

Growth Group Leader Guide

This “growth group leader guide” is meant to be just that, a guide. Please feel free as the leader of your group to add questions or comments as you feel necessary to fit your group’s dynamics.

Also, don’t feel pressured to cover every question.

Matthew 25:14-30

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend’s message did you find to be most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain.

Context

- What did Jesus say about His second coming (Matthew 24:23-31)?
- According to Jesus, what will be the attitude of most people during the last days (Matthew 24:36-44)?
- **Read Matthew 24:45-51.** As a group discuss what you think is the main lesson in this parable.

6 Parts of the Parable of the Talents

1) The Responsibility Given by the Master

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:14-15**
- Why did the master in this parable give out different amounts of wealth to his servants? Read verse 15 to help answer this question.
- What do the talents represent in the life of a Christian?
- **Read and discuss** the following quote.
 - Jesus mentions only three levels of responsibility, but those are suggestive of the extremely wide range of individual resources among people, who vary greatly in natural talent, intellect, finances, freedoms, time, health and other means. We also vary greatly in opportunity and privilege. Some church members have heard the gospel and studied Scripture since early childhood, whereas others know only the basics of the faith and have had little

opportunity to learn more. Those who are true believers are also given spiritual gifts that vary widely from person to person. Some Christians are privileged to live and work closely with others of like faith and are continually encouraged and corrected by fellow believers. Other Christians, however, are the only believers in their families or even in their community or town. God knows intimately the abilities, gifts, opportunities, and circumstances of every person, and He graciously assigns responsibilities accordingly.

- Is it fair that some people have been given more than others? Explain your answer.
- What does this parable teach us about the responsibility given to those that have much?
- What does the considerable amount of value of the talent teach us in this parable?
 - **Leader's Cheat:** Even one talent may have been equivalent to \$300,000 of today's money. Although we don't know the exact amount, we do know it was a lot.

2) The Actions Taken by the Servants

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:16-18**
- What do we learn about the first servant in verse 16?

3) The Long-awaited Return of the Master

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:19**
- What is significant about the phrase "*Now after a long time*" in the beginning of verse 19?
- How does this relate to Matthew 24:36-44?

4) The Faithfulness of the First Two Servants

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:20-23**
- Compare and contrast the amounts earned by the first and second servant. How are the earnings similar and how are they different?
- Now compare and contrast the response of the master to the first 2 servants. What does this teach us about faithfulness vs. results?

- What does the response of the master in verse 21 teach us about eternity?

5) The Faithlessness of the Last Servant

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:24-27**
- What accusations did this servant make about his master?
- What excuse did the servant give for not investing the talent?
- What reason did the master give for the faithlessness of this servant? (Read verse 26 and pay attention to what the master calls this servant.)
- What do you think was the true reason for this servant's faithlessness? Why did he truly bury the talent?
- How does this last servant represent a wasted life?
- **Read verse 28.** Do you think it was fair that the master took the one talent away from the last servant and gave it to the first servant who already had 10 talents? Explain your answer.

6) The Judgment

- **Read & Discuss Matthew 25:29-30**
- What do you think verse 29 means?
- What is the main lesson of this parable?
- What does this parable teach us about Jesus' second coming?