

HOOK

Choose 1 game based on age-appropriateness.

GAME: HIDDEN TREASURE

Hide treasures (candy, buttons etc) around the room for the kids to find.

Variation: Cut out the following words on individual cards, and stick each to a "treasure". Once the kids find all the pieces, they have to arrange the words to form the verse: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field."*

Variation: Put little treasures in a bag of rice. Kids can put their hands into the bag of rice and rummage for one of the treasures (small toys, cars, marbles etc).

GAME: PICK THE PEARLS

The goal of this game is to be the team who collects the most pearls in their bucket. Divide your class into teams. Place an empty bucket for each team at the far end of the room and a bucket full of beads (or marbles, cotton balls, ping pong balls etc) as "pearls" in front of each team.

Kids have to take turns to scoop one of the "pearls" from the bucket, and run with it to the other side of the room, where they will drop it in their empty bucket. Whichever team has the most number of "pearls" in their bucket at the end wins.

GAME: THE PRICE IS RIGHT

Today we are going to play an old TV game called "The Price Is Right." Have you ever seen it? The contestants on the show are shown an item and then they try to guess how much the item costs. The one who guesses closest to the actual price without going over wins the prize.

Bring some items such as Oreo cookies, loaf of bread, bottle of Ribena (you can also show photos of these items with the prices hidden). On the back of the package there is a tag with the price of the cookies. We will see how close you can come to guessing the price without going over the correct price.

E.g.

If you think that the price of this Oreos/item is MORE than RM4.00, raise your hand. No, if you raised your hand, you are out of the game because these cookies do not cost more than RM4.00.

If you think the price of this package of cookies is LESS than RM2.00, raise your hand. If you raised your hand, you are out of the game because these cookies cost more than RM2.00.

If you think the price of these cookies is MORE than RM3.00, raise your hand. If you raised your hand, you are still in the game. This package of cookies does cost more than RM3.00.

Next, I am going to call out a price, If I call out the price that you think is the right price of the cookies, raise your hand.

RM3.39 - No, you're out of the game.

RM3.49 - No, you're out of the game.

RM3.59 - No! You're out!

RM3.69 - Yes! These cookies cost \$3.69. If your hand is up, you are a winner! You have won the cookies!

These cookies are good, but RM3.69 is a lot of money for a package of cookies, isn't it? Are they worth it? Perhaps there is another package of cookies that would be just as good for less money. Every day, we have to make choices about the value of things. We ask ourselves, "How much am I willing to pay?"

LESSON: PARABLES OF HIDDEN TREASURE & PEARL (Matt 13:44-46)

Parables are stories Jesus told to teach us important lessons about the Kingdom of Heaven. Let's read these 2 short parables of Jesus.

Matt 13:44-46

44 "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a treasure that a man discovered hidden in a field. In his excitement, he hid it again and sold everything he owned to get enough money to buy the field.

45 "Again, the Kingdom of Heaven is like a merchant on the lookout for choice pearls. 46 When he discovered a pearl of great value, he sold everything he owned and bought it!"

Both the parables have a similar storyline.

Both the man and the merchant find something truly valuable to them — some hidden treasure, or a priceless pearl.

Both were willing to give up everything they had, to sell all they owned, just to get it.

(Background are for older kids and teachers. Simplify as needed.)

The Treasure

The treasure refers to Israel, God's first covenant people. They are descendants of Abraham.

Since God brought them out of Egypt, they had promised to follow all of God's laws and commandments, but they always disobeyed. They know God and look forward to His promised Messiah/Saviour. But they rejected Jesus as the Messiah; instead, they crucified Him.

But God still loves them. He remembers His covenant with Abraham.

That's why He sent Jesus. Jesus was the man who sold everything He had — He gave his very own life and blood — to pay the price for them ... even though they rejected Him. Now all that is left is for them to accept Jesus as their God and Saviour to receive His salvation.

The Pearl

Jesus is also the merchant seeking beautiful pearls.

What's a pearl? It is a precious stone formed in a mollusc, like an oyster. When sand or foreign object enters an oyster, it injures the oyster, which continues covering the foreign object with a secretion, called nacre. It keeps on covering and covering until the foreign object becomes a beautiful pearl. Then the oyster dies. The injured (oyster) gives its life to protect and beautify the injurer (foreign object). Much like what Jesus did for us.

We, the church, are the pearl — whether we are Jews or Gentiles. Pearls are found deep on the ocean floor. Jesus left the splendours and heights of Heaven to pay the price for us and uncover the church that God intended.

Hebrews 12:2 *We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, the champion who initiates and perfects our faith. Because of the joy awaiting him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame. Now he is seated in the place of honor beside God's throne.*

(We are Jesus' joy ... Because of us, He was willing to endure the cross.)

2 Corinthians 8:9 *You know the generous grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.*

(Jesus gave up everything for us, so we can have all He has).

God first called the Jews (Israel). And when Jesus came, the invitation to be God's children is open to the whole world. All of us can accept Jesus, who paid such a great price for us, and be part of God's family.

Conclusion

Jesus is the man/merchant in search for something of great, great value to Him — us.

And when He finds us, He was willing to give everything up, just so that He could have us.

We are Jesus' great treasure. We are Jesus' precious pearl.

The world may see us as worthless. But to Jesus, we are so very valuable. You are very valuable.

Jesus is also our great treasure and precious pearl. Now that we have Him, let's hold on to Him — He is more valuable than all the treasures of the world. When we have Jesus, we have everything.



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CHILDREN'S
CHURCH

THE GREAT TREASURE

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share what it means to be so valuable to Jesus that He would give everything for us. Encourage those who have yet to accept Jesus to do so.

HOOK

GAME: WHAT ARE YOU BUILDING ON?

Prepare two small tables, one soft pillow, some building blocks or Uno Stacko.

Divide kids into 2 groups. One group gets to build on a table; the other has to build on the soft pillow, placed on the table.

Each group has to build the tallest building out of the blocks/Uno Stacko pieces on the table/pillow in 3 minutes.

At the end of 3 minutes, gently shake the two tables. Or get kids to try to blow the other team's tower down (no contact allowed!).

See which one stands firm and which falls down (hopefully the one on the pillow falls first lah ;-))

LESSON: PARABLE OF THE WISE & FOOLISH BUILDER (Matt 7:24-27)

Matthew 7:24-27 24 “Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. 25 Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won’t collapse because it is built on bedrock. 26 But anyone who hears my teaching and doesn’t obey it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. 27 When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will collapse with a mighty crash.”

Jesus liked to use a lot of stories when He taught the people. These stories are called “parables”.

Jesus told the people a parable about two men. These two men were building a house.

One built his house on the rock — he dug deep to make sure he had a solid foundation. The other decided to build his house on the sand. Both houses looked nice when completed.

But one day, a heavy rain came. The wind blew, the flood rose. The house on the rock got wet, but it stood firm. However, the house on the sand fell flat and was destroyed.



How many of you saw the news and pictures of earthquakes and tsunamis? <show some pix>

This reminds us that in such storms, many things are easily destroyed. Our hope and faith cannot be on them.

When we build our house on sand, we're building on our own abilities, our intelligence, our achievements, our money ... we think that we are good enough for God. But when the storms come, we realise that whatever we have built cannot stand.

But when we build our house on the rock, we are building on the sure foundation — Jesus. Jesus calls us to “come to Him and hear His words and put them into practice.”

Only Jesus is good enough for God. Only He can make us good enough for God.

And when we believe and trust in Him, we can stand firm till the end.

Do we want to build our life on ourselves or on Jesus?

Pray: *Thank you Jesus that You are our sure foundation. You have done a perfect work on the cross, and all we can do is to trust in You and not be shaken. Thank you for keeping us safe in the storm. In Your name we pray, Amen.*

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share what it means to really trust Jesus and build their lives on Him. Assure kids that when they trust on Jesus, they will not be shaken. Encourage those who have yet to accept Jesus to do so.

SONG

The wise man built his house upon the rock

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Eu5bBDRpzPM>

or

This Wise Man

(sung to "This old man"; found in <http://bibleschoolteachers.blogspot.com/2010/10/wise-and-foolish-builders.html>)

This wise man, he built well

he built well up on a rock

When the rains came down

And the floods came up

This man's house stood firm and strong!

Foolish man, he built wrong

he built wrong up on the sand

When the rains came down

And the Floods came up

This man's house came tumbling down!

WORSHIP

Jesus, You're my Firm Foundation

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_3e4zIPK-8



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WORDSEARCH

[http://www.sermons4kids.com/wise or foolish wordsearch.htm](http://www.sermons4kids.com/wise_or_foolish_wordsearch.htm)

CROSSWORD

(see below)

NAME: _____

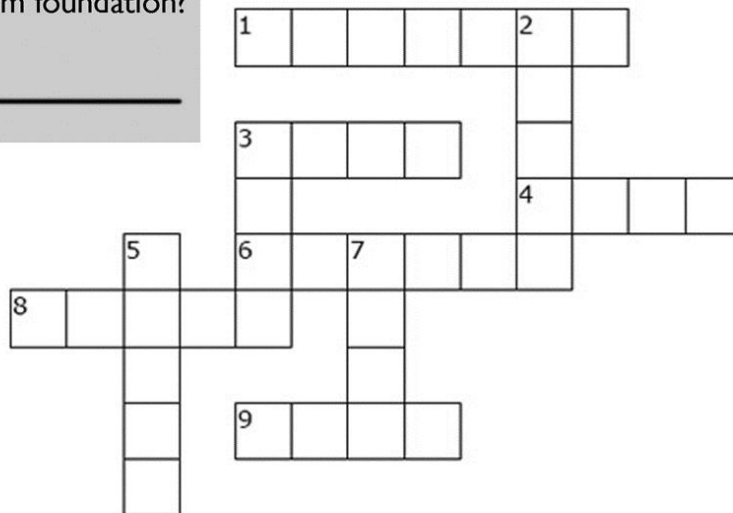
Wise or Foolish

"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. Matthew 7:24 (NVI)

Based on Matthew 7:24-27



Who is my firm foundation?



ACROSS

1. Not very clever
3. The natural movement of air
4. A large stone
6. A small river
8. A building where a family lives
9. Loose soil which is found on beaches

DOWN

2. A sudden or violent condition in nature
3. Someone who exercises good judgment in his daily life is _____
5. To make or form something such as a house
7. Water that falls from the sky

HOUSE
WISE

FOOLISH
STREAM

BUILD
RAIN

STORM
SAND

WIND
ROCK

HOOK

GAME: GIFT BAG

Prepare a bag with the following items (or pictures of items):

- Bread
- Egg
- Candy
- Rock
- Toy snake
- Toy scorpion

Tell the kids this is a gift bag. And 6 kids have a chance to draw a gift from it. Some will be good gifts; others will be yucky gifts.

Will our daddy and mummy give us good or yucky gifts? *Good*

Jesus will also always give us good gifts. He wants to give us good gifts. Thank you Jesus!

GAME: MR/MRS MUMBLE

Kids are seated in a circle.

Kid A starts by asking a neighbor, Kid B: "Mr/Mrs. Mumble, can you give me some bread?" without showing their teeth.

Kid B responds by saying, "No (Kid A's name), Don't bother me. I'm already in bed." (Again, no showing teeth!)

Then Kid B asks the next person, Kid C, "Mr/Mrs. Mumble, can you give me some bread?"

This must go around the circle without any players showing their teeth while speaking.

Those who show teeth will be out or have to do a forfeit.

LESSON: PARABLE OF THE FRIEND AT MIDNIGHT (Luke 11:5-13)

Today we are going to hear a parable of the friend who had to persuade his friend to get up and give him bread at midnight.

Jesus was praying and his disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. After he taught them how to pray (what is commonly referred to as "The Lord's Prayer"), Jesus had something very important to say about prayer.

Jesus knew that what we thought of God was more important than the words that we use when we pray.

Luke 11:5-8

Then Jesus said to them, "Suppose you have a friend. You go to him at midnight and say, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread. A friend of mine on a journey has come to stay with me. I have no food to give him.' And suppose the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked. My children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.' I tell you, that person will not get up. And he won't give you bread just because he is your friend. But because you keep bothering him, he will surely get up. He will give you as much as you need."

Imagine the scene. It is midnight. All is dark and quiet. The man, his wife and their young children all asleep in bed and the doors of the house are locked.

Suddenly, there is a knocking at the door. The man opens his eyes, gets out of bed, walks to his window, looks down and sees his friend below his window. He tells his friend "Don't bother me. The door is already locked. My children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything." He goes back to bed.

The friend doesn't give up and continues knocking. The wife now wakes up and glares at the man, "You better give him what he needs, otherwise he will wake up our children". The man finally gives his friend the bread he asks for.

Optional Video: <https://youtu.be/1fnElIVTOrs>

(Suggest to start at 0.21 and end right after the parable)

This parable is often told to illustrate that if we are persistent, ie keep on praying and don't give up, and God will answer our prayers. However, Jesus went on to say:

Luke 11:9-13

"So here is what I say to you. Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. Everyone who asks will receive. The one who searches will find. And the door will be opened to the one who knocks.

"Fathers, suppose your son asks for a fish. Which of you will give him a snake instead? Or suppose he asks for an egg. Which of you will give him a scorpion? (The answer to both questions is "NO!") Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

WHO WE ARE

Who are we in the parable? Sometimes we may think that we are the friend outside the house knocking on the door to ask for bread. But Jesus says, *"Even though you are evil, you know how to give good gifts to your children. How much more will your Father who is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

Therefore, we are not the friend outside the house. We are the children who are in bed with the Father! Whatever we need, we can just tap him on the shoulder or tug his shirt sleeve and tell him what we need.

Jesus went on to say that even our human parents, who are not perfect, always want to give good gifts to us. So our loving, perfect Heavenly Father will surely give us good gifts.

"Every good and perfect gift is from above ..." (James 1:17)

Like a little child who looks to his mother for food, drink, comfort, or to fulfill any of his needs, we can look to our Father to give us what we need. We know that God will surely give us what is best for us because he even gave Jesus to die for us on the cross.

CONCLUSION

We have a loving heavenly Father who is ever willing to help us. We can always ask him to help us and tell him what we need.

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

MEMORY VERSE

Luke 11:9 *Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you.*

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share prayer points and pray knowing that we have a God who cares, listens and answers.

WORSHIP

Let us praise and thank God because he is great and so good to us.

Say to the Lord I love you (Lyrics on the slides)

<https://youtu.be/ngo4St8Cklg>

My God is so big

<https://youtu.be/vV7kvOLRjLc>

LESSON: PARABLE OF THE GRACIOUS MONEYLENDER (Luke 7:36-50)

Suggested props: a bottle of perfume

One day, a Pharisee named Simon invited Jesus to his house for dinner.

As Jesus was eating at the table, suddenly a woman came to him. This woman had a bad reputation in the town. The Bible describes her as someone who lived a sinful life.

This woman started crying at Jesus' feet. Her tears streamed down and wet his feet, and she wiped the feet with her hair. She had a very expensive and precious alabaster jar of perfume — it was probably her most treasured possession. She poured the perfume on Jesus' feet. (spray some perfume in the air or at feet so that the kids can smell it)

When Simon saw this happening, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would know who is touching him and what kind of woman she is."

As we know, Jesus knows our thoughts even when we don't speak them out. Jesus decided to tell Simon a story:

Two people owed money to a moneylender.

One owed 500 denarii, while the other owed 50 denarii. (1 denarii = 1 day's salary)

None of them could pay their debt.

The moneylender decided to forgive both their debts.

Which of these two people will love the moneylender more?

Simon answered, "The one who had the bigger debt forgiven."

Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

Then Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon:

SIMON	WOMAN
Did not give any water for Jesus to wash His feet	Wet feet with tears and wiped with hair
Did not give Jesus a kiss	Has not stopped kissing feet
Did not put oil on Jesus' head	Poured perfume on His feet

Both Simon and the woman had sins — both had debts they could not pay.

But only the woman realised and understood that Jesus had forgiven her many sins. That's why the woman's response was so great! She had been forgiven much, so she loved much.

Whereas Simon the Pharisee was probably self-righteous and did not realise he also needed his sins to be forgiven. So as he thought he had not much to be forgiven, he also showed little love to Jesus.

Difference: Simon invited Jesus into his house, but the woman invited Jesus into her heart.

Jesus assured the woman: "Your sins are forgiven. Your faith has saved you. Go in peace." The woman no longer had to go out as a "sinful" woman, but as one who knew she had been forgiven.

GOOD NEWS FOR TODAY

When we realise how much Jesus has done for us, we cannot help but to love Him in return.

That's the amazing grace of God!

Let's pray: *Thank you Jesus that while we were still sinners, when we couldn't pay our debts, when we were Your enemies, You loved us and forgave us. Thank you for Your amazing grace in our lives. Amen.*

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

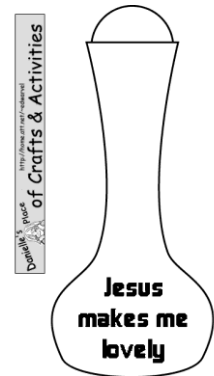
Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share some of the sins they have done in their lives and what it means to them that Jesus has forgiven them all.

CRAFT: Perfume bottle

Print out perfume bottle on white card.

On 1 side write: Jesus makes me lovely

On the other side: Get kids to stick colourful crepe paper to decorate. Then spray some perfume on the crepe paper.



WORDSEARCH (see next page)

WORSHIP

Let us praise and thank God because he is great and so good to us.

I'm trading my sorrows

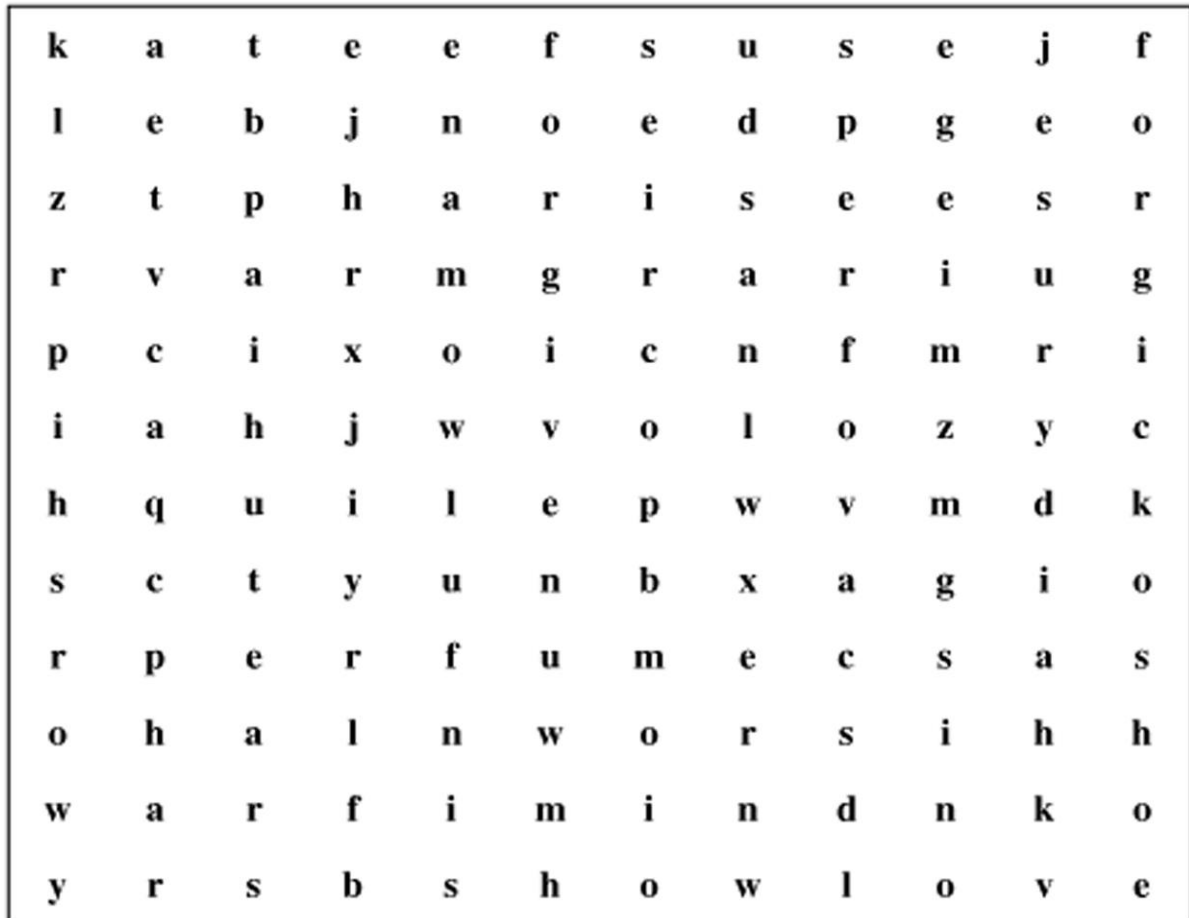
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WzjFIQvJvDo>

One way

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yc5FxUN4aG0>

Word Search

A Woman with Perfume



“Your faith has saved you; go in peace.” Luke 7:50

Simon	Pharisee	sinful woman
perfume	Jesus' feet	tears
hair	wash	forgiven
cried	worship	show love

HOOK

GIFT CHARADES

Encourage children to think of something they feel they do well or enjoy doing, such as playing a musical instrument, playing a sport, and so forth. Warn them not to tell anyone what they have in mind. Let kids take turns acting out the thing they do well, allowing the other children to guess. Offer helpful suggestions to actors.

HIDDEN COINS

Before class, hide coins in different places around the room. Allow kids to hunt for the hidden coins.

If time allows, use the coins to play a game of "Hot or Cold." Select a child to be the finder. Hide a coin somewhere in the room while the finder is blindfolded or steps outside the door with another leader. When the blindfold is removed or the finder steps back in the room, allow children to help the finder by shouting out "hot" or "cold" based on the finder's proximity to the hidden coin. Continue until the finder discovers the coin.

Lead in to Lesson: Today, we are going to hear a parable about gifts/coins.

LESSON: PARABLE OF THE TALENTS (Matt 25:14-30)

Suggested props: 15 coins for kids to count along during the story.

Jesus was teaching people about God and His kingdom. He told them parables, or stories, to help them understand.

One day, Jesus was talking about the last day, the day when Jesus will come back to earth. Jesus said that no one knows when that day will happen.

Then He told His listeners a parable about three servants. Jesus said,

"This is what that day will be like. A man was going on a journey. He called his servants to him and gave them each some money. He gave one servant five talents, another servant two talents, and another servant one talent. (Now, a talent was a very large amount of money.) Each man received what the master thought he was able to take care of. Then the man left and went on his journey.

"The first servant, who had five talents, invested the money right away. Soon, the five talents had earned five more. In the same way, the man who had two talents invested the money and earned two more talents. But the servant who had one talent did not invest his master's money. Instead, he dug a hole in the ground and hid the money in the hole.

"After a long time, the master came home. He asked his servants what they had done with his money. The servant who had five talents showed the master that he had earned five more talents. 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' the master said. 'You did a good job looking over a few things, so I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in my joy!'

"Then the second servant, who had two talents, showed the master that he had earned two more talents. " 'Well done, good and faithful servant!' the master said. 'You did a good job looking over a few things, so I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share in my joy!'

"Then the third servant, who had one talent, brought the master his one talent. The servant said, 'Master, I know you. You are a difficult man. I was afraid and went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here is the one talent you gave me.'

"The master was not happy. 'You evil, lazy servant! If you know me so well, you should have invested your money with the bankers so that when I returned, I would get my money back with interest.'

"The master took the talent from the servant and gave it to the servant who had 10 talents. The master said, 'Everyone who uses what they have will get even more, and they will have more than they need. But anyone who wastes what he has will have everything taken away. Throw out this useless servant.' "

The man going on a journey

Jesus knew that after He went to the cross, He would go back to heaven before returning for us one day.

But in His absence, and until His return, He leaves us with valuable treasures (talents). What is this treasure? It is God's gift of grace — His righteousness and blessings because of Jesus' finished work on the cross.

The servants

There are two other groups of people in this parable

The first and second servants:

When we believe in Jesus and exercise the gift of His finished work on the Cross, we are able to bless others because of all that Christ has blessed us with.

When we share God's grace with others, we see it multiply and bear fruit in our lives — some five times, some ten times.

- We live faithful, victorious and abundant lives in Christ (Our work/studies, families, ministries prosper)
- Others are blessed by us
- The Lord grants us more gifts to bless even more people
- We share in Jesus' joy

The last servant:

If we have God's gift of grace but don't do anything about it (bury in the ground), it is of no use to us.

- We have wrong image of God — as a hard master who is ruthless and unfair, always waiting to punish us for our mistakes
- We waste the gifts and talents He has blessed us with and lose out on more
- We rely on our own strength, efforts and works to try to please God, and end up empty and frustrated

CONCLUSION

Know who God is — have the right picture of Him. He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. He's not a hard master out to get us. He wants to rejoice with us and call us "good and faithful".

Know the treasure we have in Christ — don't hide it away. Use it. Enjoy it. Share it with others. Bless others with it.

Jesus is coming back again — those who do not receive Him as their Saviour and King will be left out of His kingdom. Let's share with our friends the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ!

REMEMBER: We are Blessed to be a Blessing!

ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

HUDDLE TIME

Get kids in smaller groups. Get them to share what are some of the gifts and talents God has blessed them with and how they can bless others with them.

CRAFT

Coin-shape (to depict minas) with the words "Jesus is my King"

WORKSHEET (see below)

Name: _____

Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30)

1. Jesus told a parable of a man of going on a _____.
2. He gave his servants and gave them some _____, according to their _____.
3. Upon his return, he found out that the servants with _____ talents earned five more, and the one with _____ talents earned two more. The man said to them, "Well done, _____ and _____ servant."
4. But one servant had hid his talent in the _____ because he was _____ of his master, whom he thought was a _____ man.
5. We should know who God is and have a _____ of Him.
6. Because of Jesus' _____, we have been _____ to be a _____ to others.
7. Jesus is _____ back again. Let's share His grace with everyone!

faith coming ground ability grace journey talents

return afraid blessing two hard blessed

one good opinion good five