

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

For the week of October 11-18, 2020

"A CALL TO FAITHFULNESS"

GETTING STARTED

To the facilitator: Use this section to introduce the topic. If possible, give a brief recap of the sermon.

Share a memorable point, a spiritual lesson, a personal application, a question, or something that challenged you from the sermon last Sunday.

What is something you would like to get better at doing in 2021?

GROUP DISCUSSION

Read Matthew 25:14-29.

1. The Parable of the Talents must be understood in context of the End Times, which is the theme of Jesus' Olivet Discourse in Matthew 24-25. What do the Master's actions in this parable teach us about God, his will and his ways?
2. Why do you think the Master gave the men different amounts of Talents? What do the Talents represent in this parable? One commentator estimate that a Talent to be worth 15 years of wages, another says it would be equivalent to \$2 million today. Do you think this affected the behavior of the servant with the one talent?
3. *Share.* Comparison, envy, laziness, fear, excuses can keep us from using the talents God has given to us. Which one do you relate to the most?
4. When the Master returned and settled accounts with his servants, how did he reward those who had doubled the amount he gave them? How does that compare with the way the Master responded to the third servant? What do the responses of the Master teach us about God's expectations concerning the gifts he has given us?
5. Why should the second coming of the Lord lead to faithful stewardship of our gifts? Would you say that you are a person with a deep sense of accountability when it comes to your gifts? Why or why not?
6. In the parable, the Master said to the first two servants, "You have been faithful with a few things;..." What are some practical implications of this statement?

7. *Discuss.* Would you agree that many Christians today are burying their gifts? Describe the differences in motivation between the third servant and the first two. How should this instruct you as you think about your responsibility to use the gifts that God has given to you? What are some specific ways or steps that you can do to (better) invest your gifts for God's kingdom on a regular basis?

8. [NEXT STEPS]

Faithfulness says, "You can count on me!"

- ☐ I will be faithful with my time, money and energy.
- ☐ I will be mindful of the nearness of Jesus' return.
- ☐ I will take stock of my God-given abilities.
- ☐ I will be more sensitive to God-given opportunities.
- ☐ I will be accountable for my God-given gifts.

Don't forget to:

- ☐ Go through the devotionals everyday this week.
- ☐ Have a regular daily time of prayer and reading of God's Word.
- ☐ Commit 30 minutes a day for God's intervention in this fight against the COVID virus.

CLOSING THE SESSION.

Close the session by taking the time to pray for one another. Consider the following as you pray:

- Pray for the Holy Spirit to grow the fruit of faithfulness in your life and for the Lord to open opportunities for you to practice it.
- Take the time to pray for our nation, for peace and for the gospel to prosper during this time of the pandemic.
- Pray for those who are hurting, going through fear, worry and anxiety in the group.
- Pray for your unsaved family, friends and loved ones.