

THE PARABLE OF THE "TALENTS"

In Matthew's Gospel (Mt. 25:14-30), we read about the parable of the talents. In Jesus' time, a talent was a very valuable coin. Just how valuable it was depended on whether it was made out of gold, silver, or copper. In the parable, a master is going on a trip, but he doesn't want his servants to just sit there when he's gone, when they could be helping him earn money. Two of the servants buy things with the money entrusted to them by the master and then sell what they bought to make a profit for the master. The third servant hides the master's money until the master returns and then gives the money back to him. The master is very happy with the servants who used the talents and angry with the one who hid his talent.

Today, the word *talent* means a skill or ability. Talents can be clues about what God wants your students to do with their lives, now and later when they are adults.

In this game, one student is the "master." The master calls out one of the talents listed below and asks everybody to think of a number (1-5) ways to use the talent. (The master decides how many ways must be listed.) The person who raises his/her hand first gets to answer. If correct, the master says, "Well done, my servant. Come, share my joy." The student then becomes the new master.

Before the game begins, you might want to give your students hints about the kinds of things they can do with their talents, such as helping a team win, practicing hard to get better, turn pro someday, entertain people, have fun with their friends, teach someone else, make a new discovery, express themselves, rescue someone, or inspire other people to do their best.

TALENTS

Soccer
Playing piano
Math
Drawing
Swimming
Science
Making friends
Acting
Imagination
Being a leader
Snowboarding
Dancing
Writing stories
Making little kids laugh
Teaching a dog tricks