



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

MATTHEW 25:14-30

GOAL

To show children that every ability, opportunity, and provision—whether of time, money, or possessions—are all gifts from God. The greatest reward comes from using those things for God's glory and investing them in other people for eternal profit. The first two servants in the parable were industrious, and they invested their talents as the master desired, doubling their return. The third servant did not take advantage of the opportunity given to him; his vision did not reach past the ground. He buried his talent in the dirt and even blamed the master for his lack of productivity. Help children understand that taking the risk of investing every part of their lives to serve God and others will have the greatest return with eternal reward.

CHARACTERS

The Master: The owner of great riches and property. Before going on a journey, he instructs his servants to take care of his estate in his absence. He divides his wealth according to what he knows each one will be able manage—to the first servant he gives five talents, to the second servant he gives two talents, and to the third servant he gives one talent.

The First Servant: The most trusted servant who receives five talents from the master. He invests the talents he's been given in order to make more money. His efforts result in doubling his investment, and the master is greatly pleased.

The Second Servant: This servant receives two talents from the master. Like the first servant, he invests them in order to make more money. His efforts also result in doubling his investment. Again, the master is greatly pleased.

The Third Servant: This servant receives one talent from the master. Of the three servants, he is given the least, but it is still a significant amount to manage. He does nothing with the one talent except bury it in the ground for safe keeping. The master is greatly displeased.



MEMORY
VERSE

1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.

OVERVIEW

Read Matthew 25:14-30: This is the story of a wealthy man who left on a journey and placed his servants in charge of his wealth while he was away. To the first of his servants he gave five talents, to the second he gave two, and to the third he gave one. The first and second servants were diligent to invest their talents, doubling them in return; but the third servant, in fear of losing the one talent he was given, buried it in the ground. When the master returns he was greatly pleased with the first two servants for investing their talents, but he was angry with the third servant, calling him “wicked and lazy” for doing nothing with what he was given. The master takes his one talent, gives it to the servant who gained five, and casts the lazy servant out from his household forever.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: How did the master divide his wealth among his three servants?

A1: According to their ability to manage it.

Q1b: Do you earn an allowance?

TN: This will get students thinking about money and managing it. Allowances are usually based on completion of chores, much like the master giving talents according to the servants' abilities.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: How much was a talent worth?

A2: Thousands of dollars

Q2b: Do you have any chores that you are responsible for taking care of around your house?

TN: This question will get students thinking about the things their parents have trusted them to care for. If they do their jobs, the house is clean, or an animal is cared for, or the yard is tidy. These small chores may not seem like much, but when people prove themselves to be trustworthy, they are given more important tasks to watch. The servant who was given five talents must have shown himself to be trustworthy in many other tasks around the master's property.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: How much did the second servant's investments produce for the master?

A3: Two talents

Q3b: What is one of your talents?

TN: Remind students that God gave them all of their abilities. Ask them how they think their talents can be used to glorify God.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did the third servant do with the talent his master gave him?

A4: He buried it.

Q4b: Have you ever avoided doing something because you were scared?

TN: Fear of failure can be crippling. Instilling us with fear about trying something is a common tactic the enemy uses. If he can scare us into not using our God-given abilities and resources, we aren't working toward God's plan for our lives, we're not glorifying God, and we're not helping others.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: When the master returned, what did he do?

A5: He called his servants to see what they did with what he gave them to manage.

Q5b: Do you think the master expected his servants would succeed or fail?

TN: Like the master, God gives us everything we need to succeed. He watches us, eager to see what we do with the abilities and resources He's given us. God never sets up to fail.

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did the master say he would do for the two servants who invested the talents?

A6: He said he would put them in charge of many things.

Q6b: What do you want to be when you grow up?

TN: Once a student answers, ask him or her how someone gets to do the type of work mentioned? Are there a number of steps they need to go through before he or she reaches the job level? If they don't know, help them think of any necessary steps they will have to take to reach their goal. To be a police detective, people must go to school, training, and then they must earn a number of promotions to reach the detective rank. In the story, the servants were given talents based on the master's knowledge of their abilities. What they did with the talents enabled them to be trusted with more of the master's things.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What did the master do to the servant who did nothing with the talent he was given?

A7: The master cast him from his household forever.

Q7b: Why is the servant punished for saving the money?

TN: Saving money isn't a bad thing! In fact, being a good steward of the resources God gives us is the moral of this parable. Where the third servant went wrong was his motivation for saving: fear and mistrust. He said that the master was hard to please, so he decided to bury the money. When we don't take risks to answer God's calling for our lives, it's a sign that we are afraid and do not trust God to provide for us. Everything we have comes from God. If he has called us to do something, He will provide everything we need to succeed.



MEMORY
VERSE

1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.

BIG IDEA

Everything we have and are comes from God.

CLOSING
PRAYER

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You for the many gifts You have given us. The gift of salvation, our family and friends, a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat, and even extra things to enjoy. Please show us how we can invest those gifts to glorify You and to serve those around us. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

ANSWER KEY

Across

- The first servant was given **(Five)** talents.
- The master, angry with the third servant, cast him out of his **(Household)** forever.
- The third servant lost his talent to the **(Servant)** who gained five, because he had wasted it.
- The wealthy man divided his wealth among his servants, based on their ability to **(Manage)** it.

Down

- The first and second servants put their money to work, producing **(Double)** the amount of talents they were given.
- Fearing that he would lose his money, the third servant **(Buried)** his talent.
- The third servant was given **(One)** talent.
- Each talent was equal to **(Thousands)** of dollars.
- The wealthy man put his servants in charge of his wealth so that his estate would continue to **(Prosper)**.
- Many days, weeks and **(Months)** passed before the master returned.
- Because the first two servants had been faithful with a few things, the master put them in charge of **(Many)** things.

All About the Talents

Read the parable of talents Jesus shares in Matthew 25:14-30. Answer the questions below.

1 To what is the kingdom of heaven likened? A man travelling into a far country who called his servants, and delivered them his goods.

2. What do the talents represent? The talents represent a skill.

3. Why did the master leave his talents with his servants? He wanted the servants to look after his talents while he was on a journey.

4. Who does the Master represent? Jesus.

5. Who do the servants represent? His disciples / us.



B
O
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List 3 talents you have and how you share them.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

1 Peter 4:10

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others.



Family Devotional



UNLOCK
CODE!

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4. Who does the Master represent? _____

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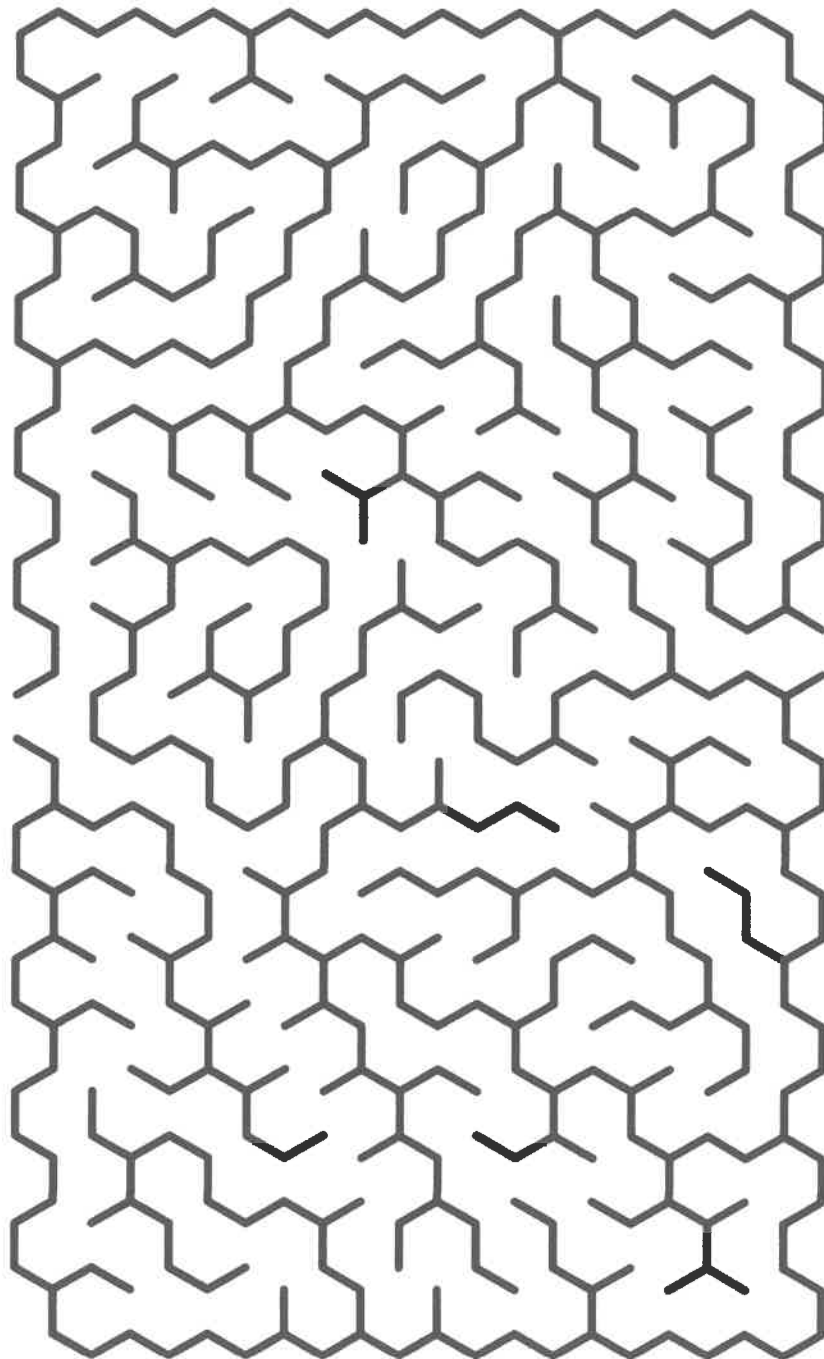
List 3 talents you have and how you share them.

THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Help the third servant bury his master's wealth.



START

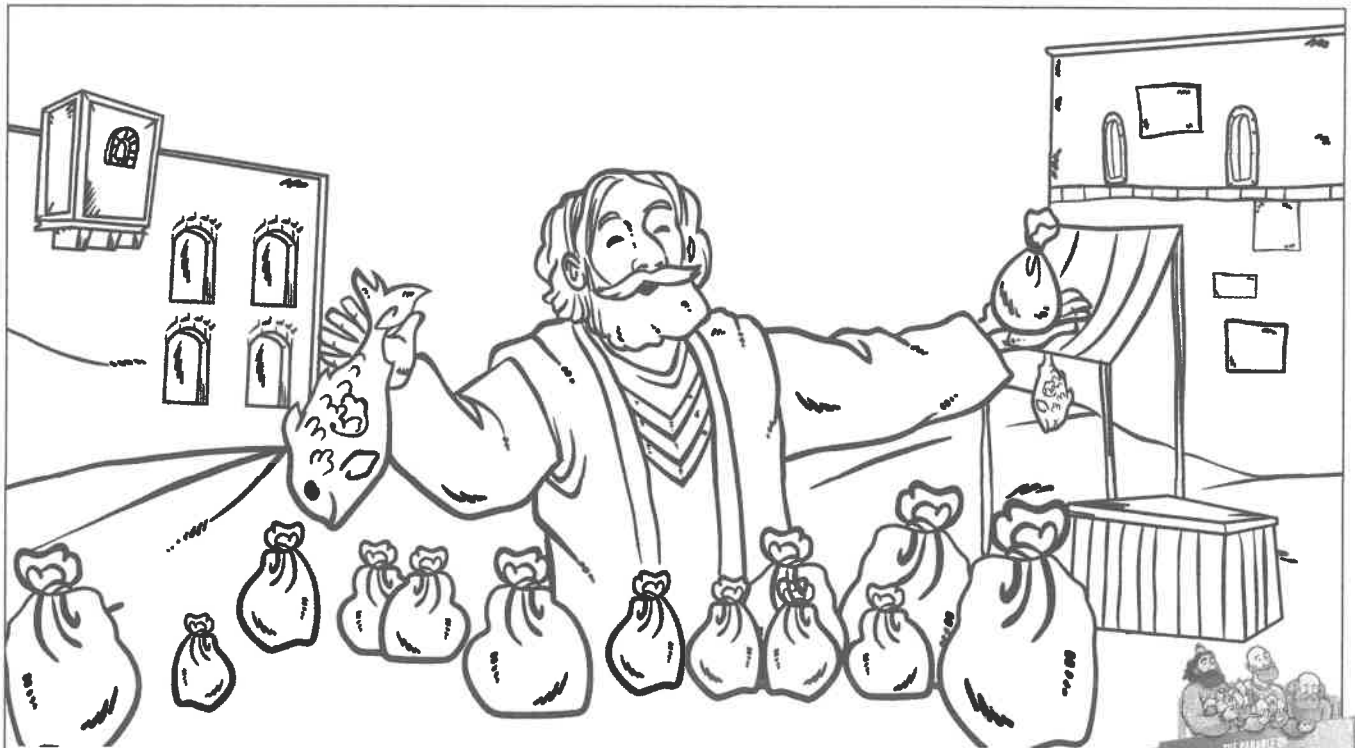


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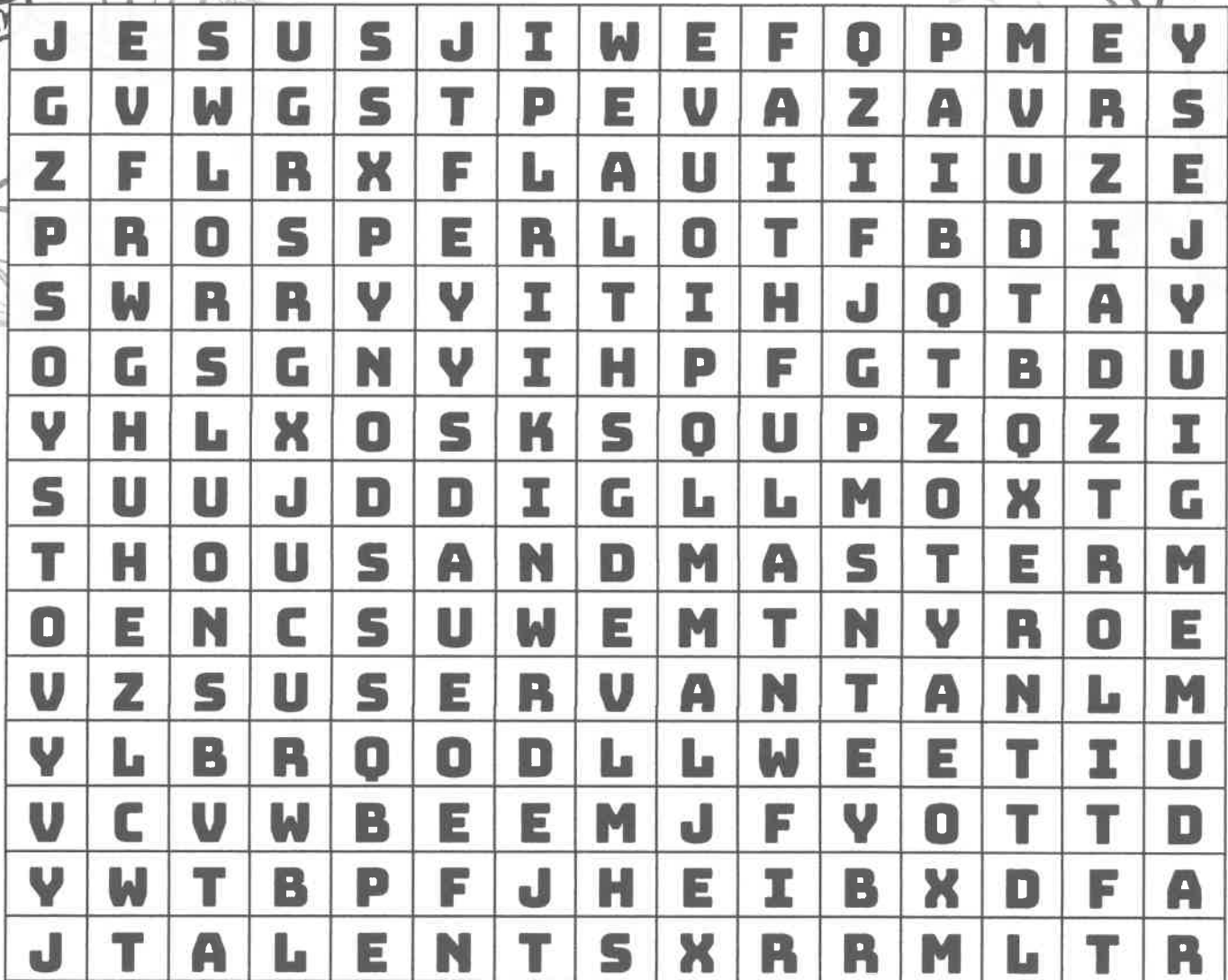
THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Spot 8 differences between the two pictures.



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Discover the hidden words.



Word Bank

TALENTS
SERVANT
FIVE
WEALTH

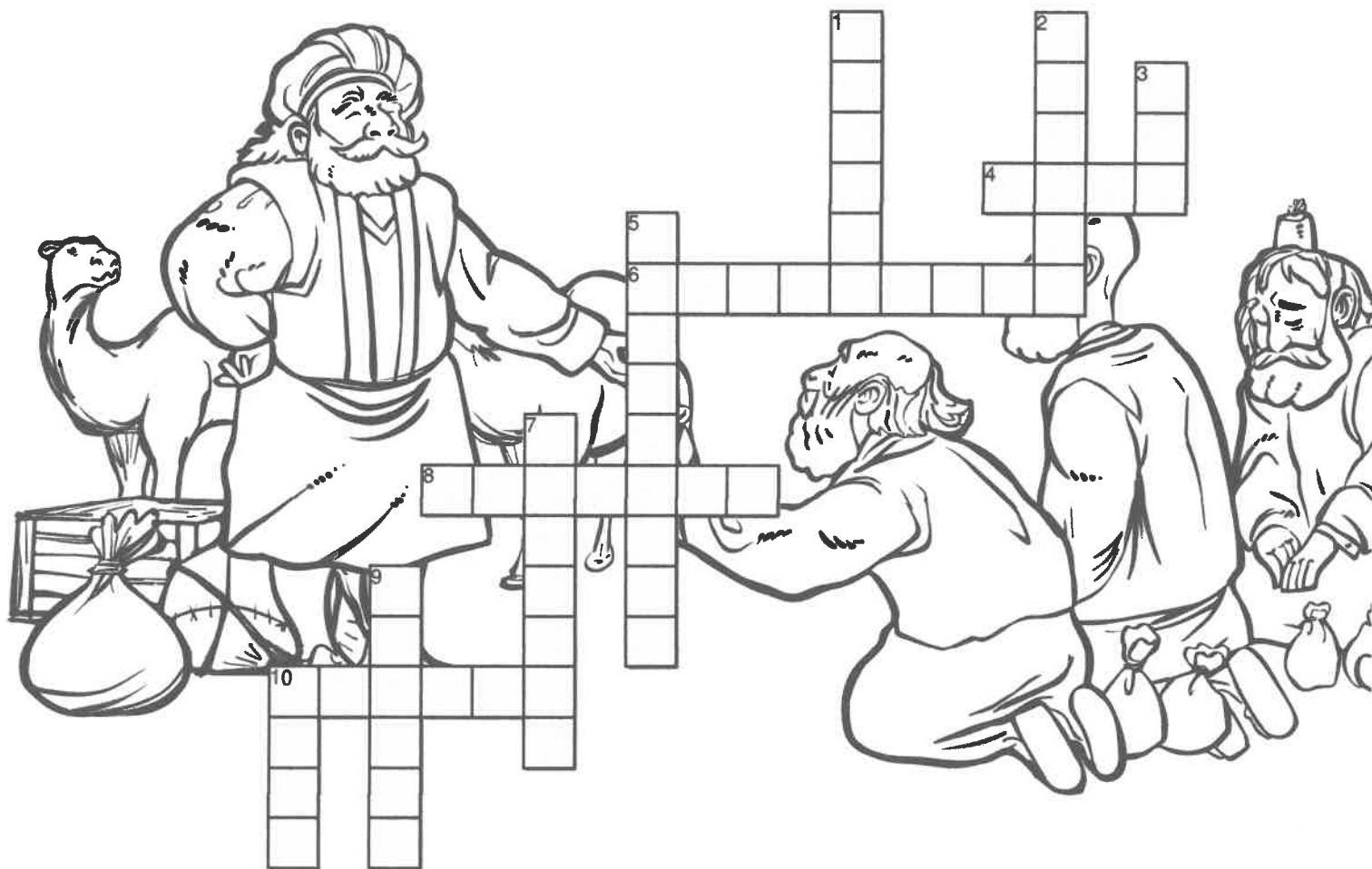
MONEY
BURY
FEAR
THOUSAND

PROSPER
MASTER
FAITHFUL
JESUS



THE PARABLE OF THE TALENTS

Matthew 25:14-30



Across

4. The first servant was given ____ talents.
6. The master, angry with the third servant, cast him out of his _____ forever.
8. The third servant lost his talent to the _____ who gained five, because he had wasted it.
10. The wealthy man divided his wealth among his servants, based on their ability to _____ it.

Down

1. The first and second servants put their money to work, producing _____ the amount of talents they were given.
2. Fearing that he would lose his money, the third servant _____ his talent.
3. The third servant was given _____ talent.
5. Each talent was equal to _____ of dollars.
7. The wealthy man put his servants in charge of his wealth so that his estate would continue to _____.
9. Many days, weeks and _____ passed before the master returned.
10. Because the first two servants had been faithful with a few things, the master put them in charge of _____ things.

