



TITLE: SHOW ME THE GOLD!

BIG IDEA: God expects us to be faithful with the opportunities for service that he has entrusted us with.

ICE BREAKER: Share about a time when someone entrusted you with something valuable or an incredible responsibility was given to you. How did you do with that?

MAIN SCRIPTURE:

The Parable of the Bags of Gold

**14** “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. **15** To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag,<sup>[a]</sup> each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. **16** The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. **17** So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. **18** But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

**19** “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. **20** The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

**21** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**22** “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

**23** “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**24** “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. **25** So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

**26** “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? **27** Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

**28** ““So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. **29** For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even

what they have will be taken from them. <sup>30</sup> And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

### OPENING THOUGHTS:

There are no excuses in heaven---excuses will keep you from living a well-stewarded life. God has entrusted every single believer with opportunities and resources according to our abilities. His expectation is that we readily put them to use until he returns or calls us home. Will you make excuses when you see him face to face? Or will you have something to show that you have been faithful and good?

### MAIN POINTS:

1. There are no excuses in heaven--excuses will keep you from living a well-stewarded life.
2. Everything we have belongs to God, we possess, but he owns it all! (This is called stewardship).
3. God gives according to ability---don't compare yourself, just be faithful now!
4. Negligence is punished, diligence is rewarded in the Kingdom of God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. vv.14-18 What do you find in common with the first two servants? What do you think the talents/bags of gold represent in the Christian life?
2. vv.19-23 What is God's expectation for his servants while he is away on a journey?
3. vv.24-30 What was the punishment for negligence and the reward for diligence?
4. What opportunities and resources has God placed in your hands that you have not put to good use?
5. How do we know if we have been good and faithful servants? What does it mean to double bags of gold?
6. What excuses are you currently making that you need to repent of and start making the most of the opportunities God has given you?

### FURTHER STUDY:

#### CHALLENGE:

God expects us to be faithful with the opportunities for service that he has entrusted us with. This is how we can live a generous life! You must not compare yourself, but examine what he has placed in your care and be faithful to double it!

#### CLOSING PRAYER:

Lord, help me get rid of my excuses and to start stewarding what you have placed in my hands. I want to be found faithful and good when I see you face to face. Help me store up treasures in heaven, help me understand that time is of the essence, that one day you will return and that I should not show up empty handed. In Jesus' name, amen!