

WEEK TEN

## THE PARABLE OF THE BURIED TALENTS

### BIG IDEA

We must use what God has given us

# DON'T BURY YOUR TALENT

#### PREP: (Kids can help!)

- Find 15 coins per person. They can be real coins or a substitute like buttons.

#### WHAT GOES IN THE BOX?

- A frisbee
- A snack (e.g. popcorn) to share
- A packet of plasters/band aids
- The coins



#### OUT OF THE BOX

- Take out the frisbee.

Pretend that you don't know what the frisbee is or what it is for.

**What might it be used for?** (a dinner plate, a hat, a scoop)

**Do you think it would work well as those things?**

- Take the snack/popcorn out the box and serve it on the frisbee. Hand it around so everyone has some.

It works okay as a plate... but what is it best for really? For flying!

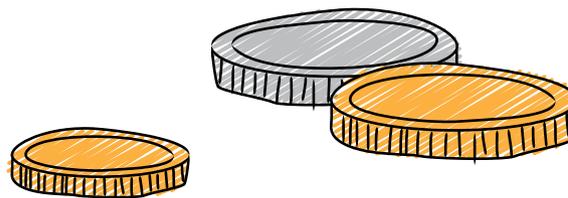
That's what it was made to do, and that is what it does best.

**What are the things that you do best?**

- Take time for each person to share what they think they do best.

Today we are going to read another parable. Remember that a parable is a type of story Jesus told so we would learn something really important from it. Jesus' stories usually had more than one meaning, so there is always more for us to learn. This story is about coins called talents – in Jesus' time, one talent was worth about \$100,000. And that is a lot of money!

Because this story is a parable, it can have more than one meaning. Think about another meaning of the word 'talent' while we read.



## READ



A man decided to go on a long trip, but before he went he called his servants together and asked them to take care of his property and his money.

The man decided to give one servant five talents of money (remember that's about five hundred thousand dollars), then he gave two talents to another (or two hundred thousand) and to the last servant he gave one talent. He gave each servant a large amount; as much as he thought they could handle, or according to their ability.

The man left on his trip and the servants each did something with the money that they received.

The one with the five talents went right away and used it to make more money. He ended up with five more talents! The man with the two talents also used his money wisely and gained two more talents.

But the man with one talent took his and buried it in the ground to keep it safe. He didn't even try to do anything with it.

He had lots of time to do something. He could have bought some seeds and planted a garden, and made money that way, but he didn't do anything!

After a long time the master came back and called for his servants. He wanted to know what they had done with his money. The first servant reported, "You trusted me with five talents and I have made five more!"

The master was pleased. He said, "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!"

The servant who had been given two talents showed the master that he had also doubled his money

and he received the same words of praise as the first man.

The servant who had received one talent dug up the talent he had buried and brought it to the master. He told the master he was a hard man to work for, and said he had been afraid, so he buried his talent to keep it safe. He gave it back to the master saying, "See, here is what belongs to you."

But the master was very angry and called him a wicked, lazy servant. He said the servant could at least have put the money with bankers and received some interest.

Then the master took the one talent away from this servant and gave it to the man who had ten talents, and the servant was punished because he had not properly used the talent he had been given.



*Matthew 25:14-30*

## WEEK TEN

### EXPLORE

- **What do you think is the other meaning in this parable?**

Each of the people in the story were given talents and asked to use them. Although these talents were in the form of money, our talents are also abilities or special gifts that God has given us.

Some of us are better at some things, and others smarter with different things. Some of us are good at memorising, or are better at sports, and some of us are better at knowing how to help others. Some can solve problems better and some are more generous.

Our ability is something special we have no anyone else has in exactly the same way.

- **What talents do you have?**

Go round in a circle. Name each person and everyone else tell what talents that person has. (This is a great chance to affirm one another for those things that we may often forget to acknowledge.)

For older children, you could take this a bit further...

- **Is there a talent you have that you have recently discovered?**
- **How might you develop that?**
- **Do you ever wish you had a different talent?**
- **Do talents still need to be worked at? Why?**
- **How might you better use your talents?**

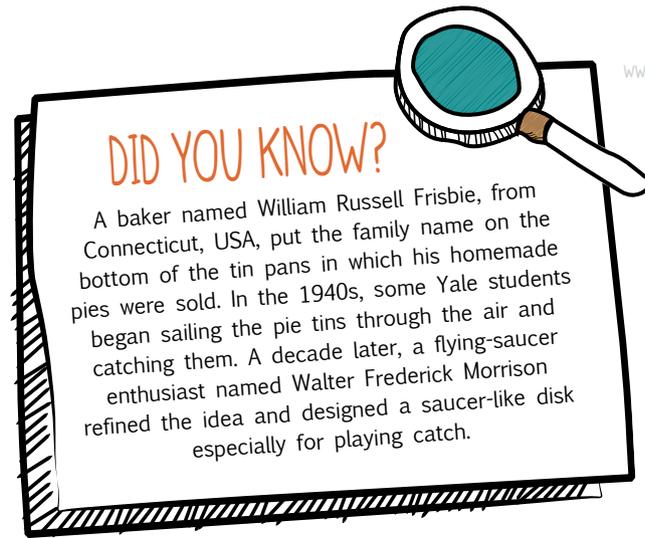
### PLAY

#### Coin Game

- Give each person 15 coins.

The goal is to try to give away as many coins as possible.

But if someone gives you a coin, you must give two coins back to them.



After you have given someone a coin, you must move on to someone else.

- Play the game for four minutes then everyone counts their coins.

#### Questions

- **What happened to those who gave away their coins the fastest?**

They ended up with more in return.

- **How were they like the good stewards in the parable?**

They were 'doubling their talents'.

#### Another story:

Once there was a new babysitter who came to look after Sarah, aged six, and Jonathan, aged eight. She was very keen to do her job well and was going to look after the children for two hours in the afternoon. As the parents were leaving the house, the Mum ran back inside and said to the babysitter, "I almost forgot, here are some new band aids I got this morning. They are neat Spiderman ones." She smiled and put them on a shelf. The babysitter said goodbye to the parents, then looked briefly at the awesome band aids before going back to the children. They had a lovely afternoon climbing trees and playing hide and seek with the babysitter until Jonathan scraped his leg. The babysitter

« HE WHO BURIES HIS TALENT IS MAKING A GRAVE MISTAKE. »

- ANONYMOUS -

carried him inside and cleaned him up. Jonathan asked for one of the new Band-Aids, but the babysitter didn't want to open the lovely new packet. Instead she held a tissue on the scratch. When the parents arrived home, they saw what had happened.

**What do you think they thought about the band aids? Why?**

God thinks you are very valuable and trusts you to do something for him using your gifts and abilities. If you have a chance to do something and don't do it because you want to watch TV, play video games or just be lazy, you will never know what God could have done with your special gifts.

**GAME**

Take the frisbee outside. Let everyone have a turn throwing it, and naming a family member's talent that they are thankful for, e.g. "I am grateful for (throw frisbee) George's funny jokes/ Harper's great baking."

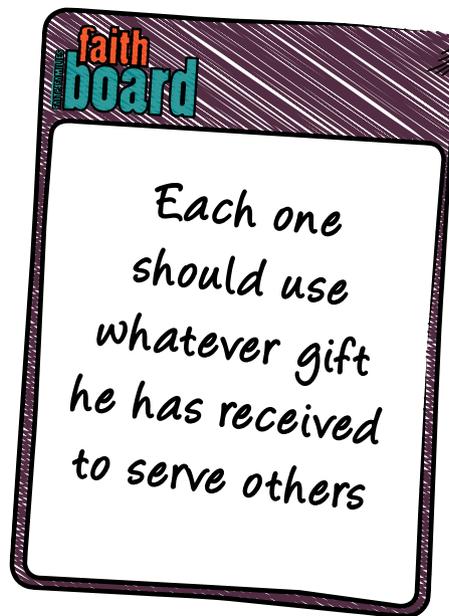
**PRAY**

- Stand in a circle as you pray.

"Dear Lord let me use my talents in the way you meant for me – like this frisbee was made to fly." Then throw the frisbee up in the air!

**LIVE**

- Talk about how, as a family, you can share your talents this week. Find something that suits your talents. It might be inviting someone round for a game of soccer or inviting grandparents to a homegrown concert.



**OTHER IDEAS**

- This week, try to notice when the talent of another person blesses you, and then share about it at the evening mealtime.
- Challenge everyone to choose one of their talents and decide how they are going to work at it more this week (or for longer).
- Bury some named plastic containers (e.g. the eggs from kinder surprises) in a small marked out area of sand, having written a talent the child has inside the container. You might like to add a lolly or small gift. Then let the children dig for their talent – if they find someone else's they must secretly re-bury it!

**CHECK OUT WHAT YOU NEED FOR NEXT WEEK...**

