

The Ten Talents

Bible Verse

Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock. Matthew 7:24

Did You Know?

Jesus told the story of a man who traveled to a distant land to obtain his kingdom. This was a custom that seems unusual to us, but that Jesus' original audience would have been familiar with as it was customary at the time. Before he left, the man called for his servants and gave them each a significant amount of money. Luke wrote that the amount given to each servant was worth four months' wages. This was not a large amount of money for the wealthy man, but would have been a lot of money for each servant. Two of the servants used their money to make more money. These servants were rewarded by being put in charge of cities. The third servant was afraid, so he wrapped the money given him in a scarf. In Jesus' time, while some wealthy people invested their money with bankers, most people did not. Most people buried their money or hid it if they wanted to keep it safe. Therefore, the original hearers of Jesus' story would have thought that hiding the money was a reasonable act. However, in Jesus' story, the servant who hid his money was rebuked and dealt with harshly. His money was taken away and given to the servant who had made a ten-fold gain on his investment.

This story is similar to a story found in the Gospel of Matthew. The title of today's lesson is taken from the Matthew version of the story where the word "talent" has sometimes been used. In biblical times, a talent was a large sum of money. The story in Matthew's Gospel is often interpreted as a lesson in using the gifts given to us for God's kingdom. There are aspects of Luke's story that lend itself to this interpretation as well. We can read this story as a reminder to use the gifts and talents we have, rather than keeping them hidden.

Bible Story

Luke 19:11-26

Anchor Point

We can learn from the stories Jesus told.

Your Lesson

JUMP IN:

- ☐ Welcome
- ☐ Kids Stuff: Job Chart
- ☐ Exploration Station: Hide the Bible Verse

DIVE DEEPER:

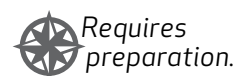
- ☐ Bible Story Time
- ☐ Experience the Story: The Ten Talents
- ☐ Look It Up!
- ☐ My Thoughts

GROW STRONGER:

- ☐ Life Connection: Many Gifts, One Body
- ☐ Learn & Serve with the Deep Blue Kids: Dance Party
- ☐ Craft Activity: Collaborative Art Project
- ☐ Spiritual Practice: Service at Church

WORSHIP:

- ☐ Gather, Sing, and Sign
- ☐ Praise and Reflect



Requires preparation.



JUMP IN!

The following activities may be done in learning centers as the children arrive or may be done with the entire group.

WELCOME

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 16-17, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), television (optional), markers, offering basket, tape



Continue to display Attendance Chart and obtain offering basket.

- Play “My Stories for You” and greet each child as they arrive.
- Let children mark their attendance and place their offerings in the basket.

KIDS STUFF: JOB CHART

Supplies: Kids Stuff—pp. 21-22, writing utensils

- Distribute the Job Chart.
- Let children fill in a job they can do to help in the Sunday-school space.
- Encourage children to try to complete helpful tasks in the Sunday-school space. Let them think of how they can help in other places throughout the week.



Use the Trivia questions on the DVD to review this unit’s Bible stories and Bible verse.



EXPLORATION STATION: HIDE THE BIBLE VERSE

Supplies: Leader Guide—p. 60, scissors



Photocopy and cut out the puzzle pieces and hide them around the room.

SAY: I have hidden thirteen puzzle pieces around our room. Let’s work together to find them.

- Invite each child to find the puzzle pieces.
- Direct children to work together to put the Bible-verse puzzle together.
- When the Bible-verse puzzle is completed, read the verse together as a class.

DIVE DEEPER

BIBLE STORY TIME

Supplies: DVD, DVD player, television

- Place DVD in the player and cue Session 9, then watch video.

ASK: What did the first servant do? the second servant? the third? How did the king respond to the third servant?

EXPERIENCE THE STORY: THE TEN TALENTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles; Bible Stories & Stuff—Session 9, p. 2

- Direct children to locate in their Bibles Luke 19:11-26, then read the Scripture aloud.
- Assign the five parts and present the story.

LOOK IT UP!

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (top), pencils

- Invite children to locate in their Bibles Luke 6:34-36.

ASK: What does the word *lend* mean? What does this teach us about giving and helping others?

MY THOUGHTS

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 3 (bottom), pencils

SAY: The Bible story today is called The Ten Talents. In biblical times, *talents* meant a large sum of money. However, today we also know *talent* to mean a skill one is especially good at.

ASK: What talents do you have? How can you use those talents to share God's love?

- Invite children to journal their responses.

GROW STRONGER

LIFE CONNECTION: MANY GIFTS, ONE BODY

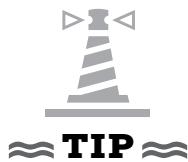
Supplies: Bible Stories & Stuff—p. 4

SAY: We all have unique talents that make us special. The Bible story reminds us to share those talents with others. But it is also important to use our talents to work together and to share God's love with the world.

ASK: What are ways we can use our many gifts and talents to work together? Is a task easier or harder when you work together?

- Invite children to read Life Connection: Many Gifts, One Body.





Invite a leader in your congregation to come to speak about ways children can serve or help at church.

LEARN & SERVE WITH THE DEEP BLUE KIDS: DANCE PARTY

Supplies: Class Stuff—pp. 2-3, 31; Deep Blue Annual Music CD; CD player

SAY: In the video, Armen is a great dancer.

ASK: Do you like to dance?

SAY: Let's dance together. Dancing is a great way to move our bodies and to worship God.

- Play music from the Deep Blue Annual Music CD.
- Encourage children to dance together, have fun, and be silly.

CRAFT ACTIVITY: COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT

Supplies: crayons or markers; large poster paper or a large piece of cardboard; colored pencils; recycled materials such as stickers, shells, pompons, and so forth.

- Call for children to look at the supplies provided and to work together to come up with something they can make or create.
- Encourage them to be creative and to be sure to include everyone in the project.
- When children have finished, let them share what they have created.

SAY: Great job working together! God wants us to share our talents with others.

SPIRITUAL PRACTICE: SERVICE AT CHURCH

SAY: We all have talents and gifts that make us special.

ASK: What talents do you have? How can you use your talents to serve at church?

- Offer suggestions of ways children can help out in your congregation.

WORSHIP

GATHER, SING, AND SIGN

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bibles, Bible Stories & Stuff—Songbooks, Leader Guide—pp. 86 & 87, CD, DVD (optional), CD player, DVD player (optional), tape, television (optional)



Write on the board Matthew 7:24. Review the Unit 2 Bible verse American Sign Language, using pages 86 & 87 as a guide. Photocopy those pages for children.

- Distribute songbooks. Play the song "My Stories for You" one time, letting children follow along. Then sing the song together. Set aside songbooks to collect later.
- Teach children the Unit 2 Bible verse sign language, then say and sign the verse.

PRAISE AND REFLECT

Supplies: Deep Blue Kids Bible; Class Stuff—pp. 12 & 21, 5-6, 8 & 25; glue stick; model pieces; tape



Continue to display on the board Matthew 7:24. Display Poster: Animals of Armenia. Obtain Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: Let's learn more about God's wonderful creation and the animals you might find in Armenia.

- Invite a child to choose an animal on Poster: Animals of Armenia. Then read about the animal in Fact Book: Animals of Armenia.

SAY: This unit's Bible verse says, "Everybody who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise builder who built a house on bedrock" (Matthew 7:24).

- Invite children to say the Bible verse with you.

SAY: Let's find the next piece to build our house.

- Display on the table the model house on its base. Display the final model pieces. Invite volunteers to place pieces numbers 5 and 6 (*roof pieces*). Glue the pieces to the assembled house and return house model to base.

SAY: Great job! We've built a sturdy house on a firm foundation.

- Invite children to name people or situations they'd like to pray for in the closing prayer. Lift up those joys and concerns at the end of the prayer.

PRAY: Dear God, thank you for giving us talents. Help us to share our talents with the world and help us to spread your love with others. Amen.



Exploration Station: Hide the Bible Verse

“Everybody
who hears these
words of mine
and puts them
into practice
is like a wise
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on bedrock.”

(Matthew 7:24)