

A servant has his eyes opened



Bible verses:

Luke 19:11-27

A story about three servants



Aim:

To discover that Jesus expects us to use our resources well



Today's fruit:

Patience



In today's session we'll explore a story that Jesus told the people.

Jesus wanted to teach them, and us, about the importance of using our gifts and talents for God's glory. We'll spend time thinking about the gifts we have been given and how we can grow and develop them further.

Patience may be needed when we invest what we have.

Each child will need:

- Resources to make a bag with coins – see Action It
- *Explore It ideas* handout

You will need:

- A flip chart / large sheet of paper and pens
- Today's fruit sign: *Patience*



Start it

Say:

Today we will be thinking about how we can use our gifts, talents and resources for God. To get us thinking about talent, let's watch this amazing 12-year-old young lady, Ellen Alverdyan.

Video

Stevie Wonder - Master Blaster (bass line) by EllenPlaysBass(1:30)

Discuss the clip with the children.

Ask:

- What do you think of Ellen's playing?
- What do you think Ellen had to do to get this good at playing the bass guitar?
- How, if at all, does Ellen inspire you?
- What talent would you like to grow or develop?

Say:

Although Ellen is a naturally talented musician, she spends hours and hours practising to improve her bass guitar playing. As we think about the talents and gifts we use for God, remember the work Ellen has put into improving musically.



Sing it

Say:

Our memory verse for this month is all about everything we say and do being something that honours God. Let's share it together.

Memory verse

**'May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my rock and my redeemer.'**

(Psalm 19:14 NIV)

Say:

Our song for today reminds us to give God our all as we serve him every day of our lives.

Song

'All of me' by Gateway Kids Worship (3:08)



Tell it

Say:

Today we're going to listen to a story that Jesus told the people, a story all about using their gifts and talents.

Read:

'Jesus travelled closer to Jerusalem. Some of the people thought that God's kingdom would appear soon. Jesus knew that the people thought this, so he told them this story:



“A very important man was preparing to go to a country far away to be made a king. Then he planned to return home and rule his people. So the man called ten of his servants together. He gave a bag of money to each servant. He said, ‘Do business with this money till I get back.’ But the people in the kingdom hated the man. So they sent a group to follow him and say, ‘We don’t want this man to be our king!’

(Luke 19:11-14 ICB)

Ask:

- Why was the man leaving his people? What was going to happen while he was away?
- How did the people feel about the man becoming their king?
- What did the man do before leaving to go to a faraway country?
- What was he expecting the servants to do with their money?
- What would you have done with your bag of money?

As you read out the story, draw an image on a flip chart or large sheet of paper, to show what each servant was given, what they earned while the king was away and how they were rewarded. If you are not particularly artistic, then you could ask the children to help!

Read:

‘But the man became king. When he came home, he said, “Call those servants who have my money. I want to know how much they earned with it.”

‘The first servant came and said, “Sir, I earned ten bags of money with the one bag you gave me!” The king said to the servant, “Fine! You are a good servant. I see that I can trust you with small things. So now I will let you rule over ten of my cities.”

‘The second servant said, “Sir, with your one bag of money I earned five bags!” The king said to this servant, “You can rule over five cities.”

‘Then another servant came in. The servant said to the king, “Sir, here is your bag of money. I wrapped it in a piece of cloth and hid it. I was afraid of you because you are a hard man. You even take money that you didn’t earn and gather food that you didn’t plant.”’

(Luke 19:15-20 ICB)

A summary chart is shown below. As you reach the earnings of servant number three, discuss with the children what they think happened next in the story.

Servant	Given	Earns	Reward
One	One bag	Ten bags	Rules over ten cities
Two	One bag	Five bags	Rules over five cities
Three	One bag	Kept the one bag	What do you think happened?

Read:

'Then the king said to the servant, "You evil servant! I will use your own words to condemn you. You said that I am a hard man. You said that I even take money that I didn't earn and gather food that I didn't plant. If that is true, then you should have put my money in the bank. Then, when I came back, my money would have earned some interest."

'Then the king said to the men who were watching, "Take the bag of money away from this servant and give it to the servant who earned ten bags of money." They said to the king, "But sir, that servant already has ten bags of money!" The king said, "The one who uses what he has will get more. But the one who does not use what he has will have everything taken away from him."

(Luke 19:22-26 ICB)

Ask:

- Why was the king so angry with the third servant?
- Who got the money instead? Do you think that was fair? Explain your answer.

Say:

Jesus isn't an angry king, shouting at us when we don't use the gifts we have, but there is a valuable lesson in this story.

Read:

'The king said, "The one who uses what he has will get more. But the one who does not use what he has will have everything taken away from him."

(Luke 19:26 ICB)

Ask:

- How does this final verse of Jesus make you feel? Does it make you feel pressured to use the gifts you have, or does it encourage you to keep growing them?

Say:

God gives each one of us gifts, talents and resources to use for him. Rather than hiding them away, or keeping them to ourselves, we need to share them with others.

Action it

The aim of this activity is for the children to create a bag filled with gold coins that represent their gifts and talents. On each coin they can write a gift, talent or personal attribute that they could use for God. They can take their bag and coins home to help with an Explore It ideas activity.

This activity can be completed in a number of ways depending on your resources and budget.

Here are two ideas to get you started:

- Cut out a bag shape from brown paper and stick on yellow circles representing the gold coins.
- Use small organza bags and fill with gold chocolate coins which the children could write on.

If the children are struggling to think of gifts or talents, then help them to think of ideas for each other. Encourage them to think about all the different qualities and gifts they have. These could include being imaginative, showing kindness to others, or their enthusiasm to give things a try. As leaders you know your children well, so this is also an opportunity to give them encouragement and make some suggestions for their coins.

Ask:

- Which one of these gifts or talents would you most like to grow?
- What could you do to make that happen?

Say:

It took time for two of the servants to invest and grow their one bag of money. Sometimes we can get frustrated when we feel like our gift or talent isn't growing quickly enough.

Display the *Patience* sign.

Pray it

The children will need their talent bags for the prayer time. Gather the children together in a circle. Encourage the children to choose one talent or gift that they would like God to help them grow or develop. Taking it in turns, each child can share the gift and talent they would like to develop.

Once all the children have shared, then pray on behalf of the group.

If there is time, you may want to share the Sing It song together to bring the session to a close.

Listen

'All of me' by Gateway Kids Worship (3:08)

Explore it

Remember to send home the *Explore It ideas* for children and families.

Explore It is produced by the Children and Youth Department in collaboration with Kay Moorby (soulwithaview)

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Here are some ideas for you to explore at home.



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Today's fruit:
Patience



Ask

Take time each day to look at the coins in the bag you made in this week's Explore It session. Ask God to help you grow your gifts and talents so that you can use them for him.



Share

Chat to someone at home about what you have discovered in this week's session.

- What gifts and talents do they have that they could use for God?
- How could they grow the gifts and talents God has given them?



Song for the week

'All of me' by Gateway Kids Worship



Memory verse

'May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, Lord, my rock and my redeemer.'

(Psalm 19:14 NIV)

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Kids Alive! The UK's only weekly Christian comic – is filled with jokes, competitions, Bible-based cartoons and much more... and is now available to read online!



Children
& Youth

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Memory verse

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(Psalm 19:14 *NIV*)



Start it

Jesus told a story about three servants who were each given a bag of money while their master was away. They were expected to use the money to make more money, so that there would be more when their master returned. The story reminds us to use our gifts and talents for God.



Tell it

Share a child-friendly version of Luke 19:11-27.

Sit in a circle and ask the group to share together:

- What did the three servants do with the money they were given?
- How were they rewarded?
- Why did one of the servants keep the money safely hidden instead of investing it to make more money?

- What things are you good at?
- How do you think God wants you to use the things you are good at for him?
- How could you ask God to help you get better at the things you are talented at?



Sing It

'The wise man built his house upon the rock' by Tiny Tree Tunes uploaded by Lithos Kids. Just the first two verses (1:35)

'All through history' Nicky & Becky Drake by Worship For Everyone (3:36)



Action it

Games and activities to reinforce the Bible passage:

- Act out the king's response to the three servants.
- Draw the outline of a bag and write or draw inside it all the things you are good at.
- Act out one of the things you are talented at doing and see if everyone can guess what it is.
- Choose one of your talents and think of a way that you can get better at it.