

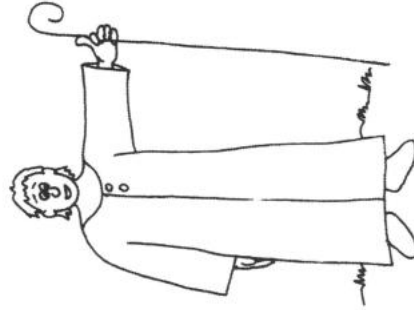
THINK and **LOOK** ahead

Gifts from God

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Next week
is the Feast of
Christ the King!

*In the gospel,
what does the shepherd
have to separate?*



Before going on a long journey, a man gave each of his servants some money called "talents."

Solve the math problems to find how much each servant received

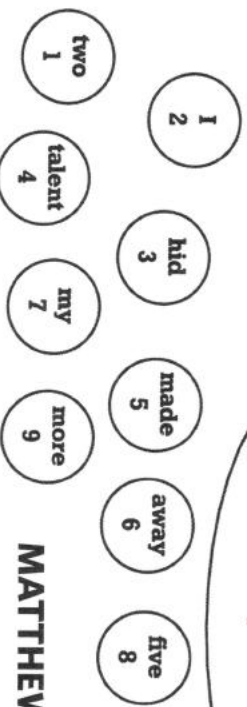
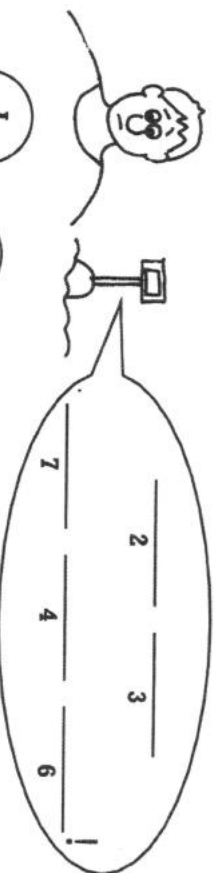
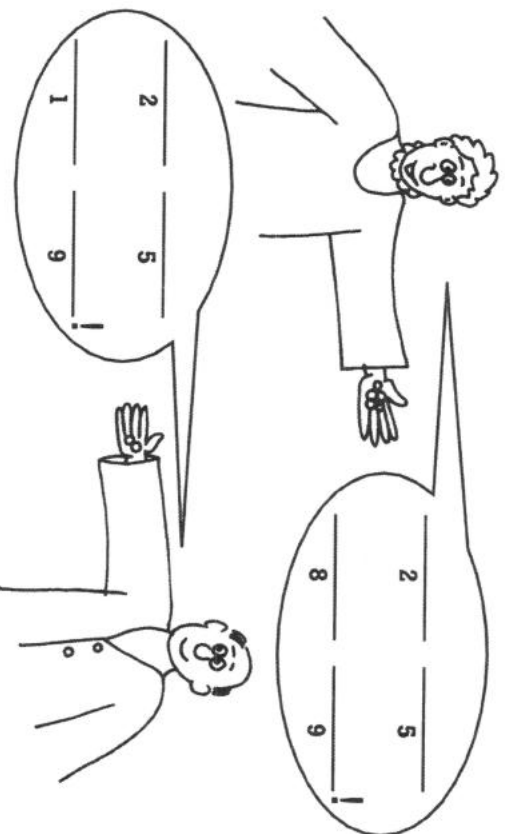


$(14 \div 2) - 5$ $(15 + 10) \div 5$ $(6 + 8) - 13$

MATTHEW 25:15

What did each servant do with the money they were given?

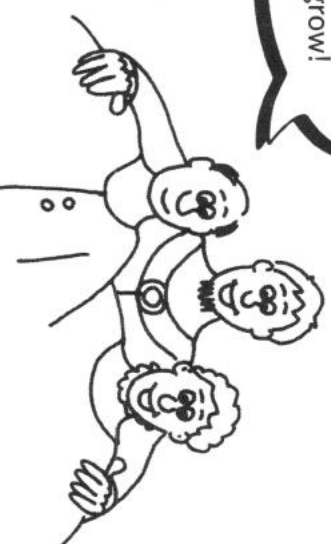
Use the numbered coins to find their words below



MATTHEW 25:16-18

The master returned and was very pleased with the two servants who had used their talents wisely.

God wants us to use the gifts he gives us and make them grow!



Write some of your gifts or "talents" below.
How do you use them?

THINK and **LOOK** ahead

• STEP BY STEP •

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR, YEAR A

Gifts from God

MATTHEW 25:14-30

Next Sunday
we celebrate a special feast!

Cross out the letters with a • to see what it is!

S	Ä	Ë	Ë	Ä	Ä
C	H	R	I	S	L
P	B	T	H	E	T
F	K	I	N	G	Ü
L	P	R	M	Ä	Ä

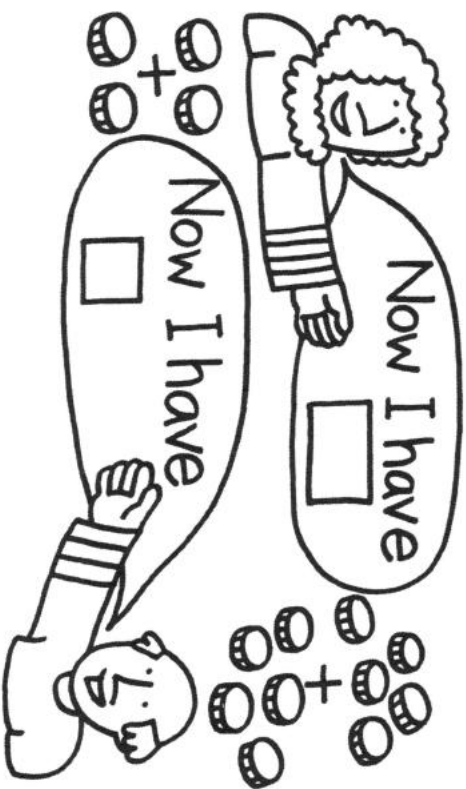
A man was going on a long journey.
He gave some money to each of his servants.

Trace the lines to find out how much each servant was given



Two of the servants used their money to make more.

How much do they have?



The third servant hid his money away because he was afraid to lose it.

How much does he have?

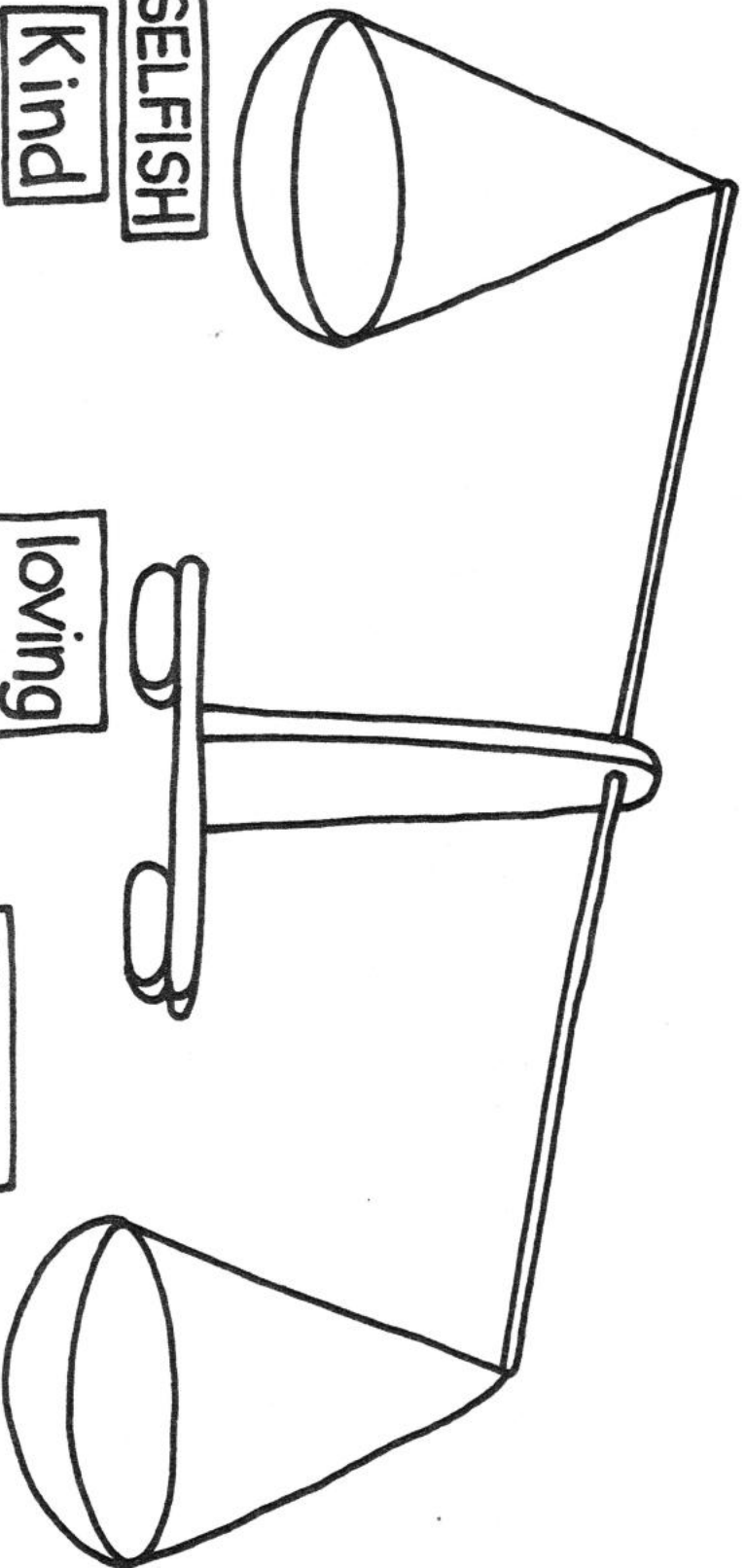


God gives us gifts to use and make them grow!

Everyone is good at something! What are you good at?
Draw a picture of yourself using your gift from God



CHRIST WILL WEIGH UP OUR GOODNESS



SELFISH

Kind

Unforgiving

Forgiving



loving

greedy

HONEST

Sharing

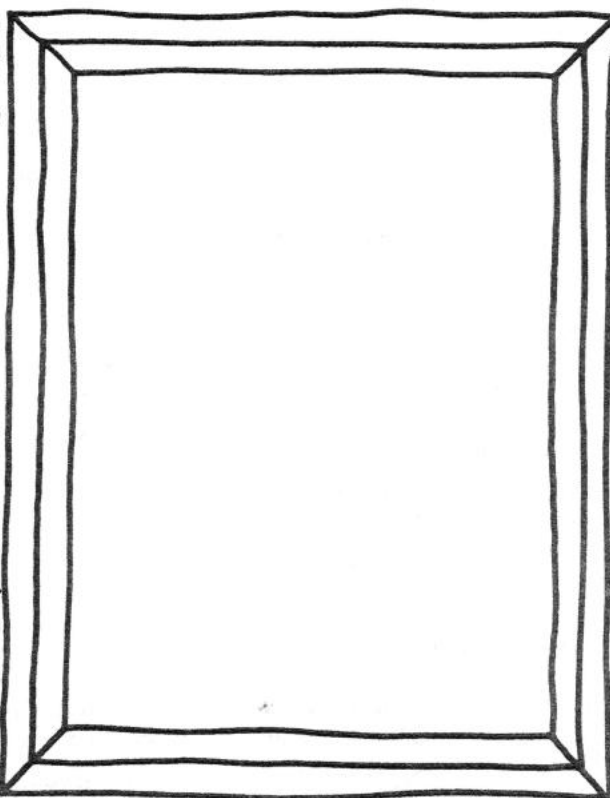
Unkind

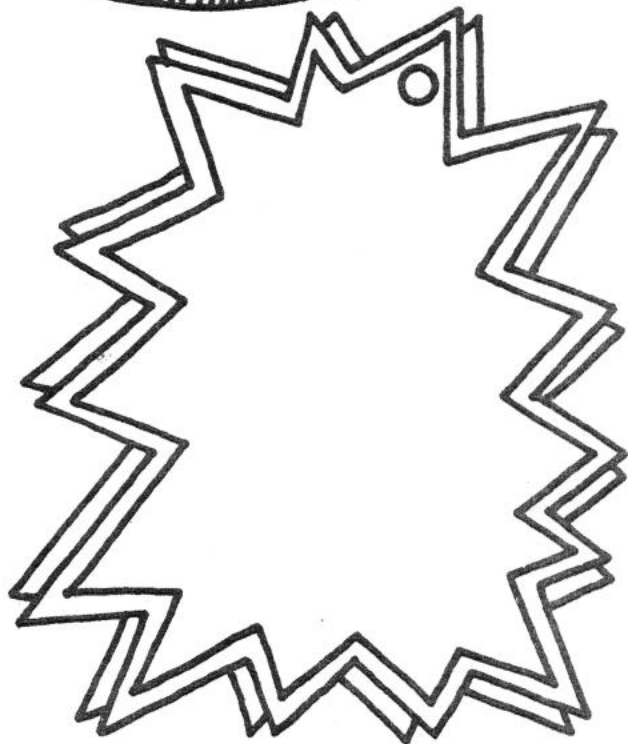
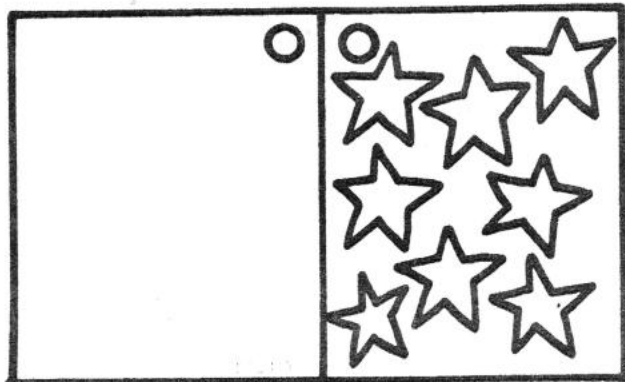
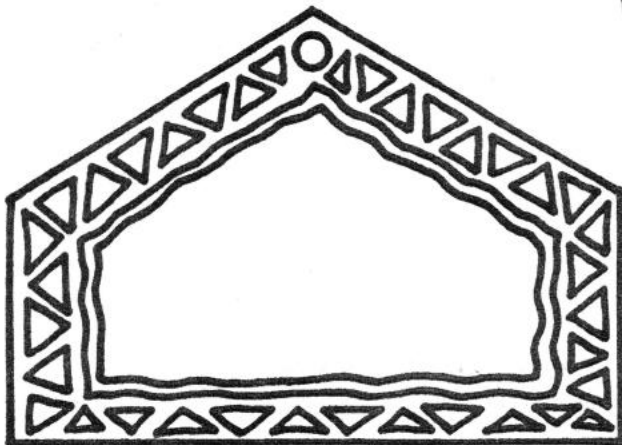
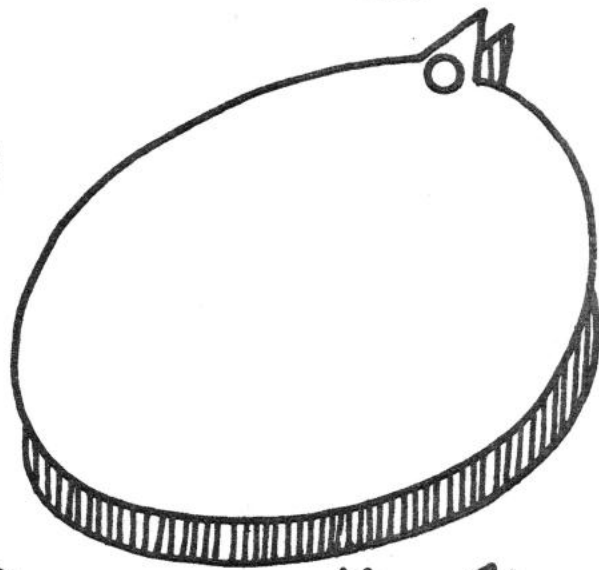
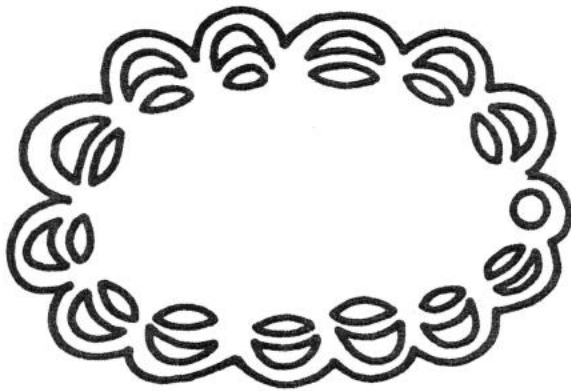
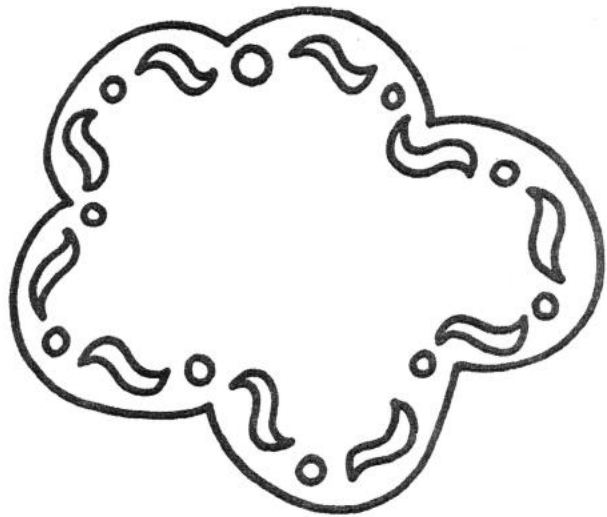
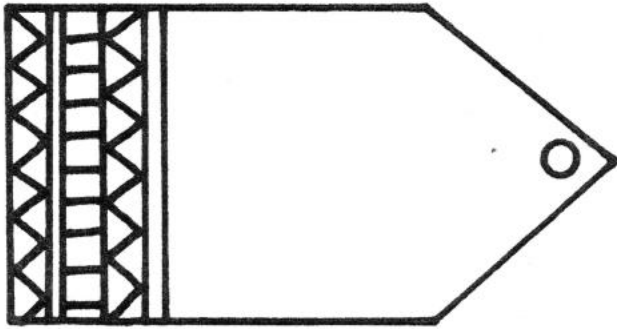
GENEROUS

God gives
us gifts to use and make
them grow!

Everyone is good at something! What are you good at?
Draw a picture of yourself using your gift from God

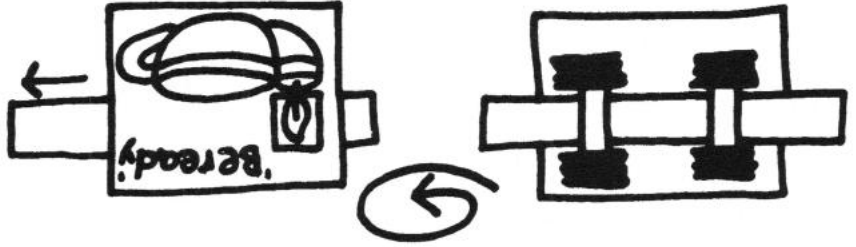
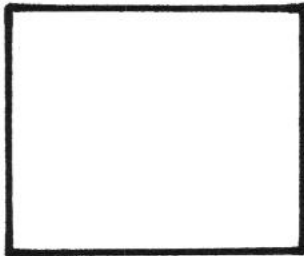
IDEAS







'Be Ready'



Thirty-Third Sunday of the Year

Gifts from God

INTRODUCTION

When we love someone, we sometimes give them a gift, something special for them to use and enjoy. God has given talents to each one of us as a sign of his love; these are gifts from God.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles, then read this passage:

One day there will be no more darkness, no more night. No one will need lamps or the light from the sun. God will light up the darkness with glory, and they will see clearly forever.

(Revelation 22:5)

SORRY

Ask a child to choose a "sorry color." The corresponding Sorry Prayer can be read by him or her, or the group can say the prayer together.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 3.

GOSPEL (MATTHEW 25:14-30)

(The talents described in Matthew's Gospel were large units of money used at that time. To avoid confusing the children, the Gospel adaptation refers to the talents given to us by God.)

One day Jesus said: "Once there were three men who had each been given a different number of talents. The first man had five; the second man, three; and the third, one. They were free to use these talents however they wished. The first man used his talents well and doubled them; the second man also worked hard and used what he had been given wisely; but the third man felt that he had little to offer, so he hid his talent away from everyone and did not use it.

"The time came to meet the one who had given each of them their talents, and they told him in turn how they had used them. He was very pleased with the first and second men, but not

with the third man, who had wasted what he had been given."

DISCUSSION

If we say that someone has a talent, we mean that they have a special gift or skill for doing something. In the story Jesus told, each man was given a number of talents.

Who gives us our talents? Any gifts or talents we have are given to us by God. What are some of the talents which God has given to each of you? Some examples are: swimming; making people laugh; singing; dancing; being thoughtful; playing a musical instrument; and reading.

In the story, two of the men used their talents well and made them grow and multiply. The other man kept his talent hidden from everyone and did not share it.

When someone gives us a present, they love to see us using it and getting pleasure from it. Our talents are gifts from God, given to us because he loves us. They are very precious and must not be wasted, but instead be put to good use.

At the end of time, God will ask us what we have done with the talents he gave us. Did we use them wisely, sharing them with others for the good of all; or did we hide them away selfishly, without allowing them to grow?

ACTIVITY

Cut out a variety of box shapes, enough for more than one each, and ask the children to color them so that they look like wrapped gift boxes. Or, gift wrap some mini-packets of candy, then give each child a label on which to write one of their own talents before attaching it to a box. These can be pinned to a board or carried up in a basket with the caption "Our gifts from God."

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly father, we thank you for the talents which you have given to each of us.

Whatever our gifts may be,
teach us to use them wisely
and for the good of others.

Fit the rhyming words on the lines to finish the story

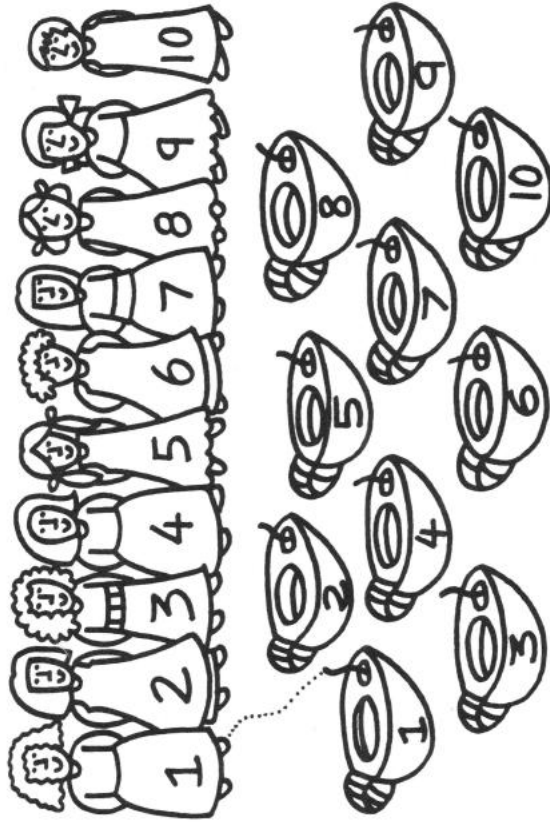
OIL LOW SO WAIT SLEEP WOE
SPOIL KNOW GO LATE GREET GO

Ten bridesmaids took their lamps to _____
 They hoped the groom would not be _____
 Five were wise and brought more _____
 The wedding plans they would not _____
 As it grew late the lamps burned _____
 When he would come they did not _____
 'Get up, girls, do not _____
 At last the groom is here to _____!
 The foolish five cried out with _____
 'Our lamps are out, we cannot _____!
 The wise girls filled their lamps and _____
 to the wedding they could _____!



Jesus told a
story about ten bridesmaids
and their lamps

Match each bridesmaid with a lamp



Thirty-third Sunday of the Year

Focus

Several gift-wrapped packages about the same size but each containing different quantities of sweets, glass beads or similar small gifts hidden within the various layers of wrapping paper. (See *Activity*.)

Introduction

One way of expressing our love for someone is to give them gifts to use and enjoy. God has given us many different gifts and talents as a sign of his great love for his children. Today Jesus explains that we are expected to put such gifts to good use in our lives and not to waste them.

Gloria

Gospel Acclamation

Light the Gospel candle and sing Acclamation 8.

Gospel

A reading from the Gospel of St Matthew (25:14-30)
(See page 377.)

Reflection

Are you ever given money as a gift for Christmas or your birthday? What do you do with such sums of money?

Your parents probably encourage you to save your money until you are ready to spend it on something worthwhile.

If you simply put your money in a piggy bank in your room, how much will be there when you next count it?

Exactly the same amount! The money has not been used or kept in a way that will allow it to increase in amount or change in any way.

What would happen to your money if you put it in a savings account in the bank?

When you keep money in a savings account in the bank for long enough, the bank will pay you some extra money for having it there. When you decide to draw your money out, you would find that you have more there than you started with.

How else might someone invest a sum of money?

They could buy stocks and shares in different businesses, which might earn them a great deal of money if the companies were very successful. They might buy a piece of property or jewellery that becomes more and more valuable with time, and then sell it for more money than they paid for it.

In today's Gospel story, how much did the master entrust to the care of each of his three servants?

They were each given large sums of money called talents – one received five, the other two, and the third servant was given one talent to invest.

Did they all invest and use their talents wisely? Was their master pleased with their efforts?

What does this story teach us?

We are like the servants who are expected by Jesus, our master, to make full use of any gifts he has given to us so that his kingdom may grow on earth. When he returns at the end of time we will be expected to give an account of how wisely we have used the many gifts we have been entrusted with. Did we use them well, sharing them with others and allowing them to grow, or did we hide them away selfishly? God gives gifts to each of us in different amounts, with some people being blessed with more than others. Jesus wants all of us to use whatever amount we have received wisely, and will expect more from those who have been given more.

Activity

Invite the children to unwrap the packages displayed as part of today's focus in a game of pass the parcel. Discuss how these packages, just like people, contain different gifts inside and should not be judged by appearance alone. Sometimes appearances can be deceptive, and it takes careful unwrapping to discover what might be hidden inside and waiting to be unwrapped.

Intercessions

As brothers and sisters in one loving family, together let us pray to our heavenly Father:

We pray for the gift of understanding and tolerance in the Christian Church.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the gift of wisdom for the leaders of governments and nations.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the gift of courage to use our God-given talents and gifts well.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the gift of peace in our lives and our world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing that our heavenly Father is listening, in the silence of our hearts let us share our own unspoken prayers with him.

Silence

Loving Father,
may we use the gifts you have given wisely,
so that they may bring us closer
to you and your kingdom of love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.