

Opening:

Jesus spoke in many parables, and one of these is the parable of the talents. Start by listening to the story time recording and continue from there!

**Children's Storytime:**

This story time is a read aloud of the Picture Book "The Gift Inside the Box" by Adam Grant and Allison Sweet Grant. When you see a gift...do you automatically think, "Mine!" Or do you think about who might need it the most?

**Parable of the Talents Discussion:**

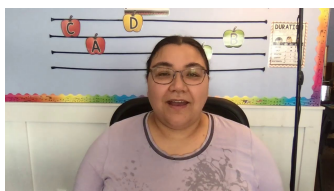
Listen to Douglas talk about the Parable of the Talents and just what a "Talent" is and how God intended for us to use the talents he has given us.

Follow-Up Family Activities:**Talent Bank:**

Make a "Talent Bank" by using an empty Kleenex Box and decorating it with whatever you have on hand. Then use index cards or strips of paper and write out any ideas or talents each child has that they can share with the world. How full can you make the box? Now for the challenge - with the support of God and family, randomly pull one of the talents from the box. Can you find a way to use that talent to share with people today? Could you do this every day for a week to share the gifts God had given you?

Responsibility Jar:

The servants had talents assigned based on what the master thought they could handle in terms of responsibility. If you have a mason jar, or even a cup on hand, make yourself a responsibility jar and put cards in for things you can do to help around the house or with people you know. Pull them and complete them. Each time you complete one, add it back to the jar and put a tally mark on a piece of paper inside. At the end of the week, count the number of responsibilities you had inside and the number of tallies. Did you do it? Did you increase the happiness in your household or in the world by fulfilling those responsibilities? Could you do even more and take on more responsibility, like the servants in the parable?

**Closing Prayer & Song:**

Finish the lesson with this final prayer and our semester theme's worship song "Give It Away"!

