Preschool–Grade 5

Parable of the Talents Craft

Five, two and one · Matthew 25:14–30 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



Harder

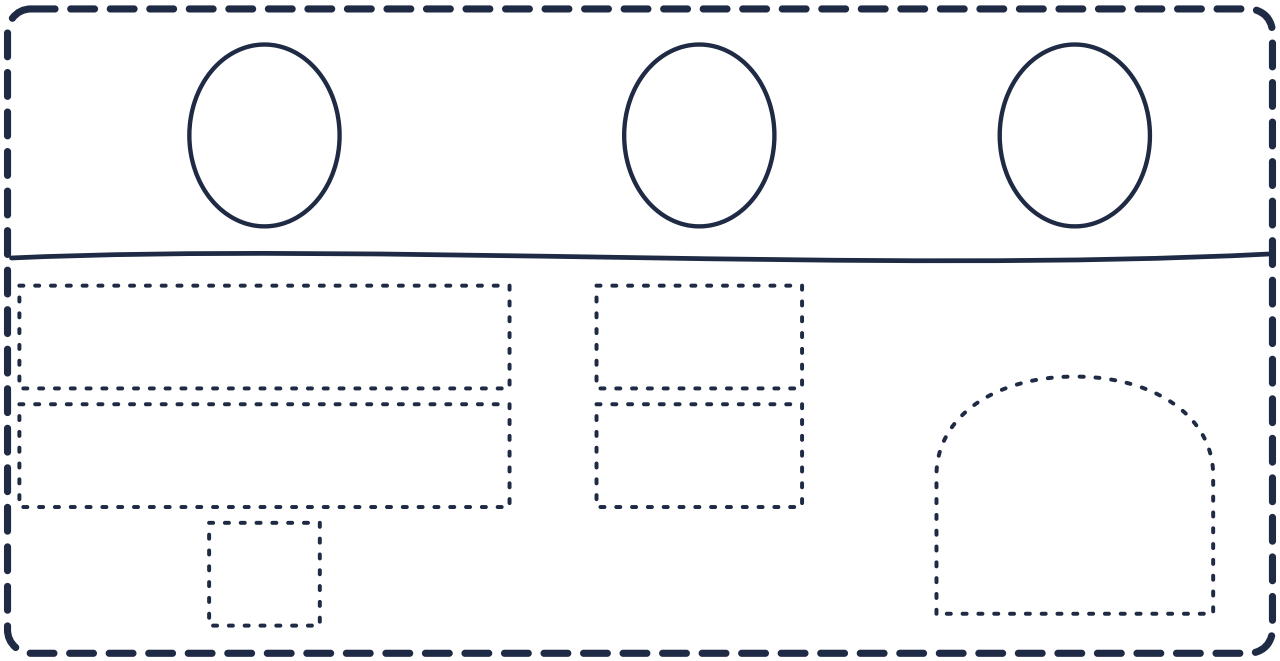
Both levels are a card with a light blue sky, green ground and three windows, each with a servant drawn in it. Under the first servant are eleven yellow bags of money: two rows of five he had at the end, and the one taken from the third servant (Matthew 25:28). Under the second servant are four bags in two rows of two (25:17). Under the third servant is a brown earth pocket, empty now, where he hid his one talent (25:18). Medium (left): the card. Harder (right): the same, with the master drawn in his own window piece, back from the far country (25:19).

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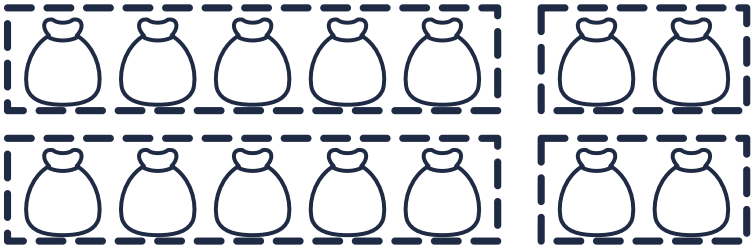
Parable of the Talents Craft (page 2)

Name: _____

✂ Cut on the dashed lines



card: sky light blue, ground green. Draw one servant in each window. Leave the dotted spots white: the bags go on the dotted boxes, and the earth pocket goes on the dotted hill.



bags: color them yellow. Cut out 2 strips of five, 2 strips of two and 1 single bag.



earth pocket: color it brown; glue only the dotted edges

His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

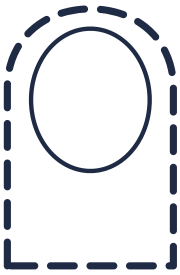
Matthew 25:21 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the back of the card

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Name: _____

✂ Harder level



the master: draw him; edge purple



far country pocket: sky light blue, hills purple; glue only the dotted edges on the back of the card

How to add the master and the far country

1. Make the card from page 2 first, but don't glue any bags yet.
2. In the window of the master piece, draw the master, a man in a long robe. Color its edge purple. Color the far country pocket: the sky light blue and the hills purple. Cut out both pieces on the dashed lines.
3. Put glue on the back of the far country pocket along its left, right and bottom edges only. Press it on the back of the card, above the verse strip. Leave the top open.
4. Tell it: the master gives five, two and one talents (Matthew 25:15). Glue the first strip of five and the first strip of two, and hide the single bag in the earth pocket (25:18). The master "straightway took his journey" (25:15): turn the card over and put him in the far country pocket.
5. While he is gone, the servants trade and gain (25:16–17): glue the other strip of five and the other strip of two. "After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them" (25:19): bring the master back to the front. Let each servant tell what he did (25:20–25). The master says, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (25:21), and the single bag is taken out of the earth and glued under the ten (25:28).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/parable-of-the-talents-craft
Time: 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
You need: page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), crayons or markers in light blue, green, yellow and brown, plus any colors for the servants, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a purple crayon or marker.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out all the pieces and glue the earth pocket and the verse strip on each card ahead of time.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue on the earth pocket and the verse strip. Kids color, draw the servants, and glue on the bags while you tell the story. Count every bag together.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, draw, cut out the pieces, glue the pocket and glue the bags as the story goes. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the card, then add the master and the far country pocket from page 3, so the master can leave on his journey and come back (Matthew 25:15, 25:19). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color the card:** the sky light blue and the ground green. Leave the three windows and the dotted spots white.
2. **Draw:** in each window, draw one servant: three men in long robes.
3. **Color the pieces:** all the bags yellow and the earth pocket brown.
4. **Cut:** cut out the card, the 2 strips of five bags, the 2 strips of two bags, the single bag, the earth pocket and the verse strip.
5. **Glue the pocket:** put glue on the back of the earth pocket along its left, right and bottom edges only. Press it on the dotted hill under the third window. Leave the top open.
6. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the back of the card, and read it together.
7. **Tell it and glue:** the lord gave five talents, two talents and one talent (Matthew 25:15). Glue one strip of five on the top spot under the first window and one strip of two on the top spot under the second window. Hide the single bag in the earth pocket (25:18).
8. **The lord comes back:** the first two servants traded and gained as much again (25:16–17): glue the other strip of five and the other strip of two under the first ones. After a long time the lord came back (25:19) and said, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (25:21). Take the single bag out of the earth and glue it on the last spot, under the ten (25:28).

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Questions to ask while kids work

- Where did the man go? *(Into a far country, Matthew 25:14)*
- How many talents did each servant get? *(Five, two and one, "to every man according to his several ability," 25:15)*
- Count the first servant's bags. What did he do with his five? *(He traded and made five more, 25:16)*
- What did the servant with two talents do? *(He gained two more, 25:17)*
- Where did the third servant put his talent? *(He dug in the earth and hid it, 25:18)*
- What did the lord say to the two servants who gained more? *("Well done, good and faithful servant," 25:21, 25:23)*
- Why did the third servant hide it? *(He said he was afraid, 25:25)*
- Who got the talent from the earth pocket? *(The servant who had ten talents, 25:28)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained: talent** means a heavy weight of silver or gold, a very large amount of money; **according to his several ability** means each as much as he could handle; **straightway** means right away; **traded** means bought and sold; **digged** means dug; **reckoneth** means settles up; **slothful** means lazy; **thou** and **thee** mean you; **faithful** means you can be trusted to do what you should.
- **What the Bible says:** the talents were the lord's money (Matthew 25:18, 25:27). The Bible doesn't say what they looked like; the bags are the craft's simple picture, the way two talents of silver were carried "in two bags" in 2 Kings 5:23. No coins with faces or writing are drawn. The windows, the colors and the pocket are the craft's simple picture too.
- **No one is drawn on the template, and never Jesus:** each child draws the servants (and, in the harder level, the master) in the windows, as men in long robes.
- **Keep it gentle:** the lesson tells that the third servant's talent was taken away (25:28). Verse 30 is left out on purpose; it is not for young children.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue on the pocket and the verse strip ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Count the bags out loud together: five and five is ten, two and two is four.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free parable of the talents lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/parable-of-the-talents.

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