



Year A – 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time: Talents and Bearing Fruit

*(Start with reviewing the previous meeting's challenge or discuss prior to sharing this week's challenge.)

Let's Begin: Think about how the challenge went for the last session. What went well? What was difficult?

Opening Prayer:

Begin with a brief moment of silence shaking off any and all distractions or difficulties of the day and remembering that God is always with us.

Read: **Mt 25:14-30** - <https://bible.usccb.org/> - 11/19/2023, 11/15/2026/, 11/18.2029

After the reading, conclude with this prayer:

Dear Jesus, You have given us so much. May we share what we've been given with sincere hearts and expect nothing in return. Allow love and mercy to blossom in our lives. In Your holy name. Amen.

Reflection or Discussion Question:

1. Why do you think the master was so unhappy with the servant for burying the talent he was given?

YouTube Video: Bishop Barron on The Parable of Talents (7:49 min)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXC_qB8xfYQ&feature=youtu.be

Reflection or Discussion Questions:

2. Bishop Barron talks about "Spiritual Physics" (when a gift is given away it grows, but when it is held it is taken away). Does this make sense to you?
3. Bishop Barron explains that talents should be understood as the gift of Divine Mercy and love we've been given by God. These gifts are meant to be given away for the sake of the other. Have you experienced mercy or love growing in you when you gave love or mercy away?
4. Do you struggle with holding onto the gifts God has given you versus sharing them?
5. Why wouldn't we freely give our love or mercy to others? Any thoughts on ways to overcome this?
6. Every skill, talent, monetary item, relationship, support structure, faith you have has been given to you by the love of God the Father. What can you possibly offer Him in return?
7. Do you have any additional thoughts or ideas on ways to share love and mercy with others in your life?

Session Challenges: (Choose one or both)

- Take time in prayer to thank God for all you have been given.
- Look over your local parish website and see if there are any ministries or service projects where you could share your gifts with others.

Closing Prayer: (Leaders: We recommended offering time during the closing prayer for participants to offer personal intentions.)

Dear God, Your mercy is unending and Your love abounding. May we be ever grateful for the blessings You have bestowed upon us. Forgive us for all the times we have hidden, buried, or not shared our talents with others. Increase in us a great desire of generosity to share all of the gifts You have given us. We now praise Your Name and honor You simply for who You are. Let's take a moment of silence (or pray out loud if your group is comfortable) and simply praise God for all He has done for us. (pause) We praise Your Name and thank You for all the gifts You have given us, but most especially for the gift of our faith, for it is through our faith that we come to know You. Continue to build in us a desire to become like You in all ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

{Optional additional Readings} Sunday Reading 1: **Prv 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31** Sunday Reading 2: **1 Thes 5:1-6**