

Sunday, November 16, 2008

27th Sunday after Pentecost

Preparation:

Read the Gospel [Matthew 25: 14-30](#) for the day over – Pay attention to the words or phrases that jump out at you.

If you haven't started to think about Advent yet this is probably a good time to get a head start. Here are some good websites that will get the creative juices going:

<http://www.faith-at-home.com/tips/advent.html>

<http://www.domestic-church.com/CONTENT.DCC/pages.dir/fridge.htm#ADVENT>

<http://www.textweek.com/advent.htm>

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary/BAdvent/index.htm>

<http://talks2children.itsforministry.org/t2c/seasonal.asp>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/yr_b.htm

Read over the lesson so that you are familiar with what is intended to happen. Gather the materials that you will need for each section of the lesson. For deeper thinking or for ways to extend the lesson take a look at the following websites:

<http://www.textweek.com/yeara/propera28.htm>

http://ecusa.anglican.org/50534_62453_ENG_HTML.htm - scroll down the page to find the date

<http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/pent25mles.htm>

http://www.sermons4kids.com/dont_bury_talent.htm

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/three-toolboxes.html>

Gathering:

Materials needed:

Small table or end of one table

White candle

Bible & Bookmark

Green cloth (optional)

Newsprint and markers

Various denominations of money – both coin and paper if you can

Gather around the small table or at the end of one table. If you have the green cloth put it down and place the candle on it and put the Bible near the candle (you may want to let the children help with this). Write the prayer up on the newsprint so that everyone can see it. Light the candle.

Pray the following prayer together:

Loving God be with us today,

Loving Jesus be with us today,

Loving Spirit be with us today,

Amen.

Blow out the candle. Lay out the money for the children to look at. Ask them if they ever get some money for doing a special job at home. Ask them if they ever get money as a gift. Ask the children what they like to do with the money they have earned or been given. Explain to the children that in today's story they will hear about a master who gave his servants money to take care of for him. Ask them to think about what they might do with money that has been given them to look after while listening to the story.

Story Time:

Materials: white paper, marker

Instructions: Cut the white paper so that you have 5 even sized pieces. On each piece print the following: **\$50.00, \$20.00, \$10.00, \$100.00** and **\$40.00**.

Jesus was helping the people to understand what the kingdom of God is like. He loved to tell stories. One day Jesus came up with another story to tell. He said, "The kingdom of God will be like this:

There once was a man with a lot of money who was going on a trip. He called three of his servants to come and see him. He was going to give each of them some of his money to take care during his time on his trip.

To the first he said, "Here is \$50.00, please do your best with it while I am away." *Put the \$50.00 note on the table.*

To the second he said, "Here is \$20.00, please do your best with it while I am away." *Put the \$20.00 note on the table.*

To the third he said, "Here is \$10.00, please do your best with it while I am away." *Put the \$10.00 note on the table.*

Then the man went away on his trip.

The first servant took his money and used it to buy some carpets. He then sold those carpets and made all of his money back and made a profit. In fact he doubled the amount of money his master had given him. In the end, he had \$100.00 to give to his master.

The second servant took his money and he used it buy some baby chickens and food for them. The chickens grew and grew. When they were big enough he sold the chickens. This servant made all the money back and made a profit. In fact he doubled the amount of money his master had given him. In the end he had \$40.00 to give to his master.

The last servant took his money and he didn't buy anything with it. He dug a hole in the ground and buried his money. He made sure that it was safe and hidden.

After a very long time the master came back. He called the three servants to give an account of what they had done with the money he had given them.

The first servant who the master had given the \$50.00 to, came forward first. He said to his master, "Master I have \$100.00 for you. I was able to make twice the money that you had given me." *Put the \$100.00 note on the table.*

The master said to him, "Well done. You are a very good servant. You have been trustworthy in a few things. Now I am going to put you in charge of many things. You have made your master very happy."

The second servant who the master had given the \$20.00 to, came forward. He said to his master, "Master I have \$40.00 for you. I was able to make twice the money that you had given me." *Put the \$40.00 note on the table.*
The master said to him, "Well done. You are a very good servant. You have been trustworthy in a few things. Now I am going to put you in charge of many things. You have made your master very happy."

The third servant who the master had given the \$10.00 to, came forward. He said to his master, "Master, I know that you are a hard man. You always expect the best from your servants and do not like us to make any mistakes. So, because I was afraid to make a mistake, I took your money and hid it in a safe place. Here is your \$10.00 back. I did not lose any of it." *Put the \$10.00 note on the table.*

The master looked at his servant with an angry face, "You wicked and lazy servant! You know that I am a hard man and that I expect the best from my servants! You should have at least taken the money and invested it with a bank. That way I could have had some more money than you just gave to me."

"Take away his \$10.00" he told his other servants, "and give it to the one who has \$100.00. That way I know there will be more money made for me."

The master looked at all his servants and said, "Those who have lots will be given more and those who have little will have it taken away from them."

Jesus looked at the people listening to the story and said, "Remember this story. God expects us to take risks and work hard with what we have been given so that we can bring the kingdom of God closer to the whole world."

Response:

Idea #1: Gift Box

Giving gifts to others, especially gifts of ourselves, can be risky for all of us. To respond to the call to use our gifts in a way that God would want us can be difficult for all of us. This idea will help the children take a risk with their God given gifts.

Materials needed: small boxes with lids, gift coupon page at the end of the lesson, wrapping or tissue paper, glue, scissors, markers

Instructions: Cut a hole in the top of the box lid, so that slips of paper can be put in. Make copies of the gift coupon page – so that each child has one or two. Give each child a copy of the page and a box. Invite them to think about the gifts they have that God has given them. Help them to write their gifts and who they want to give them to on the coupon slips. Remind them that they are gifts of time and self and not gifts of money. When they have their coupons done, help them to cover their boxes with the paper. Suggest that they put their boxes in a public space at home and from time to time go in and get a gift out and do the action for the person on their coupon. If you want, you can give a sheet of blank coupons to the children to take home so that they can add more gifts over time.

Idea #2: Gift Flowers

This response will help younger children to have a way share their gifts with their families and friends.

Materials needed: construction paper, strong tape, scissors, pipe cleaners, yarn or ribbon, markers, tissue paper, flower image at the end of lesson

Instructions: Make a copy of the flower image at the end of the lesson. Cut this out and trace onto construction paper. Make enough flowers so that you have 5 for each child. If this is for younger children cut out the flowers ahead of time. Give the children their five flowers, five pipe cleaners and invite them to think about something that they could do for their families to share God's love – to take the gifts that God has given them and use them. Help the children to write their gifts into the centre of their flowers. With the strong tape attach the flowers to the pipe cleaners. When they are done use the yarn or ribbon to make a bouquet out of the flowers. Encourage the children to share their flowers with their families and to share their gifts with them as well.

Idea #3: Gift Collage

This will be a way for the children to share their ideas with a larger group and encourage the congregation that they worship with to take up their gifts and use them for God.

Materials needed: newsprint or poster board, caring pictures from magazines, newspapers, and the internet, scissors, glue and markers

Instructions: Across the top of the newsprint print **WE ALL NEED TO USE THE GIFTS THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US**. With the children think about the gifts of the worshipping community and how they could be shared with the larger community that they live in. You may want to put their ideas up on newsprint so that everyone can see them. Invite them to look over the pictures that have been selected and create a gift collage on the newsprint. They may want to write some of the ideas from the newsprint up on the collage along with putting up the pictures. Find a place that they can put up the collage so that others in the congregation can see it and be stimulated by it.

Closing:

Gather with the children around the worship table again. Relight the candle. Say the prayer line by line and encourage the children to repeat it after you:

**Thank you God for our time together,
Thank you Jesus for being our friend,
Thank you Spirit for showing us the way,
Amen.**

Gift Coupons

My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



My gift to share with

_____ is

_____.



Flower Shape

