

Children's Worship Lesson – November 15, 2020

NURTURING THE GIFT

Focus Scripture: Matthew 25:14-30

Purpose: To recognize our responsibility to nurture our gifts from God.

Preparation

Worship Table – green cloth

Bring Items for exploring growth; i.e., scale and baby clothes

Pictures for Bible story and activity materials at the end of the lesson

Tape for the back of the coins

Cord and 7 clothespins.

Lighting of the Christ Candle: We light this candle to remember that God is always with us.

Opening Prayer

Thank you God for each one of us,
and for all the things that each of us can do.

Amen.

SONG: LIVING IN GOD'S WAY – VERSE 1

Words and music: Donald Schmidt; art: Michael Bloss
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Song: Living God's Way

(tune: Yankee Doodle)

In the Bible Jesus shows us
how to live God's w-ay.
Listen, listen everyo-ne,
what does Jesus say?

Chorus

G-od loves us – me and you,
God loves everyo-ne.
G-od loves us – me and you
and we love others too!

(verse 2 for after story)

We have heard another story
how to live God's w-ay.
Now this is our story, too,
so listen while we say...

Chorus



Introducing the Theme – “Growing”

I have set out a number of items that all have to do with growing. Let us look at them together.

Assist the children with measuring and weighing themselves, looking at themselves in mirrors, etc. You have grown so much! When you were a baby, you weighed less than 10 pounds, and fit into clothes this big. **(Hold up the baby clothes.)** How tall **(or long)** do you think you were when you were a baby? **(Encourage the children to use their hands to show you.)** Compare that with how tall you are now! I am going to teach you an action rhyme about that.

Action Rhyme: “When I was a Tiny Baby”

Crouch near the floor as you say: When I was a tiny baby, I was very, very small.

Slowly stand as you say: Now I am **(four, five, six)** years old

Reach for the sky: and I am very, very tall.

Each year you grow bigger and stronger and are able to do more things. What are some things that you can do now that you couldn't do when you were a baby? **(Walk and run, talk, paint pictures, tie shoes, cut with scissors)** There are things that you can do now that you couldn't do even last year. What are some of those things? **(Listen to their responses.)** Every year we grow and can do more things. We call these things talents.

Exploring the Theme – The Parable of the Talents

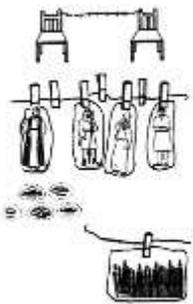
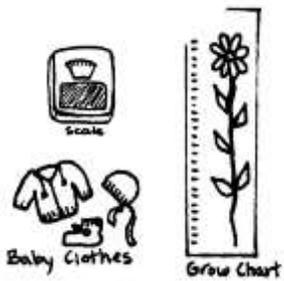
In Jesus' time a “talent” also had another meaning: it meant a very valuable piece of money. Here is a story that Jesus told to his disciples.

Clothesline Story: The Parable of the Talents

Tie a piece of cord between two chairs or tables. Hand out the story pieces for the clothesline story and have the children add and remove the pieces, as you tell the story.

Once there was a landowner who was going away on a long trip. **(Have a child pin up the landowner.)** Before he left, he met with his 3 servants to give them instructions about how to take care of things while he was gone. **(Add the 3 servants, leaving empty clothespins in between, as shown. The female servant is the second servant.)** When they were gathered, he said, “I am going to give each of you some money to look after while I am away. See what you can do with it.” He gave the first servant 5 talents. **(Stick the picture of 5 talents on the first servant.)** He gave the second servant 3 talents. **(Stick the picture of 3 talents on the second servant.)** Finally, he gave the third servant 1 talent. **(Stick the picture of 1 talent on the third servant.)** Then he left on his journey. **(Remove the landowner.)**

The first servant used his 5 talents to buy a large field and a bag of wheat seeds. **(Add the picture of a wheat field beside the first servant and remove his talents.)** He planted the





wheat seeds and soon had a large field of wheat, which he harvested and sold for 10 talents. **(Stick 2 sets of 5 talents on the first servant.)**

The second servant took her 3 talents and bought 2 goats. **(Add the picture of the goats beside the second servant and remove her talents.)** Every day she milked the goats and sold the milk. She soon earned 6 talents. **(Stick 2 sets of 3 talents on the second servant.)**

The third servant was afraid to use his talent. He thought to himself, "If I buy a field and plant seeds, they might not grow and then I would have nothing. Or, if I buy a goat it might die and then I would have nothing. I'm going to hide my money in a safe place." So, he put his talent in a little wooden box and buried it in the ground in a secret place. **(Put 1 talent under the box and pin it up beside third servant.)**

Eventually, the landowner returned home. **(Put up the landowner.)** He was eager to see how the servants were doing. He called the first servant over and said, "Tell me, what happened to the talents I gave you?" The first servant said, "I used the 5 talents to make 5 more talents," and told the landowner about his wheat field.

Then the landowner called the second servant over. "Tell me," he asked, "what happened to the talents I gave you?" The second servant said, "I used the 3 talents to make 3 more talents," and told about her goats.

Finally, the landowner called the third servant over and said, "Tell me, what happened to the talent I gave you?" The third servant said, "I was afraid I would lose my 1 talent, so I put it into a box and buried it in the ground."

The landowner was very pleased with the first two servants. They had used their talents well. The landowner was not pleased with the third servant though. In fact, he was quite sad. "You should not have hidden your talent," he said. "That was a waste of the gift I gave you!"

Jesus told this story to the people because he wanted people to use their talents wisely. Our talents are gifts from God. When we use our talents to help other people, we are helping to build a more loving and peaceful world – we are helping to build God's kingdom of shalom.

Game: Naming and Sharing our Talents

We have special talents, and it is important for us to name our talents. We're all going to stand in a line on the other side of the room. We'll take turns naming a talent. Whenever someone says a talent that you have, take a step forward. I'll start. One of my talents is that I'm good at **(singing, making people laugh, baking pies, etc.)**. Once someone has reached the other side of the room, the game is over. Be sure to give each child a chance to share a talent at least once.

Memory Verse: *For whoever has will be given more, and they will have plenty. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.* Matthew 25:29

SING: LIVING IN GOD'S WAY VERSE 2

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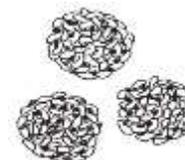
Chorus



Integrating the Theme – Graham Cookie Balls

Ingredients: 125mL / ½ cup dates
125mL / ½ cup raisins
6 graham crackers

30mL / 2 tbsp. honey



How to make: Measure dates, raisins, and honey and pour into a food processor. Blend until smooth. Crush graham crackers with a rolling pin and add to honey-fruit mixture until dry enough to roll into small balls. These balls may be rolled in graham cracker crumbs as well. Chill.

Closing Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you for our wonderful lesson today.

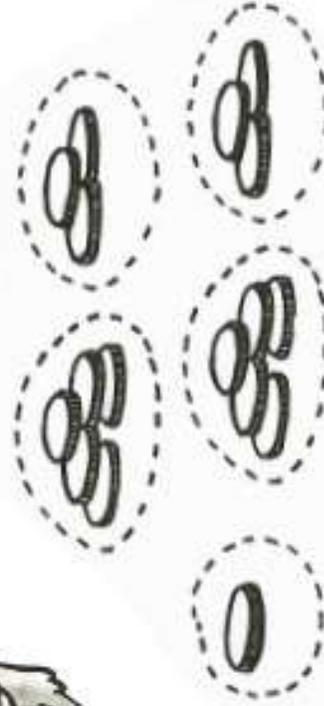
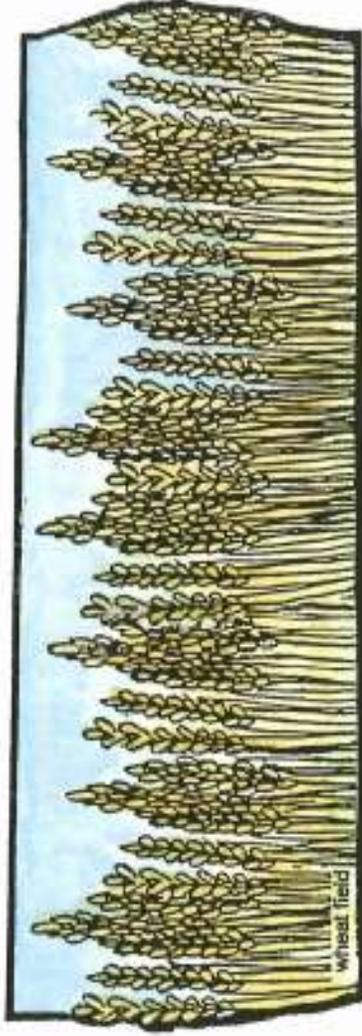
Remember that we should always let our light shine for Jesus and everyone around us.

Amen.

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Directions:
Mount individually on
construction paper.

The Parable of the Talents #1



Directions:
Mount individually on
construction paper.

The Parable of the Talents #2

