRL SUPPLIES

• WHIRL STORY BIBLES

• DVD

• FLOOR MAT

• LEAFLETS

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Invite kids to search the room for shiny items. Have them look for the aluminum foil flames (hidden ahead of time) in addition to other shiny objects.

Invite kids to sit in a circle on the Floor Mat.

Point out the church season (Season after Pentecost) and color (green). Place the wrapped gift on the Floor Mat. **Today we're going to learn about the gifts or talents God gives us. God wants us to use our gifts and talents to bring joy to others because God believes in us! When you hear a gift or talent called out that you like to share, put your hand on the gift box. You can put your hand on the box more than once.** Name things kids can do and are good at, such as being a friend, playing various sports, helping clean up, folding clothes, singing, drawing, and so on.

Invite kids to stand in a circle and fist bump around the circle, saying together to each kid, **God believes in (Name) and his/her gifts.**

Pass out leaflets and crayons.

The Bible story today tells about someone who hid something given to him that wasn't meant to

be hidden. Some of the video kids are hiding on the leaflet. Can you find them and circle them? When have you hidden something? Why did you hide it? Collect leaflets until Respond.

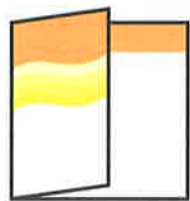
Gather kids around the screen where you'll watch the video.

In the video today, the kids are getting ready for a talent show. Let's watch to see who is excited to share a talent and who isn't.

View Episode 10, "Staged Fright," on the Whirl Year A, Fall PreK-Grade 2 DVD.

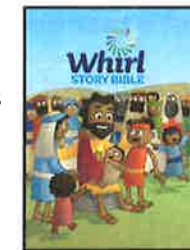
Ask kids these questions about the video.

- What surprised you about Clara's talent?
- I wonder why Clara was afraid to show her talent to everyone.
- What part of the talent show looked like the most fun?
- If you were in a talent show, what would you want to do?



Pass out Whirl Story Bibles to kids.

Let's find our story today! Open your Bible with kids to "Trusted with Talents" on page 266. Start by pointing out the graphic that shows the feet in the green circle for the Season after Pentecost. Before you read, explain that a talent in Jesus' day was a kind of money. Invite kids to look for the servant burying his talent.



Read the story and Ada and Otto's questions and comments on each page.

Ask these questions after you read the story.

- What did the first two servants do with the talents the rich man gave them?
- I wonder why the third servant hid his talent.
- What surprised you about the rich man's reaction to the servant who hid his talent?
- How can our talents and gifts bring joy to others?

Play together.

Hold a "talent show." Call out talents that bring joy to others that kids can demonstrate or pantomime: singing, laughing, giving a hug, playing different instruments, dancing, helping clean up, baking cookies, and so on. **There are so many different talents—everyone has some to share.**

BIBLE BIT

Talent took on two meanings in Greek. To the early church, this parable would have obviously been about the abilities of those in the community.

WATCH IT AGAIN

If you watch the video again, ask kids to listen for how Clara encourages Ada to share her talent.

OUR CHURCH

Invite someone who shares a talent with your church to visit the class—maybe even an older kid or teen. What does this person share? How long did she or he work to develop the talent?

TODAY'S READINGS Judges 4:1-7 • Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 • 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

Parable of the Talents

LECTIONARY 33
MATTHEW 25:14-30



This week's theme is TALENTS. God gives us talents because God wants us to use them. Here are some activities that can help your family think about the talents God has given you, and how you can use them to serve God.

Digging into the Story

Go outside to your backyard or someplace else you can safely dig. Put a small toy in a plastic bag. Bury it in the ground and keep it there for a week. How did it feel knowing it was buried in the ground? What was it like when you dug it up? Was this a good place to keep your toy? What does all this digging teach you about the story?

What's a Talent Worth?

Search online to see if you can find out how much 10 talents was worth during Bible times. What about 5 talents? 1 talent? What would the monetary equivalent be today?

Quite a List!

Talents are more than just the money you have—talents can be time spent, a gift you share, or a unique skill that you have. Make a list of your family's talents. Think of ways you can share them to serve your church and the community. Every family has talents to share!

Double or Nothing

Can you think of some card games where you can play "double or nothing"? Play one of these games. Talk about how it is risky to try doubling your money. How does this risk relate to the story?

Your Talents Are Noted

Leave little notes for family members as they use their talents. For example, leave a note that says "You are a talented cook" for whoever prepared dinner or a note that reads "You are a talented dancer" when someone returns from dance practice. Leave coins with the notes as a reminder that these talents are worth something.

Missionaries Risk

Does your congregation sponsor any missionaries? Research them to find out where they are and what they do. How are they taking a big risk to use their talents? How does your church support them?

Parable Search

The parable of the talents is just one of many parables that Jesus told to teach people about God's kingdom. How many other parables does your family know? Look in the Gospel of Matthew for parables. Write each one on a card. Play a game where one person draws the parable, and everyone else guesses which parable it is.

This week our family is praying for . . .

Parable of the Talents

LECTIONARY 33 • TALENTS
SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

PreK-K



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