

ALLEY SG – May 17- 18, 2025

Today's Bible Story: Use Somebody (Parable of the Talents) • *Matthew 25:14-30*

Today's Key Question: How can you use what you've been given?

Today's Bottom Line: Look for ways to use what you've been given.

Monthly Memory Verse: None of you should look out just for your own good. Each of you should also look out for the good of others. *Philippians 2:4 (NirV)*

1. Take a Snapshot

Made to Play: an activity that encourages learning through following guidelines and working as a group

What You Need: Paper, markers, sheet/tablecloth (one per bin)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a marker and a sheet of paper.
- Instruct kids to write a gift or talent they think they have in large letters, using only three words.
 - If kids aren't sure, offer some suggestions based on what you know about them. If they still can't come up with something, they can write a skill that comes to mind.
- Collect the papers from the kids and shuffle them together.
- Take a moment to have the kids introduce themselves. Encourage them to pay attention to the names of others; they will be used in today's game!
- Divide the kids into two teams.
- Select one kid from each team to each hold the top corner of the tablecloth.
- Explain that they will hold the tablecloth up to create a "wall." The tablecloth should be held as high as possible.
- Designate a side of the tablecloth for each team and instruct them to stand on their side of the "wall."
- Explain how to play:
 - The Leader will invite one kid from each team to stand facing the tablecloth on their side.
 - Hand each kid who is standing in front of the "wall" one of the papers that was written on earlier.
 - The kids will hold the paper in front of them so that the paper is between them and the "wall" and the words are facing the "wall".
 - Once both players are in position, the Leader will shout, "Drop it!" the kids holding the tablecloth should quickly let go of it, revealing the kid on the other side.
 - The first kid to correctly shout the name of the kid in front of them and the word(s) on the paper that kid is holding wins that round for their team.
- Call on new tablecloth holders and raise the "wall" again.
- Select two new kids to stand facing their team's side of the "wall", give them a paper, and repeat the process.
- Continue until every kid gets a turn to stand behind the "wall".
- At the end of the game, the team that scores the most points wins.
- Gather kids together and hold up each paper as you ask the kids to guess who wrote it.
- Allow kids to share about the gift or talent they wrote down if they would like to.
- Invite kids to name some ways that skill could be used to serve God and help others.
- If time allows, play again with new rules.
 - Provide kids with another sheet of paper. Instead of a gift or talent, ask them to write down a possession or something they have that can be shared with others.

2. Bible Story Extension

Bible Story Review

What You Need: Bible, Prepared box of props (Medium-sized box or container with 10 random items in the box. Use items you have on hand such as a pen, towel, stuffed animal, coin, Bible, clothing item, food item, box of tissues, ball, bottle of water, etc.,

What You Do:

- Gather your kids together and review today's Bible Story from Matthew 25:14-30.
- Set out the prepared box of props and instruct the kids to select one item.
 - *Note: don't tell the kids what the item is for yet!*
- Form teams of 3-4 kids.
- Share the challenge:
 - Each team must prepare a one-minute skit of today's Bible story using their props.
- Give kids a few minutes to prepare their Bible Story skit.
- Then, invite any teams who'd like to present their one-minute skit an opportunity to do so.
- Point out that, like the props they put to use in the Bible Story skits today, God wants us to take all that we've been given and put it to good use.
- Explain to kids that the Parable Jesus told about the talents isn't just about wasted money but also wasted opportunity.
- Encourage kids that God has given each of them unique abilities and experiences because God has a purpose for their lives!
- Guide kids through discussion about the Parable.
 - What should we do with the specific gifts, talents, and possessions God gives us?
 - Who have you seen use their gifts to help others?
 - Finish this sentence: "This week, using what I've been given means I can . . ."
- If you know your kids well, consider pointing out a unique ability you've observed in them.
- Challenge them to ask someone who is good at those same things to teach them more about it.
- Encourage kids to ask a parent, friend, or trusted adult to point out what they're good at.

3. Discussion Questions

- What do you think Jesus wanted us to learn from the Parable of the Talents?
- How does the Parable of the Talents show us that what we've been given matters?
- How can you use what you've been given?
- Why do you think it's important to discover what your gifts are?
- What's one thing you could do to discover more about your gifts?

4. Verses to Take with You

Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Bibles, “Secret Decoder” Activity Page (one per kid), and pens

What You Do:

- Gather the kids together in your group space.
- Give each kid a “Secret Decoder” Activity Page and a pen.
- Explain to the kids that they will work together to decode this month’s Memory Verse.
- Instruct the kids to begin decoding the Memory Verse, filling in the missing letters by matching the images with the letters in the word bank.
- Once the kids finish, recite the verse together a few times.
- Ask, “What could be a benefit of using what you’re good at to serve others?”

AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL:

PRAY

- Ask, “Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? *(Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises)*”
- “Dear God, thank You for sending Jesus to take care of our greatest need. Thank You for the Holy Spirit, who helps us take the initiative to use our gifts and talents to make a difference in the world around us. Sometimes, it’s hard to focus on others because we get caught up thinking about ourselves. Please forgive us for those moments and help us to see what You are doing when You make a way for us to use what we’ve been given. Show us how to use the gifts You’ve given us—big or small—to share Your love with others. Help us to see the needs right in front of us clearly and to take action to make a difference. We love You, and we pray these things in Jesus’ name. Amen.”
- If there is still time, pass out the Discussion Guides cards to the kids and begin to read through them together. Remind them they can do the activity at home to bring back next week for a prize.

PARENT PICK UP POINT: As adults arrive to pick up, encourage kids to share the “secret code” that they decoded in the Secret Code Activity (the Memory Verse). Encourage the kids to use the “secret code” to pray this week and ask God to help them use what they’ve been given.