READ IT

This week's Bible story is

Parable of the Talents

from Matthew 25: 14-30.

Pentecost

God gave us special skills and talents so that we can use them to spread God's love.

Ask each other what you remember about:

- Talents
- Multiplied
- Buried

In the story, the word talent has a double meaning. First of all, talent meant money. A talent was worth more than 15 years of wages for a laborer in Jesus' time. Secondly, talent also meant "life" in the story. God gave us lives of love to share, not bury.

Read the whole story together in the Bible!

Spark Story Bible pages 316-317

Spark Bible pages 1086-1087

Family Prayer

Dear God, sometimes we're afraid. We're afraid that we will lose the things we own. So we huddle down and keep our hopes buried inside us. Please help us to trust you. Show us the families who make a leap of faith to live their lives, trusting that you will provide. Please teach us to not be afraid. Amen.

TALK ABOUT IT

Family Conversations

1. Did you know that this story is about you? You probably know how to use what God gave you. Maybe you love to dance or sing; maybe you love to do a summersault. Show your family something you love to do.

2. Pre-adolescents and adolescents may be less afraid of risk than their parents are. Challenge the kids of your family to teach the adults how to take risks for God! You may volunteer in a new place, make friends with a neighbor, or eat out less and donate the money you save to a charity or your church.

3. Make a pie chart that shows your family finances. What percentage of your income goes to housing, food, and transportation? What percentage of your income do you give as an offering at church or to other charitable causes? You could serve pie as you talk about your pie chart. What would Jesus think of your investments?

4. Distribute paper and pencil (or crayons) to family members. Each person writes down or draws something they're afraid of. Gather the fears in a bowl and pray that God will help you deal with your fears. Invite family members to talk about their fears aloud, if possible.

Eye Spark

Place a shovel or a toy sand shovel in your living space this week to remind you of the Parable of the Talents. When you see it, ask yourself, "Am I living in fear or love?"

Ear Spark

The man who buried his talent didn't get to see it grow. He was sad about that. God was sad about that. Do some loud sighing. Sighing is the sound of regret. Who can make the saddest sigh in your family?

Lectionary, Parable of the Talents Family Page. Spark: Activate Faith.
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LIVE IT

For families to do together

What's buried in your home that you could share? Go on a buried treasure hunt around your home. (You could plant some of these items ahead of time to keep little ones excited.) Search for loose change under couch cushions that you could share with hungry families. Look for stale bread that you could share with the ducks at the park. Seek out outgrown shoes or clothes that could be passed on to donation centers or families you know.

For younger kids

Practice leaps of faith. Mark how far you can leap, and keep practicing to leap further. Remember, giving our lives to God takes some trust and some oomph!

For older kids

Make a short video about the special person you are. Work together with siblings on this if possible, and share the product with the whole family. In the video, make sure you demonstrate how you love to use the talents God gave you.

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