

The Parables of the Talents

CHARACTERS: 5 in each skit

PROPS: none specified but can be used

COSTUMES: none specified but can be used

SETTING: variable

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 25:14-30

The following set of five skits (one Biblical and four applications) are based on Matthew 25: 14-30. They can be done in a series spaced out over time, rather than one after the other. After each skit, the audience can reflect on the lesson by answering questions such as: "Which person represents Jesus or God in the parable?" "Which person should we want to be most like?" "What things has God given you to use for his glory?" "Which person in the parable is NOT who we should be like?" "How can we be a true and faithful follower of Jesus?" Older audience members can compare wise use of time with fruitless endeavors.

The Parable of the Talents

NARR: Imagine a man going on a journey, who called his three servants and entrusted his property to them.

MASTER: I'm giving you five talents of money you, to you, two talents, and to you, one talent, each according to you ability.

NARR: Then he went on his journey.

ONE: I have five talents and will put this money to work to gain five more.

TWO: I'm going to put my two talents to work to gain two more.

THREE: I'm going to dig a hole in the ground and hide my master's money.

NARR: After a long time the master of those servants returned

TWO: The master is back and wants to settle accounts with us.

ONE: Master, you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.

MASTER: '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!

TWO: Here I am with your two talents and two more I earned.

MASTER: 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!

THREE: Master, I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.

MASTER: You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? 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.

NARR: He took the talent from the last guy and give it to the one who had the ten talents.

MASTER: For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Parable of the Sports Cars

NARR: Imagine a man going on a journey, who called his three drivers and entrusted his property to them.

BOSS: I'm giving you five sports cars, to you, two sports cars, and to you, one sports car, each according to your ability.

NARR: Then he went on his journey.

ONE: I have five sports cars. I'll sell them for a profit and buy more. If that works, I'll do it again..

TWO: I'm going to put my two sports cars to work to gain two more.

THREE: I'm going to put this car in a parking lot so it doesn't get in a wreck.

NARR: After a long time the boss of those drivers returned.

TWO: The boss is back and wants to settle accounts with us.

ONE: Boss, you entrusted me with five sports cars. See, I have gained five more. I bought and sold them and others and worked hard. You now have a dealership with your name on it and 100 cars on the lot.

BOSS: 'Well done, good and faithful driver! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of the dealership. Come and share your boss's happiness!

TWO: Here I am with your two sports cars and two more I earned.

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BOSS: Well done, good and faithful driver! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your boss's happiness!

NARR: Then the last driver came and handed the boss his car keys.

THREE: Boss, I knew that you are a hard bargaining man, so I was afraid and went out and parked your car in a parking lot. Too bad a couple of hailstorms came through and dented up the roof and busted the windshield. See, here is what belongs to you

BOSS: You wicked, lazy driver! So you knew that I was a hard bargaining man? Well then, you should have put my shiny sports car in a garage at least to keep it safe. Now it's ruined.

NARR: He took the sports car from the last guy and gave it to the one who had the dealership and repair shop so it could get fixed.

BOSS: Everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the parking lot and let him get hailed on.

The Parable of the Years

NARR: Once, God noticed some of church going people. He decided to extend their lives a bit. To one he gave five extra years of life, to another two extra years, and to another one year, each according to his ability.

FIVE: I'm getting five extra years to live!

TWO: What are you going to do with those five years?

FIVE: Use my time wisely. I'll go to church and Bible study; spend time praying, reading my Bible and helping people.

NARR: He couldn't carry a tune, but you could hear him praising God, sometimes singing along with his ipod or a Christian station on his car radio.

TWO: My time is longer than it would have been but shorter than Fives. I'll go fishing on Saturdays and to church on Sundays.

ONE: Not me. I don't want to waste it on church or God so I'll do whatever I wanted whenever I want.

NARR: When they died, they stood before God.

VOICE OF GOD: My child, you, received five years and worshipped and served me as much as someone who'd lived for 10 extra years. '

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FIVE: Lord, 'you entrusted me with five years. See, I have brought you glory.

VOICE OF GOD: '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 my happiness!

NARR: The man with the two years also came.

TWO: Lord, you entrusted me with two years; see, I have gone to church and gotten closer to you.

VOICE OF GOD: 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 my happiness!

NARR: Then the man who had received the one year came.

ONE: Lord, I knew that my time was short. I wanted to have some fun. I figured I could find time for you later, but later never seemed to come. Now I'm out of time.

VOICE OF GOD: You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew your time was short? Well then, you should spent it wisely. For everyone who gives to me, will be given more, and he will have an abundance.

FIVE: Whoever does not have much time, even what he has will be taken from him.

TWO: And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

The Parable of the Ships

NARR: Life is like when the admiral of a large fleet of ships who sailed off on a long voyage. Before he left he called his best sailors and entrusted the rest of his ships to them.

ADMIRAL: I'm giving you five ships of fine speed that will hold much cargo, to you, two ships, and to you, one ship, each according to his ability.

NARR: Then he went on his voyage. The man who had received the five ships went at once and filled them with passengers and cargo.

FIVE: Folks, I'm sailing around the world. If where you live is crowded and you need a new place to live, come aboard. (*Stands around proudly*)

NARR: He went around the world 20 times and each time made more money for the captain with the cargo he traded.

TWO: He took so many people to new lands, that they started naming villages, cities and even countries after the Admiral.

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NARR: Before long, his fleet of five ships had turned into ten ships. So also, the one with the two ships gained two more.

ONE: I only have one ship so I'll tie it to a dock and forget about it.

NARR: When a hurricane came, it got banged up.

ONE: What a mess! The mast broke and the ship has sprung a leak.

NARR: Eventually it filled with seawater and sank to the bottom of the bay. After a long time the Admiral of those sailor returned.

TWO: Guys, the Admiral's back and wants to see us.

FIVE: Admiral, you gave me five ships which I used to trade and take passengers places.

NARR: He brought deeds of ownership for the other five ships he'd gotten.

FIVE: Admiral, you entrusted me with five ships. See, I have gained five more. Plus, at least five towns, three cities and two countries have been named in your honor since it was your ships that took them to new lands.

ADMIRAL: Well done, good and faithful sailor! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of your own fleet. I promote you to captain. Come and share your Admiral's happiness!"

NARR: The man with the two ships also came.

TWO: Admiral, you entrusted me with two ships; see, I have gained two more.

ADMIRAL: Well done, good and faithful sailor! You have been faithful with a few things; I will make you first mate and name a ship after you.. Come and share your Admiral's happiness!

NARR: Then the man who had received the one ship came.

ONE: Admiral, I knew that you are a hard man, so I was afraid. I left you ship docked so it wouldn't get lost at sea. But a terrible storm came up, a hurricane actually, and the ship sank to the bottom of the bay anyway. Maybe somebody can dredge it up.

ADMIRAL: You wicked, lazy sailor! You should have at least rented it out to someone who would take care of it so that when I returned I would have received it back in good shape.

NARR: The admiral was upset, with good cause.

ADMIRAL: "Take the ship from him and give it to the one who has the ten ships.

FIVE: For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.

ONE: Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him.

ADMIRAL: Throw that worthless sailor into the ocean.

The Parable of the Tropical Fish

NARR: Life in God's kingdom is like the time the boy who had tropical fish was going to camp for a week.

BOY: Three of my fish are pregnant and about to have babies. I know the adult fish might eat the small babies. What shall I do to protect the babies?

NARR: He asked three of his friends to babysit his fish.

BOY: Chris, here are five tropical fish, Terry, two tropical fish, Sam, one fish,

NARR: Each according to his ability. Then he went to camp. The friend who had received the five tropical fish took good care of them.

CHRIS: It is great fun having fish. A mother fish had babies. I was watching and knew when she had them so I scooped them out before the other fish ate them.

NARR: At the end of the week Chris had ten fish. So also, the one with the two tropical fish gained two more when a mother fish had babies.

TWO: I think the mother fish had babies. I should have checked them every day. I bet some of the babies got eaten but I can save the ones that hide well.

NARR: But the friend who had received the one fish didn't pay any attention. The fish had babies and ate them herself, not that the friend knew the babies were even born

TWO: Guys, our friend is home from camp. Let's take his fish back.

NARR: The friend who had received the five tropical fish told about the mother fish having babies.

CHRIS: I carefully watched and saved them all. Here they are.

BOY: Thanks, you're a good friend! I'm going to name this fish after you and give you half of the fish so you can start your own aquarium.

CHRIS: Cool. Thanks.

NARR: The friend with the two tropical fish also came.

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TERRY: Look, you entrusted me with two tropical fish; here they are. A mom fish gave birth. I didn't check them every day so some of the babies got eaten but I was able to save the ones that hid well.

BOY: Thanks. Would you like the two babies so when they grow up you can have your own aquarium?

TERRY: I'd love to. I've always wanted my own fish tank. Thanks.

NARR: Then the friend who had received the one fish came.

SAM: I got kinda busy and forgot to check on the fish. I guess all the babies got eaten. Sorry. Can I keep this fish? I've always wanted one.

BOY: NO! You wicked, lazy EX-friend! You let those baby fish die. I'm not going to trust you with even one of my fish. Why, I wouldn't trust you with a plastic fish in the bathtub.

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