



Introduction

On the face of it our story for June is about the wise use of money and what it takes to be a good entrepreneur. But this is a story with deeper meaning, as Jesus wasn't just speaking to those who are good entrepreneurs, but to all of us about using our talents wisely.

The bible passage is from Matthew 25:14-30

¹⁴ The kingdom [of heaven] is like what happened when a man went away and put his three servants in charge of all he owned. ¹⁵ The man knew what each servant could do. So, he handed five thousand coins to the first servant, two thousand to the second, and one thousand to the third. Then he left the country.

¹⁶ The servant with the five thousand coins used them to earn five thousand more. ¹⁷ The servant who had two thousand coins did the same with his money and earned two thousand more. ¹⁸ But the servant with one thousand coins dug a hole and hid his master's money in the ground.

¹⁹ Some time later the master of those servants returned. He asked what they had done with his money. ²⁰ The servant who had been given five thousand coins brought them in with the five thousand that he had earned. He said, "Sir, you gave me five thousand coins, and I have earned five thousand more."

²¹ "Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

²² Next, the servant who had been given two thousand coins came in and said, "Sir, you gave me two thousand coins, and I have earned two thousand more."

²³ "Wonderful!" his master replied. "You are a good and faithful servant. I left you in charge of only a little, but now I will put you in charge of much more. Come and share in my happiness!"

²⁴ The servant who had been given one thousand coins then came in and said, "Sir, I know that you are hard to get along with. You harvest what you don't plant and gather crops where you haven't scattered seed. ²⁵ I was frightened and went out and hid your money in the ground. Here is every single coin!"

²⁶ The master of the servant told him, "You are lazy and good-for-nothing! You know that I harvest what I don't plant and gather crops where I haven't scattered seed. ²⁷ You could have at least put my money in the bank, so that I could have earned interest on it."

²⁸ Then the master said, "Now your money will be taken away and given to the servant with ten thousand coins! ²⁹ Everyone who has something will be given more, and they will have more than enough. But everything will be taken from those who don't have anything. ³⁰ You are a worthless servant, and you will be thrown out into the dark where people will cry and grit their teeth in pain."

Contemporary English Version

This parable teaches us that God has given all of us special gifts and talents and wants us to use them. The more we use them, the more our talents will grow.

- Jesus wants us to take a risk and use our talents, not bury them. When we unbury our gifts and use them in a positive way, we honour God.
- God gives us talents that are unique to us. It doesn't matter if we have one or ten, or if they are large or small – all gifts are important.
- We can all grow our gifts, no matter what they are. What is most important is not what our gifts are or how many we have, but that we focus on using them for the good of the kingdom.

Activities:

1. Money box/talent store

You need: An empty screw-top plastic bottle (small for the money box or



larger for the talent store), marker pen, coloured paper, sticky tape, scissors, pipe cleaner, an adult for cutting into the bottle.

Draw a pig's nostrils onto the bottle top and eyes onto the bottle itself. Cut out two ears from the coloured paper and glue or stick these in place with tape. Ask an adult to make a slot in the top of the bottle body so that you can place coins or a note of talents inside it.

Cover the bottle body with coloured paper and cut through the slot again. Add a curly tail made from a pipe cleaner and tape it in place.

If you would like to stop your pig from rolling over, you can use a piece of paper, folded with concertina edges.

Talk about: God is generous and gives us things to watch over and to use. It doesn't matter how many gifts you've been given – one or ten – what matters is that you use your gifts, so that others can see them and you don't lose them.

2. Talent Award

You will need: A print out of the award included at the end of this document and a pen or pencil (or make your own certificates).

When you see someone using a talent in a way that shows God's love, a creative skill or brings joy to others, write out a talent award, recognising this.

Talk about whether you have buried your talents, or whether you are using them. When we unbury our talents and use

them, others can see them. When this is recognised and rewarded, those talents can continue to grow.



The image shows a certificate template for a 'Messy Church Talent Award'. At the top center is the 'Messy Church' logo. Below it, the title 'Messy Church Talent Award' is written in a large, bold, black font. Underneath the title is the quote 'God gives us our talents and we must use them wisely' in a smaller font. The certificate has three main sections for text: 'Congratulations to' followed by a blank line, 'Your talent is' followed by a blank line, and 'You used it to' followed by a blank line. At the bottom, there are two lines for 'Signed:' and 'Date:'.

3. Talent poster

You will need: A3 sheet of paper or card (or larger), coloured pens or crayons.

Make a big poster that you can put up at home and record all those things that members of your family are good at.

Talk about: everyone has a talent and it's good to use these all the time and everywhere. How do others in your family use their gifts to bring you joy? Use the gift of prayer (see below) to give thanks for that person and the gift they share.



The image shows a poster template titled 'My talented family'. The title is at the top in a bold, black font. Below the title, the word 'TALENTS' is written vertically in large, bold, black letters. To the right of each letter is a dotted line for writing. To the right of the dotted lines are five colorful cartoon characters: a green character with a leaf on its head, a blue character with glasses, a girl with pigtails, a character with a large nose, and a character with a large mouth. At the bottom of the poster is the quote 'God gives us our talents and we must use them wisely.'

4. Junk modelling

You will need: items from your recycling and rubbish bin, glue, sticky tape.

Use some boxes, bottles, cartons and other containers and paper to make something new. Do send in or post some photos of your junk modelling, so that we can see what you've been up to.

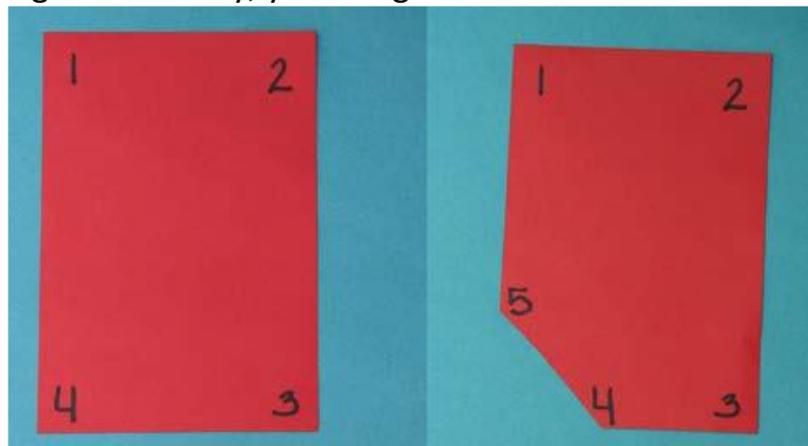
Talk about how it's good to reuse things that would otherwise be thrown away – it makes more out of what we already have.

5. Give and get more

You will need: a square or rectangular piece of paper, scissors

Take a piece of paper and count the (four) corners. Carefully cut off one corner with scissors and give the corner to someone. Count the corners on the paper again. There will now be five. Repeat with each of the four original corners. Each time you give one away, you will gain one more.

Talk about how sometimes we try to keep things for ourselves, but when we give what God has given us, he gives more. God doesn't want us to hold on tight to



our gifts and talents but to share them with others. When we do this we are honouring God.

Song: Magic Penny

This is a song that some adults may remember singing when at school. Here's a link to a YouTube video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lc1FQj4I3F0.

It's an easy tune to pick up and the idea of pennies rolling on the floor and making more is truly magical – just like the way that our love or talents can grow when we use or share them with others. The second verse below is different to the one on the video but is more appropriate for our session today.

Love is something if you give it away,
Give it away, give it away.
Love is something if you give it away,
You end up having more.

*It's just like a magic penny,
Hold it tight and you won't have any.
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many
They'll roll all over the floor.*

Talent is great if you use it wisely,
Use it wisely, use it wisely.
Talent is great if you use it wisely,
You end up having more.

Prayer

Dear loving and gracious God, thank you for giving each one of us a special gift, talent or ability. We celebrate and give thanks for all the people who use their gifts to make our world a better place. Thank you, God, for giving [name] the gift of... *(insert their gift)*. Help me to always use and grow my gifts so that I can share them with others. Amen.

Messy Grace:

This is a prayer that we say at Messy Church to ask God to always be with us, as we try to keep connected to Jesus.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (hold out hands as if expecting a present)

And the love of God (put your hands on your heart)

And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit (hold hands)

Be with us all (raise arms)

Amen (drop hands)

Next date: Friday 9th July 2021

www.facebook.com/MessyChurchWestWickham/



Messy Church Talent Award

God gives us our talents and we must use them wisely

Congratulations to _____

Your talent is _____

You used it to _____

Signed: _____

Date: _____