

Beyond Sunday

6.28.2026

The Parable of the Talents — *Matthew 25:14–30* — Austin Hochstetler

Gather

These questions help build connections with others as you share personal experiences.

1. Have you ever been given a responsibility, opportunity, or gift that felt exciting and intimidating at the same time? What was it?
2. When you think about your own gifts, abilities, or life experiences, are you more likely to compare yourself to others or focus on what God has given you? Why?

Grow

These questions guide your group through Scripture from Sunday's sermon, helping us better understand God's Word and His work in our lives.

Read Matthew 25:14–30 together.

- 1. What do you notice about the way the master distributes the talents?**
 - Why do you think each servant receives a different amount?
 - What does this reveal about God's knowledge of and care for His people?
- 2. Compare the responses of the first two servants with the third servant.**
 - What motivated the first two servants to act immediately?
 - What appears to motivate the third servant's decision?
 - How does fear affect our willingness to participate in God's mission?
- 3. Focusing on the theme of God's mission being one of reconciliation:**
 - How do you see God's heart for reconciliation reflected in this parable?
 - In what ways has God invited ordinary people to participate in His work throughout Scripture?
- 4. Both faithful servants receive the exact same commendation: "Well done, good and faithful servant."**
 - What does this teach us about how God measures success?
 - How is God's standard different from the world's standard of success?

5. **With the framework of a mission-oriented mindset: urgency, humility, courage, and starting where you are, discuss the following questions:**
- Which of these stands out most to you right now?
 - Where do you see evidence of that characteristic—or a need for it—in your own life?

Give / Go

These questions help us apply the sermon takeaways and consider how God is calling us to live.

1. What gifts, opportunities, relationships, or experiences has God entrusted to you that could be used more intentionally for His kingdom?
2. Is there anything you may have "buried" because of fear, insecurity, comparison, disappointment, or comfort? What might it look like to entrust that area back to God?
3. What is one faithful step you can take this week to participate in God's mission of reconciliation—whether at home, work, school, church, or in your neighborhood?

Prayer

Prayer Direction:

Spend time thanking God for the gifts, opportunities, relationships, and experiences He has entrusted to each person in the group. Ask Him to replace fear with faith, comparison with gratitude, and hesitation with courage as you seek to participate in His mission.

Pray Ephesians 2:10 over the group:

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Prayer Question:

How can this group be praying for you as you seek to use your gifts faithfully and participate more fully in God's mission this week?

Going Deeper

If you are interested in exploring the themes of this week a bit deeper, check out one of these resources:

Video

- **The Caffeinated Bible - Why is the message of the Parable of the Talents so challenging?**

A scholarly video taking a deep look at themes and meaning of this parable.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRR3WrFJfKA>

Practice

- Take this Spiritual Gifts Inventory
- <https://spiritualgiftstest.com/embed-2/church-id/C50DD3/?launch=true>

Book

- Art and Truth of the Parables by Geraint V. Jones
- <https://www.amazon.com/Art-Truth-Parables-Geraint-Jones/dp/0281000603>