

Together @ Home

Lectionary Edition
Sunday 15th November



Here are some activities you could do together as a family. Begin with the story and then do as many or as few as you like, in any order.

Bible Passage

Today we will be exploring together, Jesus' parable of the Talents.

You can find it in your Bible in:

Matthew 25:14-30

Read the story together – choose a Bible translation or children's story version which best suits your family.

The other passages we might be thinking about at church this week are:

Psalm 118
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A prayer to say together

Dear God,

Thank you for the parable of the talents, help us to be like the good servants who took what they had and looked after it well, making more from what they had.

Thank you that you are our provider and give us good gifts. Thank you for the talents, abilities, and skills you have put into each of us. Help us to be good stewards of your gifts, using what we have to share your love with others.

Give us boldness to share the skills and talents we have and not to hide them away.

Amen.

Discussion

A question for adults to ask children

What talents and skills do you have that you could use for God?

The talents that Jesus spoke of in the story were coins. The servants were given them and told to be good stewards, making wise decisions about how the money was used so that it produced the best results. God has given each of us talents and skills of a different kind. Our talents are the things we do well and love to do, but just like the servants in the story it is up to us to choose to make wise decisions about how we use them and not hide them away out of sight.

God has a part for each of us to play in growing His Kingdom and sharing His love with others.

A question for children to ask adults

What gifts do you use to serve God and others?

Jesus said that "the Son of Man did not come to be served. He came to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many people." Service is part of our role as Christians. While our churches are meeting virtually there are many roles and experiences that are lost. Your family won't be greeted at the door, there won't have been people in early to set up your meeting space, you will have to make your own drinks and snacks! There's a 'Church at Home' resource to help you think about how we can replicate these areas of service at home. Find it at www.hvbc.org.

Family Activity 1

Hide the Talent

Choose an object to represent the 'talent' in the story, use a real coin or make your own giant coin to hide – cut a circle from cardboard and cover it in silver foil.



Take turns hiding the talent somewhere in the room or elsewhere in the house. Use temperature words (e.g. hotter, colder, boiling, freezing) to help tell people when they are getting nearer to the talent or moving further away.



A verse to remember

1 Peter 4 v 10

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others. Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.

To learn this verse together, you could come up with some actions to help you remember it. Why not decorate the verse on a piece of paper together and put it up somewhere to remind you of it through the week and/or draw a picture of the gifts God has given each person in your family?

Spiritual Gifts

The Bible tells us that we can receive Gifts of the Spirit – gifts from God that we can use with the help of Holy Spirit.

A few of these gifts that are available to all of us are listed below. Why not talk about each of these different gifts together.

Which would you most like to receive?

Pray and ask God to help you use your gifts to serve and share love with others today.

Family Activity 2

Hold your own family talent show, giving everybody a chance to share a gift or skills they have.

What will your talent be?

- Singing?
- Playing an instrument?
- Painting a picture?
- Demonstrating Sports Skills?
- Reading a story?
- Acting out a scene?
- Building something on Minecraft?



Tongues & Interpretation

We can speak a new prayer language or we can interpret when somebody else speaks in tongues.

1 Corinthians 12 v 10

Faith

We can ask God for more faith!

1 Corinthians 12 v 9

Teaching

We can have the skill to pass on knowledge to others.

Romans 12 v 7

Healing

We can pray for those who are sick to be well.

1 Corinthians 12 v 9

Words of knowledge

We can share encouraging messages from God with others.

1 Corinthians 12 v 8

Encouragement

We can be an encourager of others.

Romans 12 v 8

Service

We can be somebody who serves others.

Romans 12 v 7

Coloring Page

Drawings provided by www.whimsyclips.com

Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others.



Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.

1 Peter 4 v 10

PUZZLE SHEET

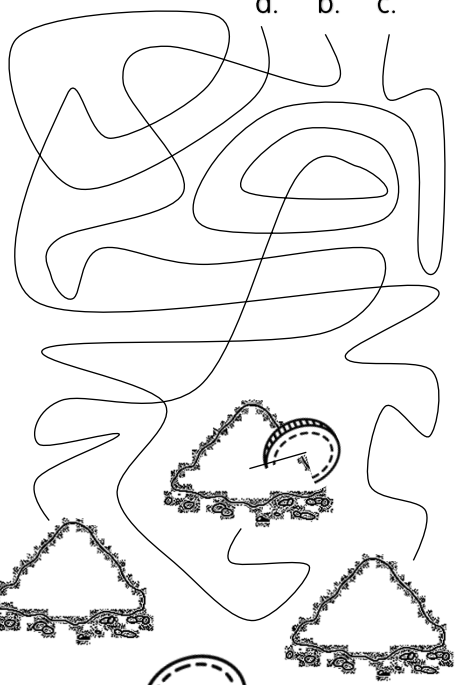
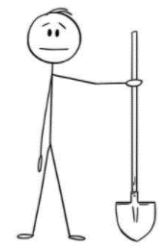
How many coins like this one can you find on the page?



Can you find the 8 differences between the two pictures?



Which path should the servant follow to find where he buried the coin?



Can you find all these words hidden in the word search?

s t f i g h h d l m y u t c s k q c y p f y s l p
 m t m k r t i m o j a j k t n g f y t s m z z u b
 k k n p y q d j a o b s n p r x g z z k d d g f q
 p o u a t g d h c r g e t o d w c x x b y i f h z
 z e c f v w e t x n l d u e u k i w m d a n p t v
 a h v l m r n o n a a n u m r m h v a d z e c i x
 u m d z l n e r t y d j o u r n e y y v j f i a h
 e f i p u d m s u l s n p r n w k r f p a v h f i
 g c w s a h x x q c q l g r z k q e t m g v p x l
 c k z b d z h b n z c q e y r o o u m l d j y u d

- servants**
- talents**
- master**
- gifts**
- good**
- faithful**
- journey**
- hidden**
- ground**