



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 3: DISCOVERING YOUR TALENT

KEY LESSON:

God has blessed each of us with special talents and abilities. When we use them for good, He is pleased.

SUPPLIES:

- Handout D, cut out and display
- Tape
- Bibles
- Map (bonus lesson)

ACTIVITY: What's My Talent? (15-20 minutes)

1. Before the kids arrive, cut out the cards from Handout D. Place them upside down on a table with a piece of folded tape on the back of each card. The children will later tape one "talent card" to their forehead.

2. When the children arrive, explain to the children that God gifted us all with special talents and abilities. A talent is a natural skill we possess. God made us all special and unique!

3. Ask the children to list off a few examples of talents. Possible Answers:

- Football
- Reading
- Math
- Cooking
- Art

4. Show the children the cards that are face down on the table. Explain to them that each one of these cards has one talent listed on the front. Without looking at the card, have the children tape one card to their forehead. They won't know what their "talent" is, but everyone else will.

5. Have the children pair off and give each other clues for what their talent is. Note, the children cannot say the actual word, any variation of the word, or use rhyming or sounds like clues.

For example, if the card indicated that their talent is "football" they could say:

- You play a sport with a ball.
- You are trying to get the ball in a net.
- You use your feet while playing this sport.

6. Once everyone's talent is guessed, ask the children if anyone's card describes a real talent they possess. Go around the room and allow each child to share one of the talents God has gifted them with.

BIBLE STORY: The Parable of the Talents (15-20 minutes)

Read the following lesson aloud:

Question: Last week we talked about four heroes from the Bible! Does anyone remember how these four men became heroes? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer: By faith the four men dug a hole in the roof, lowered their friend down, and Jesus healed the paralysed man!

That's right! The four men went above and beyond to help a friend in need get to Jesus. That's what heroes do! They use whatever talents they receive from God to bring Him glory.

BIBLE STORY: (continued)

Today we are going to look at a parable from the Bible and talk about how God gives us all unique talents and how we can use our talents to be heroes for Jesus Christ!

Read Matthew 25:14-18

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

The master gave each of the three men a different amount of “talents.” A “talent” during this time represented money. Two of the men took their talents and doubled them. The third man took a different approach and hid his master’s talents in the ground.

Question: Who do you think used their master’s talents wisely? Why? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer: The two men who doubled their talents! Because they increased their money and brought back more to their master.

That’s right! The master was pleased with both men who doubled their talents. In Matthew 25:21 and 23 the master said to them, “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.”

It was not about the total amount of money earned but, rather, the faithful responsibility of using one’s talents wisely and for the glory of God.

Question: How do you think the master responded to the servant that buried his talent in the ground? Allow time for the children to answer.

Answer: The master was angry because the servant didn’t use his talent wisely.

Correct! The master was furious with the servant with one talent because the servant had fear in his heart and hid his talent in the ground. The master said in Matthew 25:28-29, “So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has more will be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.”

Although the servant looked after the talent the master entrusted him with, he did not use the opportunities given to him to grow his talent. Therefore, his talent was taken away and given to someone that would enhance the master’s wealth.

Just like the master, God is generous to us. While the talent in this story represents money, the talents or abilities that God has given us should also be invested. God has blessed each of us with special gifts and talents. He desires that we use our talents wisely and for His glory. This means we should have the courage to take chances to advance the Kingdom of God. We can use our talents as opportunities to tell others about Jesus Christ! When we use our talents to the best of our ability, He is pleased and trusts us with more!

MEMORY VERSE:

Practice and encourage the children to memorize Ephesians 2:10 this week. (5 minutes)

Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

TAKE HOME LESSON:

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

Let's thank God for the gifts He's given us. Our talents are not only meant to bring us joy, but to bring joy to others. Think about ways you can use your talents wisely and for the glory of God this week. Whether you like art, music, sports, or maths you can use your talent to show one another God's love. Are you good at art? You could make a card for a classmate you don't know very well. Are you good at sports? You could invite a classmate to a sporting event or to come over and play. Are you good at reading? You could read to your younger sibling or the elderly. Be brave and tell others about God's love through your talent! When you do, God is pleased.

BONUS LESSON:



Read the story of Maria, a woman who found her voice to the class. (10 minutes)

Today, I'm going to tell you about a talented woman named, Maria. Maria is a wife of a priest from Bolivia, South America (show the children where Bolivia is on the map). Maria only attended school until she was in year six! That means Maria was only eleven years old when she started working. That's the same age as many of you! Who here feels ready to drop out of school in year six?

As a result, Maria was shy and often doubted her own abilities because other people in her community had more education than her. When Maria got married, her husband managed the finances at home and in their church because Maria did not feel confident to count, plan for money, or speak in front of others.

God gifted Maria with many talents, just like God has gifted you with many talents! However, she could not see her talents until she joined a business skills training class and a savings group. A savings group is a gathering of community members that save their money collectively for a specific purpose.

Now Maria has confidence in her abilities and has learned about the many talents God has gifted her with. Today, Maria serves alongside her husband and often teaches other women about developing their talents to serve God and their community. This story should encourage us to not doubt our own talents but use them for God's glory. Just like Maria did!

Ask the children:

- How did the story of Maria make you feel?
- What was the most valuable thing Maria learned from her savings group?

Answer: Maria learned that God has gifted her with many talents that she can use to serve God in her community!

Prayer: God, thank you for the talents and gifts that you have given each of us. Help us to use our talents to serve You and others. In Jesus name.