

ONE DEVOTIONAL CYCLE: "PARABLE OF THE TALENTS"

DEVOTIONAL CYCLE

1ST Tell the Bible story.

2ND After telling the story, use the Devotional Cycle.

■ Tell the Life Lesson (Bible truth).

(1) Explain the Life Lesson (Bible truth).

(2) Illustrate the Life Lesson (Bible truth). Use one or more illustrations from the Bible and/or from everyday life situations. The number of illustrations depends upon how much time is available.

(3) Apply the Life Lesson (Bible truth) to the lives of the listeners.

BIBLE STORY: "Parable of the Talents"

TEXT: Matthew 25:14-28

BIBLE STORY:

BACKGROUND OF STORY (Initial Situation):

- On a certain occasion Jesus was sitting on the Mountain of Olives with His disciples. He told them several parables. One of these parables or stories was called the Parable of the Talents.
- In Jesus' day, one talent was worth more than a thousand dollars in today's currency.
- (As you tell the Parable of the Talents, keep your Bible open to the story.)

STORY (PARABLE):

A man was going on a journey. Before leaving he called his three servants, entrusting his belongings to them. To the first servant he gave five talents. To the second servant he gave two talents. And to the third servant he gave one talent. He gave each one according to their capabilities. Then he left on his journey.

The first servant with five talents left immediately and gained five more talents.

The second servant with two talents also left immediately and gained two more talents.

But the third servant with one talent dug a hole and hid his talent in the ground.

After a long time, the master returned from his journey. He called his servants to him, wanting them to give account of the belongings he entrusted them with while he was gone.

The first servant said: "*Master, you entrusted me with five talents and I have gained five more talents.*"

The master replied, "*Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things and I will give you more responsibility. Celebrate with me!*"

The second servant said, "*Master, you entrusted me with two talents and I have gained two more talents.*"

The master replied, "*Well done good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a few things and I will give you more responsibility. Celebrate with me!*"

The third servant said, "*Master, I knew that you were a hard master. You harvest where you have not sown seeds. You gather where you have not scattered seeds. I was afraid. So I hid my talent. See, here it is, just the way you gave it to me.*"

But the master replied, "*You knew that I was a hard master! I harvest where I have not sown seeds! I gather where I have not scattered seeds! At least you could have deposited this money in the bank and brought back the interest to me!*" The master took away his talent and punished this servant.

- Close the Bible and say, "*This is the Parable of the Talents.*"

LIFE LESSON: Talents and abilities need to be developed to honor God.

Explanation: The first two servants received their talents and immediately multiplied

their talents. Their master was very pleased and gave them more responsibilities.

Illustration (1): The Old Testament tells how David developed his talents and abilities for God.

When King David was a young boy, he helped his father by watching their flock of sheep. Through God's help, David struck and killed a bear and a lion in order to protect the sheep.

Later his father asked him to take some food and check on his brothers, who were fighting their enemies. He obeyed and left. When David arrived, he saw that everyone was afraid to fight against the enemy's nine foot leader Goliath. David told the king that with God's help he would fight Goliath. God helped David as he slung the rock from his sling shot and conquered Goliath!

Afterwards, King Saul gave David a high rank in his army. God enabled David to win every battle he fought.

Then David became king, leading God's people, the Israelites. David was known as *"a man after God's own heart."*

Illustration (2): King David also developed his musical talent.

When David was a boy watching his flock of sheep, he wrote Psalms 23, "The Lord Is my shepherd; I shall not want..."

He played instruments. Several times he was invited to go and play music for King Saul, who was sick. David's music soothed and helped King Saul feel better.

Even today we can enjoy many of David's songs which are in Psalms in the Old Testament. His songs soothe our hearts to know God's majesty, power, forgiveness and grace.

Illustration (3): The ten-year-old twins, Tony and Joey, watched as their Dad played the guitar. Oh how they wished that they could play a guitar too. So they asked their Dad for a guitar for their birthdays. What a surprise! On their birthday, Tony and Joey each received a guitar!

Both eagerly asked their Dad for help and their Dad sat down and helped them learn how to play. Their Dad said, "I can help you learn how to strum and the basic cords, but practice, practice, practice. That's the secret of playing the guitar.

Both eagerly began to practice what their Dad showed them. But soon Joey got tired and went outside to play baseball with his friends. Tony, though, stayed inside and practiced each day.

The days, months and years passed. When they went to high school, Tony was able to join a band and played his guitar. He also played his guitar for the youth gatherings. And Joey? His guitar was dusty next to some clothes in a corner of his closet.

Application: God has given each of us talents. Some have several talents, while others may just have one. It doesn't matter how many talents we have or what our talents are, because God wants us to develop these talents for His honor and glory. When we do, He will be very pleased and increase our responsibilities.

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