

**Discuss:** “What are other examples of gifts and blessings God gives us so that we can use them in serving Him?” (Let the adults or children give examples.)

**Draw** a picture of five big gold coins and let the children copy it.

- Let the older children help the younger.
- Have them show the pictures to the adults during worship time or to parents at home.
- Let them explain that the coins illustrate how God gives to us gifts and blessing to use to serve Him instead of storing them up for ourselves.



**Memorize** Matthew 6:24.

**Poem.** Let three children each recite one of the verses from Psalm 65:4, 5 and 9.

**Let older children write** poems, songs or drama about using God's gifts to serve others.

**Prayer.** “Dear Lord, you are very generous. You give us many gifts and blessings. Help us to use these gifts to serve you. Help us to be faithful in serving others in your name. Forgive us when we fail to use our gifts for you.”

## How We Serve God

### Teach Children to Serve One Another

Choose any of these children's learning activities.

Let an older child or teacher read or recount **Matthew 25:14-30**, about faithful servants.

- The story shows that God gives each one of us a job to do for him.
- We are His servants; we are to serve Him with everything He gives us.
- **Explain** that a “talent” was a golden coin.

**After relating the story**, ask these questions. (Answers, if needed, appear after each question.)

- How many talents did the man give to each of his 3 servants? See verse 15
- What did each servant do with his money? See verse 16-18
- What did the master say when his servants used their money wisely? See verse 21
- What did the lazy servant do with his one gold coin? See verse 25
- What happened to this servant? See verse 30

**Dramatize** parts of the story of the faithful servants.

- Arrange with the leader of the main congregational worship to present this drama.
- Use your time with the children to prepare the drama.
- You do not have to use all the parts of the story.
- Have the older children help the younger ones to prepare.

- Have the children prepare **fifteen big coins**. They can cut them out of paper.

Let **older children** or adults act out these roles:

**Narrator.** Summarize the story and help the children remember what to say and do.

**Master of the House.** Carry a travel bag and hold eight coins.

Let **younger children** act out these roles:

**Faithful Servants #1 and #2.**

**Lazy servant.**

**Merchants.** Have things that represent a business (tools, boxes or papers). Also, among them, have seven of the large coins.

### **Dramatize the parable of the faithful servants**

**Narrator:** Tell the first part of the story, Matthew 25:14-18. Then say, “Hear what the Master of the house says.”

**Master of the House:** Put your bag on your shoulder and say, “Servants, I am going on a long trip. Come, and I shall give to you each some money to invest while I am gone.”

Count out five of the coins and hand them to Servant #1.

Count out two coins for Servant #2.

Count out one coin for Lazy Servant.

**Faithful Servants #1 and #2:** Go to the Merchants and say, “I want to buy some land and some houses.” Give them your coins.

**Merchants:** (Say to servants 1 and 2:) “Here are the title deeds.” (Hand them sheets of paper.)

**Lazy servant:** Look around to pretend that you make sure nobody is watching. Then hide your coin somewhere on the floor. Say, “I hid my coin to keep it safe!”

**Narrator:** Tell the second part of the story, Matthew 25:19-23. Then say, “Hear what the Master of the house says.”

**Master of the House:** “I have returned from my journey. Servants, come show me what you have done with the gold coins that I gave to you to invest for me.”

**Faithful Servants #1 and #2:** Go again to the Merchants and say, “We wish to sell back our lands and our houses”. (Hand them your title deeds.)

**Merchants:** “You have made a good profit from your investment”. (Give them back their coins, plus the other coins. The servant who paid five gets back ten, the other who paid two gets four).

**Faithful Servant #1:** Return to the Master and say, “I bought tools (or whatever you bought and sold) and doubled your money. You gave me five gold coins; here are ten.” Tell him what you bought and sold.

**Faithful Servant #2:** Give the master the four coins and tell him you doubled his money. Tell him what you bought and sold.

**Master:** “Well done. Come live with me, faithful servants. Where is the other servant?”

**Narrator:** Tell the third part of the story (Matthew 25:24-30). Then say, “Hear what the lazy servant says.”

**Lazy servant:** Go get the one coin from under the rock and give it to the master. Then say, “Sir, here is your money back. I did not do anything with it. I was afraid of losing it. I hid it under a rock.”

**Master:** “Lazy servant! You did not invest the coin I gave you. Leave my house forever!”

**Narrator or older child.** Tell the listeners the drama is over and thank those who helped.

**Ask questions.** If the children dramatize this story for the adults, then let them also ask the adults the same questions that are listed above.