

The Parable of the Talents

GETTING STARTED:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkh03G5qz08>

Watch the above youtube clip and then chat about the following questions:

- What is important to the boy?
- What did you realise as the film went on?
- What talent did the boy have?
- What did he use it for?
- Do you think that practising his dance in private was a good use of his talent?
- What do you think happened next?

DIGGING IN:

Briefly tell the story of the talents:

"There was once a rich man who had to go away. He divided up his money – he gave 5 pieces to one servant, 2 pieces to a second and 1 piece to a third.

When he came home again, he asked the servants how they had used his money.

The first servant came back with 10 pieces of money. He had worked hard and earned lots.

The second had also worked hard. He had 4 pieces of money now.

But the third man had still only got one piece of money. He gave it to the rich man now. "I was scared to do anything with this money, as I thought that you might tell me off if I made a mistake. So this is what you gave me."

The rich man was happy with the two men who had worked hard and used their money wisely, but he was cross with the third man because he had been lazy and not done anything."

Say that Jesus told this parable to show us that God has given us all gifts, and he wants us to use them.

Ask everyone if they know anyone who has a gift/talent?

What sort of gifts/talents might we have?

Say that God gives everyone something they are particularly good at: no one is left out. But no one is born with a talent that is fully developed. They have to grow... and they grow more if they practise.

DIGGING IN cont:

Take an example of a footballer. Name or show a picture of a footballer whom they might know.

Discuss what talents you need to be an amazing footballer.

- Was the footballer born with these skills? No.
- Did he have to learn them? Yes.

Ask the children to think about the steps a footballer goes through in order to be a footballer – start really young:

- The first thing he or she must learn is how to stand up. Then how to walk. Then how to run. Then how to kick a ball.
- Then he will learn how to play kicking a ball around with his friends.
- He will learn the rules of football at school.
- He might go to football training.
- He might join a team.
- Then he will practise and practise.

(Children should be able to come up with these steps by themselves if you prompt them to start young enough.)

Say that in order to become a real footballer, you must work hard and practice hard. You must be careful with what you eat and make sure you get enough sleep.

And it's the same with all our gifts – they all need to be practised and practised!

RESPONSE:

Ask everyone to cut out a large circle of yellow paper so it looks like a huge coin (or give them a pre-prepared one). Ask them to write their name in the middle and then write or draw one talent they see in themselves. Sit in a circle and ask each person to pass their coin on to the person on the left. Ask everyone to draw or write a talent they see in the person whose coin they now have. Keep passing the papers round and asking everyone to add one more talent each time. Stop once the papers are returned to the person whose name is in the middle (or you could go round twice). Have a quiet moment while everyone looks at the talents on their coin.

Talk about how great it is that we are all so different and have different talents. Discuss that it is important that we are different and enjoy different things. This is a chance to celebrate the uniqueness of each family member and the importance of being a team.

Pray for each other to know how to use the gifts you have identified for God.