



The Talents

Lesson Aim: To know we should be faithful with whatever God gives us.

THE WORSHIP

Who God is: The King Who Teaches

THE WORD

Bible Story: Matthew 25:14-30

What He has done: Jesus taught about a master who entrusted his servants with money.

Key Verse: Matthew 25:21

THE WAY

Christ Connection: Proverbs 3:3-4

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

Unit 6: The King Who Teaches—Parables 2			
	Bible Story	What He Has Done	Lesson Aim
28	The Rich Fool, Luke 12:15-21	Jesus taught about a rich man who stored up things for himself.	To know God wants us to be rich toward Him.
29	The Talents, Matthew 25:14-30	Jesus taught about a master who entrusted his servants with money.	To know we should be faithful with whatever God gives us.
30	The Pharisee and the Tax Collector, Luke 18:9-14	Jesus taught about the importance of a humble attitude.	To know God looks at the attitude of our hearts, not our deeds.
31	The Lost Son, Luke 15:11-24	Jesus taught about a father who welcomed his lost son home.	To know God always welcomes us back to Him. (Salvation Message)
32	The Good Samaritan, Luke 10:30-37	Jesus taught about a man who was a good neighbor.	To show kindness and love sacrificially.

TEACHER'S ENCOURAGEMENT

This week, read Hebrews 13:20-21. Please join us in praying, "Thank You, Lord, for trusting us with Your work. Fill the children with Your Spirit so they might faithfully and boldly serve You with the talents You have given them. Amen."

TREASURE TREAT

The Treasure Treat for Units 5 and 6 is a Kingdom Parable Journal. Each week, children receive Kingdom Parable Stickers to add to their journal. The journal and stickers are available at ResourceWell.org. You may print the stickers on sticker paper or on sturdy paper and attach with glue.

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**THE WORSHIP
THE WORD &
THE WAY**

Segment	Minutes	Activity	Supplies
THE WELCOME	Up to 15	Meet & Greet	None
		Game: Name that Talent	Note cards, pencils, box or bag
THE WORSHIP	Up to 20	Worship Sheet music and recordings for Bible Memory Verse Songs available at ResourceWell.org	Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Fruit of the Spirit" Other Bible Memory Verse Song Suggestions: "I Am the Way" "Praise the Lord, O My Soul" "Well Done" "Yahweh Every Day: You Shall Love the Lord" Additional Hymn Suggestion: "Amazing Grace" Additional Song Collection Suggestions: Songs 4 Worship Kids Volume 1 Sunday School Jamz by Worship Jamz
		Worship Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 4:10-11	Bible
		Offering	Baskets
		Worship Illustration	Lesson 29 Critter Kingdom script or storybook
THE WORD	Up to 10	Read the Word: Matthew 25:14-30	Bibles, Bible Story Scripture reference poster
THE WAY	Up to 25	Discuss the Word	Bibles, Christ Connection Scripture reference poster
		Christ Connection: Proverbs 3:3-4	
		Golden Bowl	Golden Bowl, pencils, note cards
	Final 5	Final Five Minutes	Treasure Treat—The Talents Kingdom Parable Stickers, Daily Ways, basket, paper, pencils, crayons or markers, prayer notebook, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song "The Fruit of the Spirit," CD player
GOT TIME?	Up to 10	Snack: Buried Treasure Snack	Wafer cookies, favorite candy, cups, spoons
	Up to 10	Game: Well Done!	Packet of seeds, get well card, CD of Bible Memory Verse Songs, dollar bill or local currency
	Up to 10	Craft: Parable Wind Chimes—The Talents	Ribbon, large bead, craft stick or other flat stick, glue, markers, hole punch
	Up to 5	Bonus Parable: The Mustard Seed	Bible open to Matthew 13:31-32, The Mustard Seed Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)
	Up to 5	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Fruit Concentrate	Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster
	Up to 10	Bible Memory Verse Activity: Fruit of the Spirit Hopscotch	Stone, bottle cap, or shell colored like a fruit, chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers
	Up to 5	Kingdom Parable Review	Parable titles printed on footprint-shaped paper

RESOURCES: Supplemental materials are available at ResourceWell.org.



Getting started

THE WELCOME

To spark anticipation, encourage arriving children to meet and greet one another with today's question.
Meet & Greet Question: What is one thing your parents trust you to do?

GAME: NAME THAT TALENT

Purpose: To understand God has entrusted everyone with special talents and abilities.

Supplies: Note cards, pencils, box or bag

Optional: For non-readers, cut out pictures of people demonstrating their talent from magazines, newspapers, or print pictures from the internet. (For example: writing, gymnastics, playing an instrument, dancing, playing a game, teaching, etc.) Use pictures as the note cards in the game.

In Bible times, a talent was a large amount of money. Today, it means a skill you do well. God gives each of us different, special talents. Perhaps you make people laugh, ride your bike fast, dance, read lots of books, sing beautifully, or run quickly. What do you do best? Hand out note cards and pencils. Write your talent on a note card. Be sure to write very clearly so others can read it. We will use the note cards to create our own talent show but in this talent show, you will have to guess the talent!

Directions:

1. Collect and shuffle the note cards. Place them in the box.
2. One child closes their eyes and chooses a card from the box.
3. Child silently acts out the talent written on card. Counselor may assist younger children in reading the card or offering suggestions on how to act out the talent.
4. Remaining children guess the talent.
5. After the talent is guessed, children guess which child wrote that as his or her talent.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 until each child has a turn.

God has trusted you with special talents. Have you ever wondered what God wants you to do with your special talent? Jesus told a parable that gives us the answer. In a few minutes, we will read Jesus' Parable of the Talents.



Jesus as the King who teaches

THE WORSHIP

Teacher Tip: To help children identify time set aside for worship, designate a special corner or area for singing, collecting offering, and watching the worship illustration. Play music as children move to the designated area.



Today, we worship Jesus as our Teacher. Through the parable of the talents, Jesus teaches that God trusts us to build His kingdom. God gives us our voices, bodies, minds, hearts, and money to use for His kingdom. Let's be faithful with those gifts and use them all to worship Him with our tithes, songs, and prayers. Sing: "Well Done" while collecting the offering.



Take a moment and thank God for the many gifts He has given you. Pause for silent prayer. Read Worship Scripture: 1 Peter 4:10-11. **When we use our gifts for God, we are being faithful servants. We hope to hear Jesus say, "Well done good and faithful servant!"**



Jesus has given His Holy Spirit to all who believe in Him. When we are faithful to let the Holy Spirit work through us, others see the fruit of the Spirit in us. What are the fruit of the Spirit? (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.) Sing the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song: "The Fruit of the Spirit."

You may also choose to sing songs that focus on asking God to help us be faithful with the gifts He gives us.



Perform Critter Kingdom script or read storybook: Kings & Kingdoms Unit 6, Lesson 29.



The talents

THE WORD

Teacher Tip: As you move from worship to instruction, change rooms or locations within a room to help redirect the children's focus to the Bible story. During this transition time, have each child write his or her name on a card and place it in the Golden Bowl.

Before we read God's Word, let's go over our Class Covenant. A covenant is an agreement. Just as God made a covenant with His people, I ask each of you to make this covenant promise with me today. Listen as I read our Class Covenant: "I will keep my eyes on my teacher, my mouth in control, my ears on God's Word—knowing God is my goal."

Last time, we heard the Parable of the Rich Fool. What did he do with his many crops and belongings? (He tore down his old barns and built bigger ones to store more crops for himself.) Today, we will learn about the Parable of the Talents. In Bible times, a talent was a large amount of money. A talent of gold was worth about fifteen years of a laborer's wages. In this story, the master gave each servant a different number of talents. He trusted each servant to use the amount he was given to make more money for him.



If you brought your Bible, open it now and share with others. Hand out spare Bibles. **Today's Scripture verse is behind the curtain** (or secret door, secret window, etc.). Child reveals Bible Story Scripture reference: Matthew 25:14-30.

Before we read, let's stand and ask God to open our eyes, ears, hearts and minds to His Word today. Who'd like to pray that for us? Child prays aloud. **Be seated.**

As I read, imagine Jesus Himself telling us this story. Read Matthew 25:14-30.



Be a good and faithful servant

THE WAY

In Bible times, what was a “talent”? (A large amount of money.) **How many talents did the first servant receive?** (Five.) **How many did the second servant receive?** (Three.) **How many talents did the third servant receive?** (One.) **The first two men used the talents to make more for their master. The master was pleased with them. What did the master say to them?** (“Well done, good and faithful servant.”) **What would it feel like to hear God say that to you?** (Children respond.)

What did the master invite the two servants to do? (“Come and share your master’s happiness.”) **Imagine God inviting you to come and share in His happiness. When we use the gifts God gives us to build His kingdom, it makes Him very happy. He invites us to share in that happiness with Him.**

The first two servants served their master well with what they had been given. What did the third servant do with the talent he was given? (He buried it.) **He did not honor his master’s trust. The master trusted this servant to use the money to make more money; instead, the servant did nothing with it.**

The money from the master was not just a gift. The master trusted each servant to use the money wisely for the master while he was away. What mattered most to the master was not how much his servants were given, but what his servants did with what they were given. What are some gifts God has trusted you with? (Money, treasures, friends, special talents, hobbies, family, strengths, abilities, etc.) **How do you think God might want you to care for or use these things to build His kingdom?** (Children respond.)

If time allows, play the WELL DONE game located in the GOT TIME? segment of this lesson.



Connecting the Old Testament, the New Testament and Us

CHRIST CONNECTION

In the Parable of the Talents, Jesus taught us that if we are faithful in the little things, God will trust us with bigger things. Check out the way wise King Solomon explained this same truth to God’s people hundreds of years before Jesus told this parable.



Everyone, place your Bible on your lap. Choose a child to reveal the Christ Connection Scripture reference: Proverbs 3:3-4. **Let’s find this scripture.** Read Proverbs 3:3-4.

How have you been faithful to use what you have been given? (Children respond.) **God notices when we are loving and faithful to do what He has asked us to do. He sees our hard work. When we are faithful to use what we are given, God gives us even more, just as the master did in today’s parable.**

THE WAY *continued...*



Revelation 5:8

GOLDEN BOWL

Teacher Tip: Write the names of classmates, local church leaders, and children in other nations or others who need prayer on small pieces of paper. Place the papers in a golden bowl.

The Bible says our prayers are like sweet smelling incense in the golden bowls at God's throne. I'm going to lift each one of your names to God's throne as you pray for each person silently. Then we will pray the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13) aloud together. Let's pray.

Lord God, we lift up to Your throne the name of each child here. We trust You to watch over us and our needs, the ones we say aloud and the ones hidden in our hearts. First, we lift up to You ____, ____, ____. Read names in Golden Bowl.

Now, we pray the prayer Your Son taught us: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one. For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.



When only 5 minutes remain, begin this segment.

FINAL FIVE MINUTES

TREASURE TREAT: Today, your Treasure Treat is The Talents Kingdom Parable Sticker. You will also receive a bonus sticker for the Parable of the Mustard Seed. You can discover more about this parable in this week's Daily Way. Keep your Kingdom Parable Journal at home and collect all twenty Kingdom Parable Stickers by joining us here each time.

DAILY WAY CHALLENGE: Did anyone bring in a completed Daily Way from last time? Praise or reward those who return a Daily Way. Distribute Lesson 29 Daily Way 5-day Bible study. **Complete this week's Daily Way at home and let God speak to you through His own words in the Bible. Join the Daily Way Challenge by returning your completed Daily Way.**

Teacher Tip: Collect Daily Ways in a basket or other container and periodically reward children as a group for completing the challenge.

OFFERING OF ART: Until it is time to be dismissed, make an Offering of Art. For your offering, draw a picture of a servant burying his master's money. The Offering of Art can be finished at home or given as an offering for the teacher to display.

PRAYER REQUESTS: As children work on their Offering of Art, ask how you can pray for them this week. Write requests in a prayer notebook.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSE SONG: Play the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse Song, "The Fruit of the Spirit," in the background as children wait to be dismissed.



If time remains, choose from the connected activities below.

GOT TIME?

SNACK: BURIED TREASURE SNACK

Purpose: Children will eat a snack while personally connecting to the story.

Snack Suggestion: Wafer cookies, favorite candy, cups, spoons

Directions:

1. Give each child four cookies, a cup, and a spoon.
2. Children crush their cookies into the cup to create "sand."
3. **I am going to give you a candy treasure. Bury your treasure under your sand.**
4. Give each child a small candy.
5. Children bury the candy in the wafer cookie sand.
6. **Can you eat your candy treasure without digging it out of the sand? (No.) I gave you the candy because I want you to eat it. After we pray, dig out your treasure and you can eat your candy and the cookie sand.**
7. Child prays to thank God for the snack.
8. Serve drinks.
9. **God has trusted each of you with another special treasure, your talents. What is one way you have used your best talent? (Children respond.) Remember not to hide your talents like you hid the candy. Be faithful to God and use your talents to serve Him.**

GAME: WELL DONE!

Purpose: Children brainstorm ways to use what they are given to build God's Kingdom.

Supplies: Packet of seeds, get well card, CD of Bible Memory Verse Songs, dollar bill or local currency

The Parable of the Talents teaches us that God trusts us to use the gifts He gives us, even if they seem like little things. If we are faithful in the little things, then God will trust us with big things.

Directions:

1. Divide the children into four teams.
2. Entrust one item to each team.
3. Give teams 60 seconds to brainstorm the best way to make this world better, to encourage God's people, or to serve God's kingdom with the "little thing" they were given.

Brainstorming examples:

Packet of seeds: Plant the seeds and grow flowers. Cut blooms and take them to someone to remind them God cares about them.

CD of Bible Memory Verse Songs: Teach the songs to your friends and family, then give the CD to another family so everyone learns God's Word.

Get well card: Make five more just like it and take them to sick friends or family members.

One dollar: Give it in the church offering. Buy candy to share with your neighbors. Buy soap and wash cars for money; give the money you make to a charity that helps people.

4. When time is up, give each team time to share their ideas with the other teams.

GOT TIME? *continued...*

CRAFT: PARABLE WIND CHIMES–THE TALENTS

Purpose: Create a wind chime strand to remember the Parable of the Talents.

Supplies: Ribbon, large bead, craft stick or other flat stick, glue, markers, hole punch

Prepare: Cut a 20-inch ribbon. To keep the wind chime balanced, punch a hole about 1-inch from the edge, directly opposite from the strand attached in the previous lesson.

Optional: Use a large bead to secure the 20-inch ribbon above the plate. Substitute beads with any materials available: buttons, shells, stones, small metal objects, etc. Display a finished craft.

Counselor Clue: Parable Wind Chimes will be completed in Lessons 23-32 as the parables of Jesus are taught. Each session, a new strand representing the parable will be added to the paper plate base of the wind chimes. To maintain balance in the wind chimes as they are being created, punch holes directly opposite from each other when adding a new strand. Be sure to have extra paper plates and 30-inch ribbon hangers available for new children who join in future sessions.

Today we learned the story about the talents. What was a talent in Bible times? (A large amount of money.) **The master trusted the three servants to use the money he gave them to make more money. God has trusted you with talents, too. He has given you special skills and abilities. Think about your best talent. For today's wind chime strand, decorate it to look like your talent. For example, if you are good at soccer, draw and color a soccer ball or field on the wood stick. If you are good at math, draw math symbols. Let this wind chime strand remind you to faithfully use your talent to serve God.**

Directions:

1. Thread the 20-inch ribbon through the hole on the edge of the plate and tie a knot large enough to prevent the ribbon from pulling back through the plate.
2. Tie a bead to the bottom of the 20-inch ribbon.
3. Glue stick lengthwise to the center of the ribbon.
4. Decorate the stick to show your talent.
5. As you work, talk about ways you can use your talent to serve God. (For example, those with a soccer talent could teach a younger child how to play soccer. Those with a cooking talent could make a meal for a sick neighbor.)

BONUS PARABLE: THE MUSTARD SEED

Purpose: To introduce and discuss another parable Jesus taught His followers.

Supplies: Bible open to Matthew 13:31-32, The Mustard Seed Kingdom Parable Stickers (available at ResourceWell.org)

Today's bonus parable is the story of the Mustard Seed. Child or teacher reads Matthew 13:31-32. **Jesus said the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed. A mustard seed is no bigger than the point on the end of a sharp pencil, but it grows into one of the biggest plants in the garden. The kingdom of God is made up of everyone all through history who has ever believed in Jesus as their Lord and Savior. When Jesus came to save the world, He came as a tiny baby. How has His kingdom grown since then to the size it is today?** (First, there was just one person who believed in Him. Then, more and more people believed in Him. 2000 years later, millions of people believe in Him.)

GOT TIME? *continued...*



BIBLE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITIES

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." "Jesus said, 'Go and bear fruit - fruit that will last - then the Father will give you whatever you ask in My Name.'" Galatians 5:22-23; John 15:16b

GAME: FRUIT CONCENTRATE

Purpose: Children will match pairs of fruit of the Spirit listed in the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse.

Supplies: Orange paper, marker, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster

Prepare: Cut 18 6-inch circles to resemble the shape of an (oversized) orange fruit. Print a fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) on each of the orange circles. Create two identical sets. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster.

Directions:

1. Choose a child to shuffle all 18 oranges, keeping the printed side down.
2. Choose another child to lay all 18 oranges face down on the floor or a table.
3. Children take turns turning over two oranges at a time to see if they can find a match.
4. When a correct match is made, the pair remains in the face-up position.
5. When an incorrect match is made, both are returned to the face-down position.
6. Continue making matches until all of the words are face-up.

Who can remember all nine fruits of the Spirit? (Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.) **The opposite of love is hate. What are the opposites of the other fruits of the Spirit?** (Children respond.)

Name a fruit of the Spirit that others already see in your daily life. (Children respond.) **Name a fruit of the Spirit that others rarely see in you.** (Children respond.) **All who believe in Jesus have the Holy Spirit in their hearts. This week, ask God to help you show the fruit of the Spirit that others don't usually see in you.**

GOT TIME? *continued...*

GAME: FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT HOPSCOTCH

Purpose: Children learn the Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse by repetition as they play hopscotch.

Supplies: One stone, bottle cap, or shell, one piece of chalk or floor tape, Unit 6 Bible Memory Verse poster, paint or markers

Prepare: Paint or color the stone, bottle cap, or shell to look like a fruit. Use chalk or floor tape to create a hopscotch pattern on the floor. Use 10 squares for your hopscotch pattern. Number the squares consecutively. Display the Bible Memory Verse poster. For large groups of children, create additional hopscotch patterns and provide additional "fruit" to toss so groups can play simultaneously.

Teacher Tip: Assist younger children by having all children chant the words with each hop the child takes. Assist in "fruit" toss as needed.

Directions:

1. Children stand in a single-file line at the bottom of the hopscotch pattern.
2. The first child tosses the "fruit" into square number 1.
3. The child then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop in squares 2-10, the child says one word of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"The—fruit—of—the—Spirit—is—love—joy—peace..."**
Note: Single squares are hopped on one foot, either foot may be used. Both feet are used in side by side squares, one foot in each square.
4. After hopping into square number 10, the child turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse in squares 9-2, again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...patience—kindness—goodness—faithfulness—gentleness—and—self—control."**
5. The next child in line tosses the "fruit" into square number 2.
6. The child then hops through the hopscotch pattern, skipping the square with the fruit marker. With each hop, the child says one word of the second part of the Bible Memory Verse: **"Go—and—bear—fruit—fruit—that—will—last.—Then..."**
7. After hopping into square 10, the child turns around and returns through the course saying the rest of the first part of the Bible Memory Verse again skipping the square with the fruit marker: **"...the—Father—will—give—you—whatever—you—ask—in—My Name."** Say "My Name" in the last square.
8. Repeat steps 2-7 each time, tossing the "fruit" into the next square in numerical order until everyone has had a turn. If there are more than nine children in line, have the next child return to tossing the "fruit" in square number 1.

GOT TIME? *continued...*



KINGDOM PARABLE REVIEW

Kings & Kingdoms Part One studies the life of Jesus. Lessons 23-32 explore the parables Jesus told to teach us about His kingdom. The previous lesson will always be reviewed briefly in THE WORD segment of each Teacher's Guide. Review recent Bible stories to see the continuing story of who God is and He has done.

The Great Banquet: What did the first people that were invited to the banquet do? (They made excuses for why they could not come.) **Just as the man invited people to his banquet, God invites us all to join His kingdom. To accept God's invitation, who must we trust and follow?** (Jesus.) **Who will be the guests at the great banquet in heaven one day?** (All who trusted and followed Jesus.)

The Rich Fool: What did Jesus warn us to be on guard against? (All kinds of greed.) **What did the rich fool do when he had no more room for his grain and goods?** (He tore down his barns to build bigger ones.) **How can we be rich toward God?** (Give our offering, use our time and treasures to focus on Him and to serve our neighbors.)

The Talents: In Bible times, a talent was a large amount of money. What did the first two servants do with the money they were given? (They made more money for their master.) **What did the master say to the first two servants?** ("Well done, good and faithful servant. Come and share your master's happiness.") **How can you serve God with the gifts and blessings He has given you?**

How to create a display for reviewing the Kingdom Parables:

1. Print each footprint on sturdy paper.
2. Choose a wall or other visible location to display the footprints.
3. Before each lesson, add the footprint for that lesson to the display using the list below. Children can follow in Jesus' footsteps as they review past lessons.
4. To review, ask the corresponding questions as you point to the associated footprint.

Kingdom Parables: The Lost Sheep > The Sower > The Vine and the Branches > The Workers in the Vineyard > The Great Banquet > The Rich Fool > The Talents > Lazarus and the Rich Man > The Lost Son > The Good Samaritan