

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of August 4-10, 2024
"PARABLE OF THE TALENTS"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

If you could take a leap into any adventure today, what would it be and why?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 25:14-30.

1. What does the "long journey" of the master in the parable represent? What might these details indicate to the disciples (and to us) concerning how we should be about the master's business while we wait for Jesus' return?
2. In what ways does the distribution of talents reflect the sovereignty of God in giving different gifts and responsibilities to individuals? Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 and consider the diversity of spiritual gifts. How are they distributed?
3. Why do you think the master gives the men different amounts of talents? Do you think this affected the behaviour of the servant with the least amount of talents? (Have you ever done that? i.e. compare your talent with other people's talents?)
4. What do you observe about the first servant's speedy response (note the phrase "at once" in verse 16)? What area in your life do you think should you cultivate this kind of attitude?
5. What was wrong with the way the servant viewed his master (verse 24-25)? Although the master receives back what he gave to the servant, why do you think was he still upset?

6. Stewardship also includes issues/matters like laziness, use of our words, time, talents and money. What area of stewardship do you struggle with today? How does our study challenge you about laziness, procrastination and/or carelessness in your response to God?
7. Oftentimes we do not think much about accountability. What does this parable say about that? How should understanding God's grace and holiness impact our sense of accountability?

NEXT STEPS

- I will identify my God-given gifts.
- I will actively seek opportunities to use my God-given gifts to serve my community and church.
- I will make a daily effort to be diligent and faithful in my responsibilities, ensuring that I use my time and talents effectively.

Don't forget to:

- Go through the devotionals every day this week.
- Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.

CLOSING THE SESSION

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for wisdom to recognize and develop the talents and gifts God has entrusted to you, and the courage to use them for his glory.
- Pray for relationships to grow with other Christ-followers, that you will encourage and care for one another.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends, and loved ones.
- Pray for protection, provision, healing and comfort for everyone who's going through physical, emotional, mental and spiritual pain.

BIBLE READING GUIDE

August 5	Matthew 25:14-30
August 6	1 Peter 4:7-11
August 7	Galatians 6:1-10
August 8	Luke 18:31-34
August 9	Colossians 3:12-17
August 10	Psalms 19:1-14
August 11	John 15:1-5