



Sunday Gospel Background

In this parable, an employer goes on a journey and entrusts his money to three workers. Two of them double his money. But when the third worker only buries it, the employer is irate. This Gospel presents opportunities to talk about gifts and talents. Find ways to affirm your child's gifts, especially those that might seem "ordinary," such as humor, energy, or thoughtfulness.

Share Experiences

Check off the boxes as you complete each part of the lesson.

- Pray together** "Dear God, thank you for making everyone in our family unique and special. Help us learn more about you, and the gifts you give us. Amen."
- Story • Friends Share with One Another (page 1)** Invite your child to color the picture. Then tell this story about two friends:

Maria and Mateo live in San Francisco where it rains a lot. One day, Maria was over at Mateo's house playing in his backyard. They noticed the sky was getting dark, but they were having so much fun that they didn't notice the raindrops until they came down hard and fast. "Let's go!" Mateo yelled, and he took off running to the house. Maria followed right behind. By the time they got through the back door, Maria's hair was wet and Mateo's shirt was sticking to his back.

Mateo's mother made hot chocolate for them. They watched the rain run down the windows as they drank the chocolate. "My mom said I should be home by 4:30," Maria

said. "How can I walk home in the rain?" Mateo laughed. "I know how you can get home," he said. "I will be right back." Maria heard Mateo talking to his mother. Then she heard cupboards opening and closing. "What is Mateo doing?" Maria wondered. Then Mateo appeared. He had a yellow raincoat, a yellow hat, and a big red and yellow umbrella in his hand. "I can walk you home," Mateo said. "The coat and hat will keep me dry, and the umbrella will keep the rain off you." Maria smiled. "Good idea!" she said. The two friends walked down the block to Maria's house.

Share an experience of a friend who has helped you, and invite your child to do the same. Explain that being a good friend is a talent that God gives us. We can practice being a friend and get really good at it.

- Activity • What do I like to do? (page 2)** Explain that God has given each of us special talents. Look at the images all around the page. If you see an activity your child enjoys, point it out. If not, talk about other things your child likes to do. Invite your child to draw a picture and write words that finish the sentence "I like to."

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Parable of the Talents** Explain that Jesus once told a story about using our talents and sharing them with others.



Once there was a man who decided to go on a long trip. He called in three of his servants and said: "I trust you with my business while I am gone. Amos, I give you five talents. Samuel, I give you two talents. Joshua, I give you one talent." A talent was a very large amount of money.

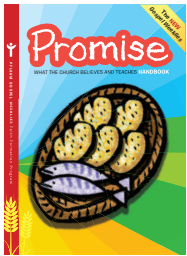
Then the man left on his trip. Amos said to the other servants, "I will take my five talents and use them to earn more." Samuel said, "I will use my two talents to earn more too." Joshua said: "I am going to bury my talent. I don't want to lose it."

After a long time, the man came home. He called his

workers together. Amos told him, "Look, you gave me five talents, and I have earned five more." The man said to Amos: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. I trust you to do important work for me. Come and share my joy." Samuel told the man, "I doubled the money you gave me too." The man said: "Well done, my good and faithful servant. I will trust you with more. Come and share my joy."

Joshua stepped up and said: "Sir, I know you are a tough boss. I was afraid I would lose your money, so I buried it. Here it is." The man said to Joshua: "What a lazy servant! Give your talent to Amos and leave me. I do not trust you anymore."

- **Word of the Week • service (page 2)** Help your child locate the Word of the Week on page 2. Share this definition: We offer service when we help one another.



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 11. Read aloud the title, then briefly review the story of Noah. Explain that after the flood, God asked Noah and his family to take care of the earth. Just like the man in the Gospel who wanted his servants to use their talents to take care of his business, God wants his servants—us—to take care of his Creation today. Discuss how your family takes care of the earth, water, air, plants, animals, and God's people. Invite your child to draw a picture of your family doing one of these activities together. Display the drawing in your home.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to Promise, pages 3–4.

Live the Gospel

- **Gospel Activity • Hide It! A Game of Sharing Your Talents (pages 3–4)** Explain that each picture card shows a special talent and will be part of the game.

Help your child cut out the cards. Place them in a small box or bag and take turns drawing cards. Each player chooses one of the two activities pictured (front or back of card), and pantomimes it so the other can guess what it is. Invite other family members to join if available. When another player guesses the activity, the player pantomiming may keep the card. A player who draws the Hide It! card must return all cards to the box. The winner is the player with the most cards when all the cards have been drawn.

- **Closing Prayer** "Thank you, God, for all of your gifts. Help us do our best always to share them. Amen."
- **Family Corner (page 2)** Say the family prayer any time throughout the week.



Parent Resources

For weekly videos, assessments, and more, scan this code or go to pflaumweeklies.com/family
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings to read this Sunday's Scripture