

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

October 3/4, 2015; The Moral of the Story

Speaker:

Pastor Dick Foth

Scripture Focus: Matthew 25: 14-30

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed the parable of the talents. These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: Dick Foth shared a story about his grandson high-fiving during worship and shouting, "cheers!" during communion, concluding, "Kids get celebrating life." Share a story of a way you "celebrated life" as a kid.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did this parable speak to where you are now in your life?

Specific Questions:

1. Read through the parable of the talents (Matthew 25: 14-30) out loud as a group. Which of the three servants do you most identify with and why?
2. Dick Foth shared that although talents were an actual amount or type of money, in this parable they're also meant to represent the talents or gifts God has given us. What talents have you been given? How are you currently using them? If you don't know what your talents are, how could you find out?
3. Pastor Foth stated that, "We have different sets of gifts and the Lord needs all of us. That's why he made us this way." Read aloud 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 and Romans 12:4-8. How are you using your gifts and talents to bless the church and its work? How are you working with others who have different gifts? What happens when your gifts come together? If you're not already using your talents with the church, how could you start?

4. “When you don’t invest what you have and capitalize on what you’ve been given, the tendency is to go backwards.” Do you agree with this statement? Have you experienced this? If so, describe a time that you should have invested but instead “buried your talents.” What happened? Are you doing this with anything right now? If so, how can you “dig up your talents” and start investing?
5. Dick Foth posed the question, “How much am I comparing what *I* do with what *you* do?” How often do you find yourself doing this? Do you agree with his assertion that it’s a “waste of time?” Why or why not? How can we focus more on what God has given us than what he’s given others? Why is it tempting to focus on what he’s given others?
6. Merriam-Webster defines joy as, “the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires: delight.” How would you define joy? What brings you joy? Why or how? How do you bring others joy?
7. One of Pastor Foth’s final thoughts was, “if you want joy, be faithful with what you’ve been given.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? How have you seen or experienced it to be true?

Challenge:

Read, Pray, Act: Pray through Matthew 25:14-30, asking the Holy Spirit for insight into areas in your life where you are investing your talents well and how to continue doing so. Next as for and understanding of those areas where you’ve buried talents and insights into how to go about “digging them up.” Write these revelations down with plans on how to invest well in the future, praying for opportunities to do so. As an extra step, share those areas you’ve been burying with a friend, and ask them to work with you to find ways to instead invest those gifts!