

# SMALL GROUP: MIDDLE SCHOOL

COMPARISON TRAP:  
IT'S IN THE BAG

XP3

Week  
3

leadsmall

**BOTTOM LINE: WHAT YOU'VE BEEN ENTRUSTED WITH IS FAR LESS IMPORTANT THAN WHAT YOU DO WITH WHAT YOU HAVE.**

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

*"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.' 'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'" (Matthew 25:14-30 NIV)*

## GOAL OF SMALL GROUP:

**To help students understand that God gave them their talents and abilities; and to encourage them to use their talents in a God-honoring way.**

**Create meaningful conversation. Adjust questions as needed, and don't feel like you need to answer all of them.**

## FROM THE TENSION

1. In 30 seconds, retell *The Story Of The Talents*.
2. Why is it easier to blame God for what you *don't* have than trust God with what you *do* have?

## FROM THE TRUTH

3. What do you think Jesus was trying to teach the crowd through *The Story Of The Talents*?

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## FROM THE APPLICATION

4. What would it look like for you to celebrate people who have different talents than you?
5. Find a phrase you can say to remind yourself of the way God sees you. Write that phrase down:  
(Leaders, if you need help prompting your students, here are some options)
  - *My God loves me, so I can love me.*
  - *God defines me. People don't.*
  - *I'm an accepted child of God.*
  - *I'm a loved son/daughter of God.*
  - *God says I have what it takes.*

## NEXT STEP

Leaders, at some point this week, contact your students and share one of the following verses to remind them of how God sees them:

- *Psalm 139:13, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb."*
- *Matthew 28:20, "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*
- *Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works."*