Preschool–Grade 6

The Parable of the Talents

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: God wants me to use what He gives me.
Bible passage: Matthew 25:14–30. Read it yourself before class.
Memory verse: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" *Matthew 25:21 (KJV)*. The old words mean: **thou** means you, and **faithful** means you do what you should.
You need: a Bible, small jobs for the opening game (paper cups to stack, crayons to sort), crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Matthew 25. Set out the jobs for the game. Make sure a second grown-up can stay in the room during the game.

1. Opening game: While I'm Away (5 minutes)

Give each child a small job, like stacking cups or putting crayons in a box. Say: "I'm going on a trip! Do your job while I'm gone." Step out of the door for one minute while the other grown-up stays with the class. Come back, look at every job and say, "Well done!" Say: "Today we will hear a story Jesus told about some helpers and their master."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Matthew 25. Say: "Jesus told this story. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

A man went on a long trip (Matthew 25:14). *(Walk in place.)*
He gave his helpers money to take care of (25:14). *(Hold out your hands.)*
One helper got five talents. A talent is a lot of money (25:15). *(Hold up five fingers.)*
One helper got two talents (25:15). *(Hold up two fingers.)*
One helper got one talent (25:15). *(Hold up one finger.)*
Two helpers worked hard. They made more (25:16–17). *(Pretend to work with your hands.)*
One helper dug a hole in the earth and hid his talent (25:18). *(Dig, then hide your hands behind your back.)*
The master came home (25:19). *(Knock on the door.)*
He told the hard workers, "Well done!" (25:21, 25:23). *(Thumbs up!)*
Say it with me: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant!"
The hidden talent was taken away (25:28). *(Shake your head no.)*
Say it with me: "I will use what God gives me!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who went on a trip? *(The master, Matthew 25:14)*
2. What did one helper do with his talent? *(He dug in the earth and hid it, 25:18)*
3. What did the master say to the hard workers? *("Well done!" 25:21)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "The master said, 'Well done, thou good and faithful servant.' Faithful means you do what you should." Teach the motions: thumbs up for "Well done," a big smile for "good," hands folded for "faithful," and point to yourself for "servant." Say the verse with the motions three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Matthew 25:21" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: My Helping Hands (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them trace one of their hands. Inside the hand, they draw one way they can help someone this week. While they color, ask: "Who said 'Well done'? What can your hands do for Jesus?" Kids who finish early can play While I'm Away again.

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for all You give me.
Help me use it for You. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: show each talent as a bag (or sock) of blocks if you have them: five, two and one. Let the kids count them. If they get wiggly, do the digging and "well done" motions again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child asks about the helper who hid his talent: answer simply. His master took the talent away (Matthew 25:28). Jesus wants us to use what He gives us, not hide it.

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