

Pass out leaflets and markers.

Let's tear and do the square!

1. Hold up the square. **What is this a picture of?** Allow kids to respond. **It's a floor plan showing us the inside of a building. This floor plan looks like the inside of a church building! Today we are exploring how a church is built on the inside. Many of us have seen construction sites where buildings are built on the outside. But what makes a church work on the inside once the building is made? What talents does a church need to make it work?** Allow kids to respond.
2. Record kids' ideas of the different talents needed in a church on a whiteboard or flip chart.
3. Hold up the square again. **Now it's time to put this church to work. Draw people in different areas of the church building who are using their talents to help build this church from the inside.**
4. Take time to acknowledge each kid's work. **I notice you are drawing _____ . That's great!**
5. Once each kid has drawn at least two pictures, invite the class to put their art supplies down. Gather kids in an open space and invite them to build a cross on the floor by using their squares as building blocks.
6. When the cross is built, look together at all the different talents needed to build a church community. **It takes a lot of people and talents to make a church!**

LAUNCH 10

Circle up with kids for a quick review.

Jesus taught us to use our talents! Why is it hard to use our talents? Allow kids to respond. **Clara had trouble discovering her talent. And one servant in our story was scared to use his talent. But we should never be scared to use our talents for Jesus!**

Pass out leaflet panels, markers, and star-shaped stickers.

Invite kids to interview a classmate for a church talent search. Kids can use markers or star-shaped stickers to mark the panel. Finished panels can be displayed on a community board.

Send kids out.

Repeat the opening ritual. **Tell us one way you can use your talents this week. Using our talents to serve God is the work of God's family.**

Pray together by inviting kids to echo each phrase after you:
God, we are your Pentecost people. We each have talents.
Help us use our talents to help each other,
Today, tomorrow, and every day.
Amen

Thank kids for sharing their talents today and every day. Remind them of the Family Square on the other side of the leaflet.

Parable of the Talents

Grades
1-2

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

Today you'll say good-bye to the Season after Pentecost until it returns again near the end of next spring. Expect more questions as kids figure out why they are moving on and what is coming next.



GENERAL SUPPLIES

- Markers
- Glue sticks
- Clear tape

LESSON SUPPLIES

- Mural paper
- Hand wipes
- Basket
- Fabric scraps
- Coins
- Star stickers
- Whiteboard or flip chart

Do some kids arrive early? Try this.

Draw a large green circle on mural paper. Invite kids to make a wreath by marking thumbs with green marker, thumb-printing around the circle, adding their names, and wiping thumbs clean.

Invite kids to gather near the Wall Chart.

Point out today's date, church season (Season after Pentecost) and color (green). Point to today's wedge.

We are still in the Season after Pentecost. What do you notice about today's wedge? Allow kids to respond. **Today marks the last green space during the Season after Pentecost. We've been growing as a church week after week, and we will keep growing and learning as we begin a new church season.** Hold up a cloth piece. **Today we will learn that using our talents is important in growing our church.** Choose a kid to glue the cloth on today's Wall Chart wedge.

Give each kid a cloth piece. Place your piece in the basket. **This week I used my bread-baking talent and baked Holy Communion bread.** Pass the basket around. Hear kids' talent stories.

Pass out leaflets and markers.

We've learned a lot together in the Season after Pentecost, and we've done a whole lot of growing! Let's draw growing plants to help us remember how we've grown and what we've learned. Invite kids to draw a plant growing out of the pot. Encourage kids to draw flowers with open petals, then fill the petals with words about what they have learned in some of your lessons together, or ways that they have grown since the Sunday school year began. Collect their leaflets until Respond.

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

Have you ever been in or watched a talent show? What about a piano recital or Christmas pageant? Allow kids to respond. **Today our video friends are in a talent show. Let's see what's happening backstage.**

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

Ask kids these questions about the video.

- **Who was hiding in our video today? Why?**
- **Who became nervous as she watched the show? What helped Ada overcome her nervousness?**
- **How did Clara discover her talent?**
- **Talk about a time when you were really nervous. What did you 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 feet in the green circle for the Season after Pentecost. Before you read, invite them to look for cloth, seeds, and a shovel.



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

Ask these questions after you read the story.

- **There were three servants in our story today. How many talents did the first servant receive? How many talents did the second servant receive? How many talents did the third servant receive? What did the different servants do with their talents?**
- **A talent can be an amount of money, but the word *talent* can also mean what we are good at or know how to do. What are your talents?**
- **How do we serve God by using our talents?**
- **What do you think God's kingdom might look like?**

Play together.

Hide ten coins together, four coins together, and one coin by itself. (Note: What you hide and what you ask kids to find will be different.) Then divide kids into three teams. **Let's play a talent seek-and-find game. Team one, look for the first servant's five talents. Team two, look for the second servant's two talents. And Team three, look for the third servant's one talent. Let's go find the talents.** When kids find the additional talents, talk about how our talents can multiply if, when we find them, we bring them out instead of keeping them buried.

BIBLE BIT

In the Bible, *talent* has more than one meaning. A talent can be a monetary sum equal to many years' wages; it can also refer to a person's individual skills.

WATCH IT AGAIN

As you watch, look for the kid who is unaware of everyone else on stage, and unaware of being frightened.

OUR CHURCH

Celebrate each individual in your community by creating and then giving out hand-made cards that say, "You celebrate God by being you!"

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

Grades
1-2



33

The Season after Pentecost
is a time of **Growing**



★ Church Talent Search ★

Building a Church on the Inside

- _____ Bake cookies
- _____ Clean up the church
- _____ Collect food for hungry people
- _____ Fix things
- _____ Plant a vegetable garden
- _____ Sing
- _____ Smile
- _____ Usher
- _____ Visit people
- _____ Welcome new people



(Write in a talent!)



Congratulations,

_____,
you've got talent!

