WEEKEND RESOURCES

Ages 11–18

Teens read the whole parable, including the warning at the end, and ask what Jesus is teaching about fear, effort, and joy.

Worksheets

The Gospel

Jesus told his disciples this parable: "A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one — to each according to his ability. Then he went away. Immediately the one who received five talents went and traded with them, and made another five. Likewise, the one who received two made another two. But the man who received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and buried his master's money.

After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, 'Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.' Then the one who had received two talents also came forward and said, 'Master, you gave me two talents. See, I have made two more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy.'

Then the one who had received the one talent came forward and said, 'Master, I knew you were a demanding person, harvesting where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter; so out of fear I went off and buried your talent in the ground. Here it is back.' His master said to him in reply, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I did not plant and gather where I do not scatter? Should you not then have put my money in the bank so that I could have got it back with interest on my return? Now then! Take the talent from him and give it to the one with ten. For to everyone who has, more will be given and

he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And throw this useless servant into the darkness outside, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.'"

The three servants

	Five	Two	One
Receives	5	2	1
Does	Trades and makes 5	Trades and makes 2	Buries it out of fear
Hears	Well done	Well done	Lazy; not even the bank

1. Why does the master give according to ability, not in equal shares?
2. The third servant calls the master demanding. Does that picture explain his fear, or excuse it?
3. “To everyone who has, more will be given.” What does the faithful servant already have?
4. The outer darkness is a hard image. What is lost by the person who refuses to live what they were given?
5. Name one gift you have buried, and the smallest step that would “put it in the bank” this week.