

Group discussion Each number below includes questions that relate to the scripture. I offer a few answers, but your perspective may be better. The point is to discuss, not to get 100% agreement. Rule of thumb: the fewer questions you ask, the better. Save time for “the big question.”

Read Matthew 25:14-30 aloud.

1. How fair was it for the master to give different amounts of money to the three servants? Why did he do this?

Which is harder to manage – a few resources or many?

How much do you think the servants compared themselves to one another?

We often compare, especially if we perceive that we have less than another person. The five talent man probably wasted no time with comparing.

2. What is going on in a person’s heart who wastes the resources God entrusts to him or her?

Why did the one-talent man bury his money?

What are some ways that we could waste resources God places in our care?

What does this story say about risk? Would you say Christians as a whole tend to be more cautious or aggressive?

How could faith gives us greater confidence to be assertive?

If God is for us, who can be against us? (Rom. 8:31-40)

3. How do you suppose the one-talent man’s perception of his employer (24) affected his actions?

He basically called his boss a crook – “harvesting where you have not sown.”

How do you think the other two servants would respond to this description of their master?

How can fear become a hindrance to success?

4. How is God like this master?

How is God different from this master?

How do you suppose this master would have responded if the five-talent man had gained only one talent?

5. Which servant in this story do you identify with? Do you feel more like a five-talent person or one?

How would your life be different if you saw yourself as a five-talent person?

Most people have more resources than we know how to manage – God loves to give, so he keeps on pouring out blessings.

6. According to this story, what happens to people who use resources in a way that pleases God?

If you would like for God to bless you with more resources, what could this story teach you?

Do what you can with what you have. And use it for God’s glory.

In what ways is it healthy to desire more? When does it become a problem? See 1 Timothy 6:9.

† **The million-dollar question** *If you ask only one question, let this be it. Allow at least 20 minutes. Go around the circle and give each person an opportunity to answer. It’s okay if they pass, but at least they get a chance to respond.*

What resources has God given us? See if you can list 20 as a group.

Time

Talents/wisdom/experience

Focus on prayer

Business resources or connections

Money

Influence

Property or possessions

Relationships

What is one resource that you could make available to God in a greater way?

Resources

Bible notes

- It is hard to say what a talent would be worth in today's currency. Morris' commentary points out that "a talent was a measure of weight, not a specific unity of currency....it might refer to either gold or silver or copper." The point is that there were different amounts, but even one talent was enough to make a man nervous about handling it.



January 3, 2010

LIFE Group Guide

Matthew 25 – Investing for God

By John Grant (jgrant@collegehills.org)

The theme for this meeting: **God gives us responsibilities and opportunities to use his resources.**

Kevin's Sunday sermon looks at the parable of the talents in Matthew 25 and invites us to use our resources to God's glory. The tragedy of the one-talent man is that he was focused on the risks more than the opportunities. Each of us has one way we can serve God in a new way this year.

Leadership tip:

Connect. Build bridges between the group and the congregation. Invite the group to sit together in worship, attend class, and to be involved in ministry together.

Kid-friendly activity. *An activity designed to help kids and adults grow in faith together. Do this first, then dismiss the kids so the adults can talk.*

Act out the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). Maybe use toys or candy to represent the talents.

Ask each kid to tell one thing he or she does well. Invite the adults to add to this discussion.

How can each of us use our these gifts to honor God this year?

Relate *Use a few to introduce the theme, check everyone's spiritual pulse, and "break the ice." No right or wrong answers – maybe goofy but not wrong! Look for opportunities to affirm and encourage through these questions.*

- ❖ Gimme five...favorite things about winter.
- ❖ At the time, I thought it was a failure, but it turned out to be a season of God shaping me in a profound way...
- ❖ How much cash is too much to keep in your wallet? How much would make you nervous to carry?