

## 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 our 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 this family. Thank you for making us members of your family. Help us learn more about you today. Amen."
- Cover Activity • Everybody has talents. (page 1)** In advance, write the talents of all your family members, including your child, on slips of paper. Word each talent so your child will be able recognize whose it is. Place the papers in a small bag or box. Use a puppet, stuffed animal, or action figure to read each of the talents and invite your child to name the family member with the talent. Hopefully your child will recognize everyone's talents, including their own. Finish by having the puppet marvel at your talented family!

Invite your child to look at the cover page. Ask: What special talents do these children have? *Play a musical instrument, paint, play a sport, dance.* Talk about your child's talents. Have your child draw one talent in the blank circle on page 1.

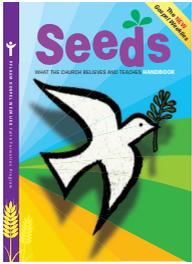
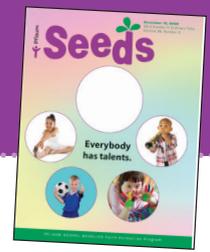
## Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Everybody has talents.** Explain that our talents are gifts from God and that we can share them with others. Tell your child that Jesus once told this story to his friends:

Once there was a man who was going on a trip. He asked his servants to take care of his money while he was gone. The man gave talents to each of the servants. A talent was worth a lot of money. The first servant received five talents. The second servant received two talents. The third servant received one talent. When the master came home, the first servant said, "I used your five talents to make ten talents." The

master said, "Great, you can do more jobs for me." The second servant said, "I used your two talents to make four talents." The master said, "Great, you can do more jobs for me too." The third servant said, "I was so scared I might lose your money that I hid it. Here is the same money you gave me." The master said: "What a lazy servant! I don't trust you anymore."

**Ask:** What did the first servant do with the master's money? *He used it to make more money.* What did the second servant do with the money that the master gave him? *He used it to make more money.* What did the third servant do with the money that the master gave him? *He hid it and gave it back to the master when he returned.* Why do you think the master was not happy with the third servant? *Because he did not use the talent that the master had given him.* Stress that God wants us to use the talents he gave us, and to share them with others.



- Open the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 17. Ask: What do you see? How are the children dressed? *They are wearing different clothes according to where they live. Do they all have the same skin color? No, some are black, some are brown, some are white, some are Asian. Do they all look alike? No, some have curly hair, some have straight hair.* Explain that God makes many different kinds of people and each one of them has different talents. God loves everyone! Read the words at the top and the coloring instructions.

Once you have completed this section of the lesson, close the handbook and return to *Seeds*, page 3.

- **Word of the Week • respect (page 3)** Help your child find the Word of the Week on page 3. Share this definition: *Respect means knowing that a person or thing has been created by God. It means caring for people and things and treating them well.* Explain that Jesus wants us to love everyone, even if they seem different from us.

## Live the Gospel

- **Activity • What can I be? (page 2)** Open *Seeds* to page 2 and read the title aloud. Explain that the special talents God gives us help us to decide what we want to be when we grow up. Identify the possible choices on page 2. Ask: What makes each job special? Say: Can you show me what a firefighter does? Ask: What does a teacher do? Could you do that? Ask the same questions about the astronaut, doctor, and artist. Add any other occupations your child suggests.
- **Activity • My Special Talents (pages 3-4)** Have your child open *Seeds* to page 3. Look at the picture and have your child say what each child is doing. Invite your child to demonstrate the actions. Talk about the talent it takes to do each of these activities. Emphasize that your child has many of these talents and abilities.  
  
Turn to page 4. Invite your child to identify the animals. Then point to each one and have your child make the sound the animal makes. Comment on the talent it takes to make animal sounds.
- **Activity • The Talent Game (pages 3-4)** Have your child cut apart the six animal pictures on page 4 following the heavy black lines. When finished, your child will have six pictures with an animal on one side and a child doing an activity on the other side. Place the picture cards in an envelope or box. Invite your child to take a picture card without showing it to you. Your child can either make the sound of the animal or do the activity the child in the picture is doing. If you guess correctly, you can take another card and do the same. Continue until you have used all the picture cards.
- **Closing Prayer:** “God, we thank you for the special talents you have given us. We can use our bodies and our voices. We can be kind to one another. Amen.”



## Parent Resources

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