



MATTHEW 25:14-30

GETTING STARTED...

What is your unusual talent? What are you good at that might be surprising or unusual? Everyone is made different and we all have different skills, abilities, and talents. God has made us that way and part of the joy of being together is getting to see and appreciate our differences. And just as God has given us natural abilities, he has also given us spiritual abilities. As we come to Christ, the Holy Spirit dwells in us and empowers us to serve in the church and outside in many different ways. And God gives us those gifts to use, not simply to have. When Jesus returns he is going to ask how we have used the gifts he has given us. Our calling as Christians is not to simply accumulate gifts, or to stifle our abilities, but use them for the glory of God!

READ THE TEXT: MATTHEW 25:14-30

¹⁴ “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵ To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷ So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸ But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ ²¹ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent

in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

UNDERSTANDING THE WORD

1. What is the main point of the parable? How can you summarize it in one sentence?
2. How does the description of the master in verse 24 affect how the final servant uses his talent? How does the master respond to this description?

REFLECTING ON THE SERMON

3. What was the main point of the sermon?
4. What has God been impressing on your heart from the sermon?

APPLYING THE POINT

5. How do we put this into practice?

Agassiz What are some of the talents that God has entrusted to you? Which of the two enemies of sacrificial living (fear & sloth) affect you the most? How are you investing in the kingdom of heaven? How can you invest more?

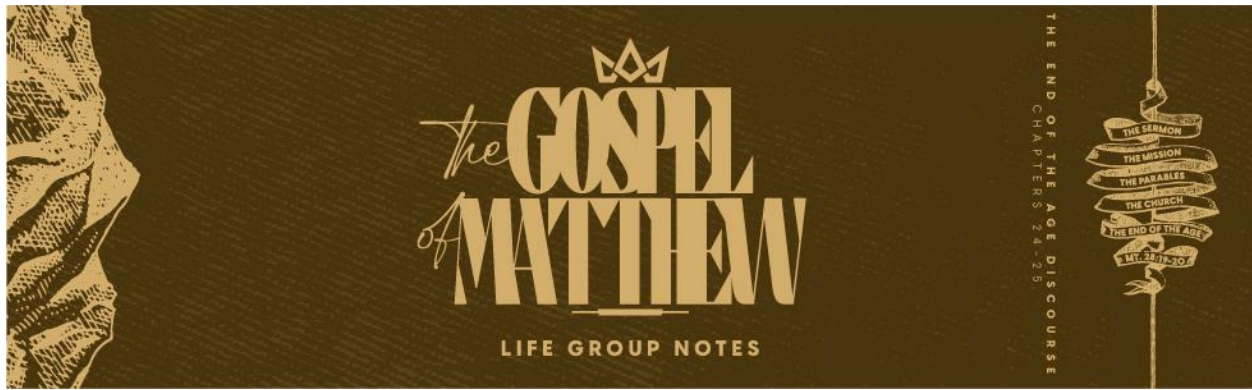
Chilliwack God has given each one of you at least one talent. What does your use of your talent say about you? What does your use of your talent say about your relationship to the Giver of that talent? Does anything need to change?

Harrison/Lake Errock Who do you liken yourself to in this parable, the servant with 5 talents, 2 talents or 1 talent? The 1 talent servant had excuses for his inaction. Do we ever hear ourselves uttering excuses for misdirected priorities or behaviour?

Promontory How has God gifted you? Take a moment to consider everything that God has given and gifted you with. What are ways in which you can use those gifts to glorify God in the church? Outside the church?

PRAYING & SHARING

1. How can you share what you have learned with... another believer?
An unbeliever?
2. Share and pray for one another in your life group. How can you specifically pray for and encourage one another in response to this text?



How to Use this Guide

This guide is intended to help facilitate Central Life Groups as they meet to understand the Bible passage, discuss the sermon, and how to put it into practice in our lives. What is contained in this guide is not an exhaustive text analysis nor a full list of questions that can or should be asked during Life Group. This is simply a guide to help **start conversations that are centered on the Word of God.**

The Life Group Guide is separated into three main sections that are arranged with an intentional order: *Understanding the Word*, *Reflecting on the Sermon*, and *Applying the Point*. We want to first understand the Word of God, and then check that understanding by what has been preached, and then discuss how to put it into practice in our own lives. The order is intended to imitate the process of how the Word of God makes changes in our lives. Head, heart, hands, and all of it wrapped in prayer.

While the meaning of a text doesn't change, the way that we are called to apply it may look different from campus to campus, and even person to person. To reflect this distinction, you will see application questions from each campus in this guide.

Start with the question(s) from your campus and then look at others to see if they are helpful for your group. You may be surprised how similar or different they end up being and how the diversity brings a fuller understanding to how we can apply the Word of God.

Our goal is not that you answer every question in this guide, but that you are able to discuss the Word of God in a way **that helps everyone follow Jesus together!**

*“Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.” - Psalm 111:2*