

VICTORIA BAPTIST CHURCH –YOUTH WORK

Sunday morning teaching plan



Date: 23 March 25

TITLE:	The parable of the Talents. Matthew 25:14-30
THEME:	God expects us to use what we have to grow the Kingdom
AIM:	Jesus is either Lord of your life or He isn't. How do we know?

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

The thing to note about this parable is that it is part of a section about life in the Kingdom of God, specifically the return of Christ and judgment. We don't often see the parable in this way. There is a stark warning at the end of the parable. Those who have not understood, used what God has given them or failed to make Jesus Lord, are excluded from the Kingdom. One of the ways God judges us is on how we have responded to the things He gives us. Our actions reveal the contents of our heart. The man who buried the talent not only had a false impression of the king, and failed to act on it, but his actions had eternal consequences.

WARM UP

Place a bag of chocolate coins (or several) in the middle of the room . Ask What would you do if you were given a real bag of gold coins/cash? (£10,000) Discuss what you would do.

MAIN TEACHING

Activity 1. Read Matthew 24:14-30 or watch [Cheesy video](#)

1. What does this parable teach us about the resources and abilities God has given us?
2. How do you think the servants felt when their master entrusted them with his wealth?
3. What are some examples of talents or resources we have been given by God?
4. How can we use our talents and resources to make a difference in God's Kingdom?

Key Teaching point: God has entrusted us with important tasks/abilities / resources in order to help build His kingdom. It is a privilege to be given these. We are required to use them to the best of our ability. We **ALL** get given natural/spiritual gifts and resources (money/ time) to help grow God's Kingdom.

Activity 2.

1. What are your hidden talents? Get YPs to share things they are good at!
2. Why do you think the third servant buried his talent instead of investing it? What does the parable suggest?
3. Is God like the way the servant described Him?
4. What do the man's actions reveal about him and his relationship with the King?

Key Teaching Point: The servant who hid his talent, had a flawed understanding of the King. He didn't really know Him at all. He thought he would play it safe and not get things wrong (lose the money). His misunderstanding led to a poor decision. Even if the King was as the man had believed, he should have invested the money to make interest... .get a little back! Because the servant had a flawed understanding of the King he did not trust the King and did His own thing, trusting in His own judgment. His own judgment turned out badly for him!

There are many people who think they are God's servants/Christians but have not fully surrendered their life to Jesus. They are still living with their own desires and needs as the main thing. They have "buried" Jesus and His calling in order to pursue their own life. At judgment they will be found out!

Activity 3. Actions speak louder than words

Play a few rounds of charades. Here are some words you can use:

Giraffe Lionel Messi King Charles Playing the drums being a spy eating a banana Superman having a shower
Being scared of a mouse Taylor Swift The Wicked witch from Wicked a dog Jurassic Park the incredible Hulk
Ed Sheeran Mo Salah Etc (I can't think of any more!) See separate sheet for printable ones

How can you tell if a person really loves Jesus?

A recent survey in the US suggested 64% of people professed to be Christian. Only 4% said they were followers of Jesus!

Read : I John 2:4-6 I John 3:10

What is the key thing about being a true believer?

Key Teaching point: Our confession of faith and belief in Jesus is lived out through obedience to Jesus and our love for each other . These are the hallmarks of true faith.

TAKEAWAY

If I can get hold of any.... Give out gold chocolate coins. A reminder God has given us a "talent" or ability to use for His kingdom. We must be obedient and use it.

EXTRA INFO

A talent was originally a measurement of weight, (75 pounds) then it became a unit of coinage. Today we use the term talent to describe ability or skill we possess. The word derives from this parable!

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