



Sunday Gospel Background

In this parable, an employer goes on a journey and entrusts money to three workers. Two of them double the 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. Help your child look for ways to share these talents as a way to express gratitude for them.

Share Experiences

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

- Pray together** "Dear God, thank you for our family. Thank you for making each of us special. Help us learn more about you today. Amen."
- Activity • What Will You Try? (page 4)** Have your child open *Good News* to page 4. Point out the activity on the bottom right. Go through it together. Feel free to say which ones you have done yourself and which you might try. Conclude by saying: We don't need to try everything, but it's important that we know our own talents and are willing to use them.
- Story • Spelling T-r-o-u-b-l-e (page 2)** Have your child turn to page 2 of *Good News*. Ask your child what is happening in the pictures at the top. Then read the story aloud.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the story.** Emphasize that Marci was taking an easy way instead of using her talents. **Ask:** How do you use your talents? (Help your child think of ways to use specific talents. Here are a few general ideas to get started: *helping with a sibling, reading extra books, playing hard, learning a new game or activity.*) Summarize by saying that we all have talents—some we might not even realize.

Discover Gospel and Doctrine

- Sunday Gospel • Parable of the Talents (page 1)** Before reading, **ask:** What is a parable? *A parable is a story about everyday life. Jesus told parables to teach about God.* Explain that today's Gospel is a parable that Jesus told. Divide the parts of Jesus, Man, Narrator, Amos, Samuel, and Joshua between you and your child. Invite other members of your family to participate, if available. Then proclaim the Gospel by reading the parts.
- Discuss the Know questions related to the Gospel.** **Answers:** 1. *The man expected the workers to do something with the money he gave them. He didn't want them just to hold on to it.* 2. *Joshua was not brave enough to take a risk with the money. He was afraid the man would disapprove of what he did.* **Ask:** What else could Joshua have done? Why do you think Jesus told this story? *Jesus wants us to know that God expects us to use all the gifts we have and not to deny them or save them just for ourselves.*
- Connecting Gospel and Doctrine (page 3)** Read "Using Our Talents." Emphasize that God gives us talents so we can use them to help others and contribute to the life of the community.
- Catholic Faith Words • servant, parable (page 3)** The definition of *servant* here summarizes this Sunday's Gospel message: God gives us all gifts. When we use those gifts to help others and do good, we are being servants of God. Read aloud the definition of *parable*. **Ask:** What does this parable teach us about God? *God gives everyone talents. God wants us to use our talents to be his helpers in the world. God wants us to use our talents to help others and to do good.*



- **Open** the *What the Church Believes and Teaches* handbook to page 16. Invite your child to find the words *Help Wanted* in green near the bottom of the page.

Together, read aloud the lines of the ad in the box. Help your child understand that a disciple is a follower of Jesus who learns from Jesus and tries to live what he teaches.

Ask: Who is Paul? *Saint Paul is a follower of Jesus. He started many Christian communities in the years after Jesus' Death and Resurrection. He wrote letters to the communities to teach them about Jesus and give them advice about living as Jesus' followers. This help-wanted ad tells us that Saint Paul needs our help to share the Good News about Jesus.*

Discuss what your child could say in the application. Talk about your child's talents and how your child might use them as a servant of God. Encourage your child to complete the application. Then **ask:** If you were Saint Paul, would you hire you? Why?

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

Live the Gospel

- **Gospel Activity • Try a Talent (pages 3-4)** Adjust this activity for home use by turning it into a grab bag game. First, have your child cut out the talent cards on pages 3 and 4. Place them in a bag and have family members take turns reaching into the bag and trying a talent. You might try this at dinner each night for a week, with each family member taking one turn a night. Talk about how some activities are harder to do if we don't have a talent for it and some activities are easier. Emphasize the importance of growing our talents and using them to do good.
- **Closing Prayer** Hold hands together and **pray:** "Loving God, you give us many talents. We thank you for these special gifts. Please help us share our talents with others. Help us use our talents as your servants and followers. Amen."



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