**JOURNEYING TOGETHER:** FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Session 4 of 4

# The talents

### MEETING AIM

To discover that God has given each of us different resources, and intends that we use them for his kingdom.

### BIBLE PASSAGE

Matthew 25:14-30

### BACKGROUND

This session plan is intended for use either in-person or online, depending on how you’re meeting. Adapt the activities to fit your situation.

The treatment meted out to the final servant by the master here might initially seem cruel. After all, he hasn’t stolen the money, and has returned exactly what he was given. However, the servant has hidden from his responsibility; he has been fearful to use what he has been given to make more. Each of our young people is uniquely talented; during this session, help the group think carefully about what those talents are and how God is calling them to use those to multiply his kingdom. Think carefully about your own talents too.

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### STARTING OUT – 5 mins

Welcome the young people to your group and share out any refreshments you have prepared. Chat about the young people’s week; celebrate their triumphs and share in their disasters. Ask the young people what their special talents are – can anyone demonstrate their party piece?

### INTRO ACTIVITY – 10 mins

**You will need:** small prize; forfeits written on slips of paper; newspaper; sticky tape; music and the means to play it

Before the session, make up a ‘pass the parcel’ parcel. Place a forfeit between each layer. The forfeit should be a mixture of challenges that test abilities and ‘scruples’. For example: ‘How many keepy-uppies can you do in 30 seconds?’ or: ‘If you were to inherit £1,000, how would you use it?’

Play pass the parcel and keep track of the group’s different answers to the scruples. What do these answers tell the young people about who they are?

### BIBLE EXPLORATION – 10 mins

**You will need:** parable video and the means to play it; Bibles; art materials; pens; paper; any suitable props

Before the session, search online for a video retelling of the talents.

Use the video at this point in the session as a way of introducing the parable. Then read Matthew 25:14-30 and compare the video to the text. You might also want to read the retold parable [‘Tia and the wasted talent’](https://www.premiernexgen.com/premier-ycw-magazine-online-hub/parable-tia-and-the-wasted-talent/10218.article) from our ‘Ready to use parable’ series.

Challenge the group to retell this story in a different context. What you do will depend on the interests of the young people. They could devise a drama (perhaps placing the three servants in a game-show setting), they might prefer to create a cartoon strip of the story, or write their own version.

When the young people have finished their own retellings, invite them to perform, show or read what they have created (if they are happy to – don’t force anyone to share). How has the process of coming at the story from a new direction helped their understanding of what Jesus is saying?

### CHATTING TOGETHER – 5 mins

Continue your discussion of the Bible passage by chatting through the following questions:

* What hits you the hardest about this passage?
* Why do you think different amounts are given to the three servants?
* Do you think the master was unfair?
* If the third servant had doubled his talents, do you think the master would have been just as pleased as he was with the other two?
* Can you see yourself in this parable?
* What point do you think Jesus was making?

### CREATIVE RESPONSE – 10 mins

**You will need:** Post-it notes; pens

Ask the group if they know what their talents are. Chat about how talents are sometimes described as the things you can’t help but do. For example, if there is a piano in the room, some people are quite happy to just walk past and not really notice it, whereas others have to sit down and play something.

If you have a lot of young people, break into smaller groups. Otherwise work all together. Start to explore what the young people think their gifts are. Choose one person at a time and ask the others to tell that person what they think he or she brings to the group, both in personality and talents. Let them know that the group is richer when they are there because of the things they bring. Encourage them to write these things down, each one on a separate Post-it note, so that when they doubt themselves they can remember them. If anyone struggles to think what their gifts are, ask others to call out the talents in that person.

### PRAYER – 5 mins

God has left clues inside us about how he wants to involve us in his kingdom work. That will be different for each of us, according to our skills and the things we feel strongly about. Ask the group to reflect on these two questions:

* In which areas would you love to make a difference?
* How can you make a start on that now?

We may not be called to lead vast churches or be a Christian superstar, but God will use us to make a difference if we let him. Give the young people some space to think about where God might use their gifts and skills.

Pray a closing prayer asking that God would help them be aware of how he has made them and things that he’s asking them to be part of.

This session was inspired by ideas from the NexGenPro archive, adapted by **ALEX TAYLOR**.