



GROUP ICE BREAKER

What's the biggest risks you have ever taken in life. How did it turn out?

REVIEW LAST WEEK'S NEXT STEPS

What, if any, next step did you commit to last week, how did it go?

- I will speak with someone at Blue Oaks to answer my questions about baptism.
- I will commit to getting baptized.

MESSAGE SUMMARY

This week we learned from Jesus what he wants from every one of us, so that every one of us can know the joy of actually getting put into the game and do what God is calling us to do. It's found in the Parable of the Talents.

Matt asked a series of questions related to the parable. The first was, *"What have I been given?"* Just as the servants were given a gift by the master, you have been given so much by God; spiritual gifts, life experience including wounds, financial resources, friends, and forgiveness of sin.

The second question was, *"What will I do with what I've been given?"* Whatever God gives you now, he will ask about later; your mind, body, gifts, imagination, sexuality, your stuff, resources, and time.

Third, *"What do I dream about doing for God?"* What matters is not your capacity for achievement; what matters is your capacity for God. You were made with a capacity to know, love and enjoy God, to serve him, to partner with God every minute of the day.

Fourth, *"What could keep me from being a good and faithful servant?"* For the third servant in the parable, his problem isn't greed; it's fear. He's afraid to risk his talent. When you're doing something bold for God, you don't have to worry about failure.

The last question was, *"What words do I want to hear from God when my life is over?"* No one is going to come along and figure this one out for you. What if every one of us were to hear one day, "Well done, good and faithful servant"?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 25:14-30. What would you say is the significance of the amount of talents being given to each servant “according to his own ability”? What does this teach us about God?
2. The word Jesus used to describe the master's generosity was “entrusted.” God wants you to dream about how you can serve him. Have you ever done this? Does this change the way you’ve understood serving?
3. What are some ways that we can determine our “talents” God has entrusted us with? What do you think your unique gifts and talents are? List two or three. How do you use these gifts in your everyday life?
4. Share with the group a time you took a risk for God. What was the outcome? What did you learn about God and yourself through the experience?
5. We’re told the last servant goes away, digs a hole and hides his talent because he misunderstands the nature of the master. What are some ways that we “hide” our talents today because of a misunderstanding of God’s nature?
6. What is your next step to take to “get in the game” or to begin dreaming about how you can serve God with the talent(s) he’s given you? Will you commit to taking that step this week?

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS WEEK (COMMIT TO GROW)

Use these as a guide to take your next step and commit to what you learned this week:

- I will not compare my gifts to others.
- I will ask God how he wants me to use my gifts to serve him.
- I will identify, develop, invest, and celebrate the gifts God has given to me.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 25:14-30

PRAYER REQUESTS

Take time to share how you can be praying for each other over the next week:

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