

**TEXT** Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10,11

**OBJECTIVE** The students will be able to explain the importance of using the abilities God has given them knowing that the call He has placed upon their lives will be commensurate with the talents they possess. When these talents are offered to God, they will be blessed by Him.

**KEY VERSE FOR ANSWER** With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men. Ephesians 6:7

**KEY VERSE FOR SEARCH** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Hebrews 12:28

**ANSWER  
TITLE:**

# Doing Something for God

**SEARCH  
TITLE:**

# God's Work

## REFERENCE INFORMATION

The duties men are called by God to perform are suited to their situations and the talents they receive. The talent which each man has suits his own state best. Five talents would be too much for some men; one talent would be too little. He who receives much must make proportionate improvement. From him who has received little, the improvement of only that little will be required.

There were three different currencies used in Palestine in New Testament times: official, imperial money (Roman); provincial money (Greek); and local Jewish money. The exact monetary value of the talents in the parable we are studying is uncertain; however, the significance of the story lies in the fact that the amounts distributed were not equal, rather than in the exact dollar value being considered.

## YOUR OPENER

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# God's Work

## RESPONSES

1. Your students will supply the following answers to these questions.

- One received five, another two, and the last, one.
- Each was given according to his ability.
- They received their talents from the master.
- The parable does not state this directly, but we can assume from the fact that the servant knew the character of the master (verse 24) that he also knew what the master would expect of him: to put the money to use.
- The first two had doubled the amount of their talents, the last had only kept the one.

2. Your students will likely bring out that, in the parable, each servant received something. They should conclude that every Christian will receive at least one talent. The talents in the parable were given by the master; our talents are given by God. The servants in the parable chose whether or not to use their talents for their master; we decide if we are willing to use our talents for God. In the parable, the master did not return to bestow more talents on those who were using what they had received; it was the servants' diligence which brought the increase. God expects us to improve the talents He has given us so we can be effective in His work.

3. The most common answers will probably be: musical talents, prayer, and preaching. Lead the discussion to include other talents common to your students' age group. Examples might be: testifying, showing kindness to new students, the ability to greet or talk to people, giving to the needy, or visiting the sick. Show how all can develop their talents along these lines.

4. There is no direct answer given to this in Scripture, but undoubtedly your students will conclude that the servants must have been diligent and alert to every possible way to increase their talents. Perhaps they went to the market and bought and sold for a profit. No doubt they did some careful research and invested wisely, knowing they were using their master's money.

**TEXT:** Matthew 25:14-30; 1 Peter 4:10,11

**KEY VERSE:** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. — Hebrews 12:28

In this parable a master distributes talents to his servants according to their abilities, to be put to profitable use. Expressions such as, "using his talents well," are probably derived from the figurative use of the word *talents*. In this lesson we will draw a parallel between the monetary talents mentioned in the parable and the talents or abilities God entrusts to us. We will find that those who choose to use their talents in God's work are rewarded by Him, while those who are unfaithful and careless with their talents will not only miss the blessings in store for them, but will suffer eternal loss.

1. In dealing with this parable a number of facts are presented:

- How many talents did each servant receive?
- Why did they receive different amounts?
- From whom did the servants receive their talents?
- For what purpose were they given?
- When the lord of those servants returned, how many talents did each have?

2. Even though this parable was given in reference to monetary talents, in what way could it be similar to, or have a spiritual parallel to a Christian's experience?

3. Make a list of talents or abilities that you believe can be used in the work of the Lord.

4. In the Biblical parable, it is apparent that the servants did more than just put their talents out to the exchangers, or to gain interest. How do you suppose the servants increased their talents?

## ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION NOTES

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5. How can our God-given talents be improved? Give an example.

6. Put yourself in the place of an office manager: There is a job to be done and you must decide which worker should be given the job. What would you base your decision on? Which of these criteria could be applied to the receiving of spiritual abilities and talents?

7. What is required of us in order to receive a reward for the use of our talents? What are the results if we do not use them?

8. How does one qualify to have his talents used in the work of the Lord?

9. How does a person show by his life that he is consecrated and faithfully pursuing the course the Lord has laid out for him? What are some of the ways the Lord's work is benefited when this is done?

5. Let students discuss their answers. They should realize that talents do not improve by themselves, but by hard work, self-discipline, and practice. An obvious example is a musician who will seek out the best teachers available, study hard, and practice diligently.

6. Your students will bring out capability, diligence, dependability, thoroughness, etc. They should conclude that all of these could apply to the receiving of spiritual abilities and talents.

7. Discuss the students' answers. God rewards according to faithfulness, and He requires us to be faithful, resourceful, and diligent in what He has given us to do in His work. The results of not meeting the requirements will be a decline in our spiritual condition, and if unrepented of will in the end bring judgment and eternal damnation.

8. Stress the importance of consecrating such talents to God, which would include living by the guidelines set up by those overseeing God's work. Ask your students how the call placed upon one's life will be commensurate with the talents he allows God to use.

9. Suggestions offered may include: honoring those who do the Lord's work and not being critical of them, and supporting the work by tithes and offerings. We can also show our respect by taking an active part and being faithful in living up to our privileges in every phase of the work of God. Not only is the Lord's work being accomplished, but the person who does these things is an example and inspiration to the new converts, and the body of Christ is built up and encouraged. Also, his personal faith is increased because he obeyed the Lord.

## YOUR WRAP-UP

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## SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS

An employer expects his employees to accomplish something while at work. What does God want us as Christians to accomplish?

How much work does God expect us to do?

What work needs to be done in our church?

What work is common to all Christians?

What talents and abilities can be used in service to the Lord?

Who is able to do God's work? Who will God use to do His work?

Why does God work through people?

In our ANSWER story, Karen asked Julie how she could find out what God wanted her to do. What was Julie's answer? Do you think it was a good one? Why or why not?

Has God ever shown you something you could do for Him? How did He show you?

## THINGS TO DO

Write one of the following questions on a chalkboard, flipchart, or overhead transparency:

What talents and abilities can be used for the Lord?

What work is common to all Christians?

What work needs to be done to keep our church running?

Have students quickly suggest answers, and make a list of the students' responses.

Have the students evaluate how much work they do for the Lord by making circle or pie charts, listing their daily or weekly activities. Students can take their charts home to pin up in their rooms as a reminder for improvement.

Distribute 3" x 5" cards to the students and ask them to finish the following sentence (or a sentence of your choice): "If I were to take this lesson seriously, I would have to . . ."

Bring some objects to class which suggest ways we might be able to work for the Lord: a broom, a church invitation, a piece of music, etc. It might be interesting to include some more obscure items and ask the students to

figure out how they might be used: keys to a car (visitation), a ballpoint pen (card to a shut-in), etc.

Have the students make a recruiting poster asking people to join God's service. They could stress one of the following points:

Why it is necessary for people to join God's service.

The benefits of joining God's service.


The qualities of a worker for the Lord.

Bring a paycheck to class. Discuss how this is the motivation which inspires many people to do their job. Discuss what the "paycheck" will be for work that is done for the Lord.

Bring a merit badge, trophy, or plaque which gives commendation for a job accomplished or done exceptionally well. Discuss the fact that rewards for doing the Lord's work may not be tangible, but they are real and lasting.

## Answers for ANSWER

### Doing Our Part



Everyone has a talent to use in God's service. It could be singing, praying, preaching, writing, visiting or many other things. If you give your talent willingly, you will be richly blessed. Below are some Bible texts and parts of verses. Each verse has a word missing. Look up the Bible text, find which verse it goes with and then fill in the missing word. The first one is done for you.

10. Let your light so shine before men  
Willing to communicate

11. Zealous of good works

9. Ye gave me meat

7. Ye visited me

12. Trust in the Lord

4. Love ye your enemies

3. He that winneth souls is wise

6. Be servant of all

1. Bear ye one another's burdens

8. Let us do good unto all men

5. Thou hast been faithful

1. Mark 10:44
2. Matthew 25:23
3. Luke 6:35
4. Psalms 37:3
5. Galatians 6:10
6. Proverbs 11:30
7. Matthew 25:35
8. Galatians 6:2
9. Titus 2:14
10. Matthew 5:16
11. I Timothy 6:18
12. Matthew 25:36

# Answers for Extra Activity Pages in *The Answer*

## Activity Page 41

### Traveling Through the Bible

All of your key verses have a Scripture text at the end of the verse. The Scripture text is like a address — it makes it easy for you to find the verse you want. All the texts are listed below. Put them in the order that you would find them in the Bible. The first one is done for you. Have fun and don't lose your way!

Matthew 4:4  
Leviticus 19:30  
Matthew 28:6  
John 7:17  
Exodus 20:7  
Psalm 50:14  
1 Corinthians 11:26

John 13:17  
Psalm 34:11  
Psalm 40:8  
Revelation 1:10  
Proverbs 15:3  
Ephesians 6:7

## Activity Page 42

### Respect for Things Holy

In our walk with the Lord we need to have respect for things that are holy. Choose one of the subjects from this quarter (they are all listed below) and write a Cinquain poem about it on the lines provided. A Cinquain poem has five lines and doesn't have to rhyme. This might be fun to do with a friend.



BIBLE  
GOD'S HOUSE  
THE RISEN CHRIST  
RULES  
LORD'S NAME  
VOWS  
LORD'S SUPPER  
FOOT WASHING  
FAMILY ALTAR  
CONSECRATION  
LORD'S DAY  
GOD'S POWER  
GOD'S WORK  
SELF

God's House

One word telling the subject of poem

Sacred, Holy

Two words describing the subject

Inspiring, Moving, Fulfilling

Three words telling about the subject, ending with "ing"

A Place of Prayer

Two or three words telling how you feel about subject

My Church

Another name for subject

## Activity Page 43

### Can You Find Them?

Below are some hidden pictures of a few things mentioned during this quarter. Find and color the picture of each word listed.

ANGEL, BASEBALL, BIBLE, CHURCH, CUP, FOOT, PRAYER, STARS, TOWEL



## Activity Page 44

### Search for the Solution

Solve this word puzzle and find what we should have for holy things.

- Circle the 5th letter in ALTA**®**
- Circle the 2nd letter in **®**ESUS
- Circle the 4th letter in VOW**®**
- Circle the 1st letter in **®**DWER
- Circle the 5th letter in BIBLE**®**
- Circle the 1st letter in **®**HURCH
- Circle the 4th letter in FOOT**®**WASHING

Write the letters in order on the lines below.

I must have **RESPECT** for things holy.

Hmmm...

