



fivetalents

GROWING FAITH & TALENT

Sunday School Curriculum ages 9 - 13

Five Lessons:

- What Does God Say About the Poor?
- How to Respond to People in Need
- Discovering Your Talents
- How to Use & Manage Resources Wisely
- Create Your Own Business

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LESSON 1: WHAT DOES GOD SAY ABOUT THE POOR?

KEY LESSON:

God knows all of our needs. He loves, and cares for the poor and vulnerable.

SUPPLIES:

- An object that can represent money, such as, coins, sweets, etc.
- Handout A, cut out and displayed
- Handout B, cut out into strips along the lines
- World map
- Pencil and paper
- Bibles

ACTIVITY: Global Poverty Simulation (15-20 minutes)

1. Before the children arrive, cut out and display the items “for sale” from Handout A.
 2. When the children arrive, provide each child with a paper strip from Handout B. Explain that for today, they have become this person. (Each situation described in Handout B is based on real-life scenarios of members that Five Talents serves.)
 3. Have each child take the number of coins or sweets that corresponds to their income for the week. For example, someone with a £10 income would take 10 coins.
 4. Have each child read their description and find their country of residence on the map.
 5. Explain that the papers displayed from Handout A are the prices for the items they may need this week. Give the children 5-10 minutes to plan and write down on a piece of paper what they want to buy without exceeding their income.
 6. Gather the children together and give each one a few minutes to read their description aloud, “buy” their items, and explain to the class the reasons why they chose the items they did. (If you have a large class, allow a handful of children to volunteer, or if you have enough leaders, break into groups.)
- Ask them some of the following questions as they give their answers:
- a. Why did you decide to buy (x) instead of (y)?
 - b. What made your decision hard?
 - c. What made your decision easy?
 - d. What worries would you have?
 - e. How do you think it must feel to be very poor?
7. Introduce this fact: There are 750 million people around the world who live on less than £2 a day. That is ten times as many people as there are in all of the UK.

BIBLE STORY: The Widow's Offering (15-20 minutes)

Read the following lesson aloud:

Today, we are going to hear about one poor woman who gave everything to God.

Luke 21:1-4

"As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. "Truly I tell you," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."

The poor woman put only two small coins into the offering box. What can you purchase for two small coins? Not much! In Jesus' time, two copper coins were enough to buy three grapes. The poor woman willingly gave away the small amount she owned. While other people were rich and gave away enormous amounts of money, it was just a fraction of what they had.

Question: In verse 3 Jesus said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others." How could that be true? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer:

- Jesus said it was because she had given all that she had.
- She gave all of her money!
- She gave with a cheerful heart.

Question: If the poor woman gave all of her money to the offering; how was she going to buy food, clothes, and/or medicine if she became sick? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer:

- She had faith that God would provide for all of her needs.

Even though the rich people gave a larger sum of money, Jesus' eyes were drawn to the widow who put in her ONLY two coins. Many of the rich donated their money because they wanted to brag about how much money they had. However, Jesus didn't appreciate their nice clothes or expensive jewellery. Instead, it was the poor woman's generous heart and faith that Jesus noticed. He even recognised her as an example to follow for the people at the temple that day. I bet that made her feel pretty special!

MEMORY VERSE:

Practise and encourage the children to memorize 1 Samuel 16:7 this week (5 minutes).

1 Samuel 16:7, "The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

TAKE HOME LESSON:

Read the following at the end of class (2 minutes).

I know you all have big hearts too! Think about ways you can give based on what you have. Do you enjoy being outside? You could clean up rubbish around your neighbourhood! Are you a gifted artist? You can make cards for sick children at your local hospital! Is there a family that has just moved into your community? Welcome them to the neighbourhood by inviting them over to play! Or save up your pocket money to give to a family or a cause in need. You don't need a lot to do a lot.

BONUS LESSON:

Read the story of Consolate, a Five Talents mother to the class (10 minutes).

Today I am going to tell you a story about a poor mother who lives in Burundi, Africa (show the children where Burundi is on the map), named Consolate. Consolate was a mother of eight children! She relied on her husband to pay for their food, clothing, school fees, medicine, and much more. Unfortunately, her husband did not make enough money to support their family. Consolate and her children often went hungry.

Have you ever skipped a meal before and felt REALLY hungry? Imagine for a moment that you are one of Consolate's eight children. Her children usually eat once a day, in the evening. During the day, the children do chores because they cannot afford to go to school. In Burundi school uniforms are required to attend school. If a family cannot afford school uniforms for their children, they are forced to stay home. Children like Consolate's are regularly sick due to the hard work they do during the day and lack of food.

Not being able to provide for her family made Consolate feel hopeless. She wanted her children to have a good life. Just like your parents want you to do! Parents from all over the world love their children the same and have a deep desire to provide for their children's needs. Consolate knew something needed to change.

One day, Consolate enrolled in a business skills training class and joined a savings group. A savings group is a gathering of community members that save their money together.

Consolate learned a lot in the savings group, and she started her own business selling bananas! Burundi is one of the world's largest banana producers. That means Burundi has a lot of bananas to sell, YUM! No one else in Consolate's community sold bananas, so this was a very good business decision. Consolate saw a need and filled it for her community members.

Even when Consolate and her family were very poor, God always loved and cared for them. God provided Consolate with an opportunity to help her family. Now, Consolate and her husband can meet all their family's needs like food, education, healthcare, and more!

Ask the children:

- How did the story of Consolate and her children make you feel?
- How did God take care of Consolate and her family in this story?

Answer: God provided Consolate the opportunity to join a savings group!

Prayer: God, thank you that you love me and care for me. Help me to trust in you and to give to others with a cheerful heart.

